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Biomedicine : Human Genetics

Hashiloni-Dolev, Yael

A Life (Un)Worthy of Living

Reproductive Genetics in Israel and Germany

- Deals with cutting edge questions regarding human reproduction, genethics and the social application of new reproductive technologies
- Develops new concepts for discussing present day genetic manipulations of life itself, and contributes to both academic and political discussions concerning the biopolitics of the beginning of life
- Contributes to the social study of science and technology by arguing that different societies' adoption of repro-genetic technologies depends on local understandings of the concept of "life"
- Feeds the ongoing debate about the balance between the value versus the quality of life

Based on a variety of empirical materials the study reveals dramatic differences between the way that the German and Israeli societies address the question of a life (un)worthy of living: while in Germany, social, cultural, religious and legal conditions restrict the selection of embryos based on prenatal diagnosis, in Israel they strongly encourage it. A close comparative analysis of the ways that these two societies handle the delicate balance between the quality and sanctity of life illuminates the controversy around reproductive genetics in an original and provocative way. The study is also innovative in its use of contemporary social theory concerning the politics of life in comprehending the differences between two societies positioned at opposite extremes in their adoption of reproductive genetics. It thus offers an original cross-cultural discussion concerning present-day techno-medical manipulations of life itself.

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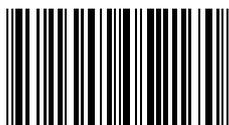
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