

Plan for the course on biotechnology-ethics,
Portofino, March 2004.

Planning group:

Julian Kinderlerer
Alex Quintanilha
Lisbeth Withthøfft Nielsen
Laurens Landeweerd

Saturday: Arrival

Arrival of the participants

Saturday evening: Welcome and practical information / **Franco Celada**
Presentation of the participants followed by welcome-drink.

Sunday (day 1):

Theme: introduction in ethics and biotechnology

Chair: Lisbeth

The goal of day 1 is to make people familiar with each other as discussion-partners and to introduce them with the combination of ethics and biotechnology. The first day starts with biotechnology rather than ethics, because this order (from practice to ethics) lends itself better for an introduction in the subject matter than a kick off from the more theoretical area of ethics. Non-ethicists will probably discuss ethical practice and difficult ethical cases more easily than the theory (theories) of ethics.

9.00 Introduction to the seminar / **Alex**.

Like the introduction given in Cernay in addition to an outline of the idea behind the seminar. So this would be a welcome directed on the content of the week, on what is to be expected.

9.30 Practical examples of recent biotechnological developments / **Julian**.

Should be tentative to the participant to take an ethical stance intuitively (of course without being obvious what stance one should take) E.g.: not overspecified accounts of genetic selection or intervention applied to humans (selection before implantation or before the third month, intervention in adults, e.g. Alzheimer / Parkinson), genetic manipulation on crops (for food as well as for medication), genetic manipulation on animals (for medication and for food), problematic aspects of patent law etc.

10.45 *Break.*

11.00 Comments/questions.

Only meant as a means for students to clarify what they didn't understand in the introduction to the examples of technological development.

11.15 Group discussion on considered ethical problems raised by the biotechnological development.

The groups are to be divided interdisciplinarily. The discussion will be on ethical aspects of these new developments (from the tentative lecture by Julian). People should be able to express the first intuitions they have on the cases/developments introduced by Julian. We should have a rotation-system of (passive) tutors present at these discussions (this goes for all non-plenary discussions during the week).

12.15 *Break.*

- 12.30 Plenary discussion.
The discussion will start with a backreport of the group discussions*. People are to appoint one person within their group who can serve as a spokesman to give an account of their ideas and conclusions. The chair is to summarise these accounts.
- 13.00 Lunch.
- 15.00 Introduction to applied ethics / **Laurens**.
Will be a formal / theoretical account of the (more) intuitive stances people took in the morning. This will be combined with an account of theories of applied ethics (principlism, utilitarianism, casuistry, specificationism, virtue-ethics etc). Laurens will need to be informed on what themes and examples will be mentioned.
- 16.00 Questions and commentary.
Here people can ask questions or give comments on the way they look upon certain ethical stances and mainstreams mentioned above.
- 16.15 *Break.*
- 16.30 Discussion in groups.
Discussion in interdisciplinary groups on the stances of the morning-discussion in combination with the more theoretical.
- 17.30 Plenary discussion.
The discussion will start with a backreport of the group discussions.

* Nobody can report back twice, unless everybody has been reporting back once.
NB! *All groups are put together by members of the "faculty" except for the workshops on day 6*

Monday (day 2):

Theme: Individual rights and intellectual property

Chair: Carlos

Day 2 is meant as a day directed at one single aspect within the field of ethics and biotechnology (although the cases will be as multidisciplinary as possible). The day will move from tentative lecture to discussion, and end with a more conclusory lecture. This will also depend on who will be the speaker. It might be an idea to broaden the theme of this day towards economical aspects in general.

- 9.00 Introduction to ethical questions concerning individual rights and intellectual property / **Julian**.
This lecture / introduction is to go into detail in the ethical problems involved in the specific problem of the tension between individual rights and intellectual property. It is to introduce the problem at hand, but especially to provide people with the proper knowledge on the legal aspects (only to be explained as far as crucial to the more interdisciplinary discussion).
- 10.15 Questions and commentary.
- 10.30 *Break.*
- 10.45 Group discussion – handouts of 5-6 cases on paper.
The groups should be formed on the base of interdisciplinarity. There will be different cases for each group. Each group has to write down the main themes they have discussed in relation to their specific case. The summaries will be handed out to the other groups. (A presentation and time to read through the other cases apart from lunch-time could prove to come in handy for the afternoon-discussion, but this can also be implemented in the 'short sum up').
- 13.00 Lunch.
- 15.00 Short sum up and "kick off" to a plenary discussion / **Julian**.
To reinitiate discussion.
- 15.15 (15.30) Plenary discussion.
The cases in the plenary discussion might best be concluded by an account of what the decisions were in 'real life' (within the EU, globally, or per country).
- 16.15 (16.30) *Break.*
- 16.45 Lecture on general ethical themes related to individual rights and intellectual property.
(Speaker NN – look beneath for suggestion). We could already touch upon the theme of economics here (see second (and partly first) lecture on Wednesday).

17.45

Questions and commentary.

Tuesday (day 3):

Theme: Risk

Chair: Alex

Day 3 has the more general theme of risk, which runs across all areas of ethics and biotechnology. The educational idea is to make people familiar with the relevance of disciplinary background in the conclusions one draws. **Here too, the subject of economical aspects could be touched upon, but not as a parallel theme to risk.**

- 9.00 Lecture on Risks / **Matthias**.
- 10.00 Questions and commentary.
- 10.15 *Break.*
- 10.30 Introduction to one case/theme (multi-thematic) followed by group discussion / **Julian**.
This time groups will be divided more or less according to discipline. The cases shall be chosen in such a fashion that different conclusions can be expected.
- 11.45 *Break.*
- 12.00 Plenary discussion.
The groups report back from the former discussion. This plenary discussion is meant to make people realize that their position isn't self evident but depending on their disciplinary background – this should be stressed out somehow for the participants during the plenary discussion.
- 13.00 Lunch
- 15.00 Introduction to first afternoon case-study / **Julian**
In this introduction, a case is to be chosen more related to one specific area – for example transgenic crops in food production etc. However, these could still contain many different ethical, technological and cultural aspects.
- 16.00 *Break.*
- 16.15 Introduction to second afternoon case-study / **Julian**.
Same concept of interdisciplinary groups as above.
- 17.15 Summary of the day / **Alex**.
- 20.30 After dinner a movie (Story related to one of the themes of the week), in addition with an introduction. We could have a lecture on the representation of biotech in art and media here.

Wednesday (Day 4)

Theme: Social factors in technological development

Chair: Ruud ter Meulen

Day 4 will combine the subject of the social construction of technological development with the subject of economics. It is to give a different perspective on the subject of ethics and technology, by diving in the less evident influences on technological development, and its ethical implications.

9.00 The social construction of technological development / **Wybe Bijker**.
Bijker studies the consequences of technological determinism on the one hand and social constructivism on ethical debate. He would also be able to introduce the theme of economy in his lecture.

10.00 Plenary discussion.

10.45 *Break.*

11.15 Lecture on Economy - decisions based on risk and economy.
(Speaker NN look beneath for suggestions). Because Wybe will probably implement the economics-aspect in his lecture too, so there can be a link between the two.

12.15 Plenary Discussion .

13.00 Lunch.

Afternoon off

Thursday

Day 5 Theme: technological practice in light of ethical theory

Chair: Donald Bruce until lunch and Franco after lunch

Like day 1, Day 5 is meant to go from practical ethical problems to more theoretical ethics. But day 5 will take its point of departure in specific areas within biotechnology amongst others, the use of animals in research. In the morning we will confront the researcher's perspective (motivated in the light of the goal of their work, the relative good circumstances of research-animals compared to life circumstances of animals in bioindustry, etc) with the animal rights perspective. The difference between the two is to initiate debate. From that debate, Donald is to sketch out what different theoretical perspectives arise from this confrontation to be able to go to the more theoretical discussions of the afternoon.

- 9.00 Presentation of technology from the researchers ethics perspective / **Louis-Marie Houdebine**.
Themes: transgenic animals, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, stem cell research.
- 9.50 Questions and comments.
- 10.00 *Break.*
- 10.15 Presentation of the environmentalist perspective / **Anna Olsson**.
Theme: ecosystem and animal rights, animals and moral agency, balancing between animal rights and the necessity of technological research.
- 11.05 Questions and comments.
- 11.15 *Break.*
- 11.30 Group discussion on themes raised by the two presentations.
interdisciplinary groups
- 12.30 Panel discussion with Anna and Louis Marie – based on questions that arose from the group discussions.
- 13.00 Lunch.
- NEW Chairman: Franco
- 15.00 Introduction to group discussion on more theoretical ethical questions / **Donald Bruce**.
The content of this introduction can be more or less the same as what he did in Cernay, a sketch of the landscape of ethical mainstreams, but here illustrated by the themes of the morning), with as a general theme; 'what is the base of ethics, and what is the base of humanity'.
- 15.30 Group discussion.

Each group gets a short list with questions to consider in relation to the positions there will pop up in the following debate. Questions are to be chosen by all the speakers of the day, in mutual agreement.

16.20

Break.

16.30

Debate on pgd, human identity and ethics / **Ray and Laurens.**

This debate is to stimulate discussion on the more theoretical aspects of Bio-T-ethics, and to be exemplary of how the philosophical base of certain ethical stances influences debate.

17.00

Plenary discussion with panel (Ray, Laurens and Donald)

This discussion is to go into the more theoretical aspects of ethics in biotechnology and ethics in general. Ray, Laurens and Donald are only to provide for additional information when necessary, or when asked for.

Friday (day 6):

Practice, politics and general concepts

(Chair: Louis Marie Houdebine)

Day 6 is to give people the chance to discuss the themes they liked most, and to shed light on the more practical question what one does with the results of ethical debate. The end of the week will be a summary of the general themes.

- 9.00 Brainstorm – themes of the week, and interesting cases.
- 9.30 Workshops on themes/cases.
Choice of group according to interest
- 11.00 *Break.*
- 11.15 Connection between ethics and politics – implementation of bioethical aspects in politics and regulations / **Ellen Marie Forsberg or Deborah Oughton.**
- 12.15 Group discussion.
Interdisciplinary groups
- 13.00 Lunch.
- 15.00 Introduction to general concepts (Nature, technology, artificiality etc.) / **Lisbeth.**
- 15.30 Plenary discussion on abstract themes/concept.
- 16.15 *Break.*
- 16.30 Summary of the week / **Alex.**

Saturday (Day 7) – end of seminar

10.00-11.00

Evaluation and farewell / **Franco.**

Papers to read before the seminar

1. textbook on biotechnology. **This should be an introductory textbook which provides for a minimal understanding of the subjects to be discussed.**
2. A dictionary of biotechnological terms. Amazon.com lists a few but a recommendation from anyone in the group would be useful to help choosing. It would be a good idea to have a couple of copies available throughout the course
3. textbook, introduction to biotechnology and ethics
4. papers on cases (Julian, Matthias)
5. papers on positions and themes in relation to the seminar

Øjvind: Paper on casuistry and principlism?

Ray: Paper on survivalism

Alex: paper on development of science and technology

Laurens/Ruud: Paper on historical and philosophical aspects of mainstreams in (applied) ethics

Lisbeth: Paper on general concepts, ethics and moral communication

Suggestions for Case-areas:

Some of these cases are already mentioned in the schedule. In some cases we need to find examples which give a cross-over of the different areas.

On economics:

Drugs and economics

Environment and economics

Decision Should the rich countries cover up the expenses for all the poor countries

On practical ethics:

Informed consent and drug testing on prisoners or students

Testing of medication on animals

Stem cell research, individual ownership, definition of humanity and informed consent

Pre-implantation genetic diagnosis

Hereditary diseases, diagnosis and procreation

Environment and risk:

Environment and gmo's

gmo's and medicines

Food modification (e.g. Mexican maïs case and the Zambia rice case)

Suggestions for speakers (already placed in the schedule)

Franco Celada: Practical information and presentation of participants + evaluation and goodbye

Alex Quintanilha: General introduction to the seminar (Like the introduction given in Cernay and further more an outline of the thought behind the seminar) + summing up on the “Risk-theme-day” and Summing up the seminar.

Arianna Greco: Lecture on juridical aspects of biotechnological developments.

Laurens Landeweerd: Introduction to applied ethics + debate with Ray Spier

Julian Kinderlerer: Introduction to individual rights and intellectual properties. Responsible for choosing cases for discussion on the “risk-theme-day”

Matthias Kaiser: Introduction to the theme of risk within the area of biotechnology and in general.

Wybe Bijker: The social construction of technological development

Louis Marie Houdebine: Presentation of technology from the researchers ethics perspective.

Anna Olsson: Presentation of the environmentalist perspective (Theme: ecosystem and animal rights, animals and moral agency)

Donald Bruce: Introduction to group discussion by summing up general themes of the discussion concerning the clinch between biotech researchers and ethicists.

Ray Spier: positions towards preimplantation genetic diagnosis, human identity and ethics – in debate with Laurens Landeweerd.

Ellen Marie Forsberg or Deborah Oughton: Connection between ethics and politics – implementation of bioethical aspects in politics and regulations

Lisbeth Witthøfft Nielsen: Introduction to general concepts within ethics (Nature, artificiality etc.)

Lectures with no suggested speaker yet:

General ethical themes in connection to individual rights and intellectual properties:

(Possible speaker: Marcello Buiatti (?))

Economy - decisions based on risk and economy

(Possible speaker: Richard Bawden, Bernard Dixon, **but we might be able to find someone from France, Spain, Portugal or Italy to speak on the same subject (so there will be a more equal division over the member-countries of the consortium)**)

Suggestions for the Chair:

Lisbeth (day 1)

Carlos (day 2)

Alex (day 3)

Ruud (day 4)

Donald Bruce (day 5)

Franco Celada (day 5)

Louis-Marie (day 6)

Application form

Alex or Julian, would one of you write the notice of the seminar?

When should the seminar be advertised at the latest?

The applicant form must contain:

The applicants name, address, nationality, profession, abstract of Ph.D.-project and a short explanation of why he/she wants to attend the seminar.

Selection will be made from a grade-system.

After the selection the participants will be asked to send a picture of them selves.

A list containing all participants and teachers name, e-mail, profession and nationality and if possible also picture will be made and sent to the group before the seminar. **It might be wise to see if we can't find more lecturers from Mediterranean countries.**