



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

SCIENTIFIC TABOO: THE CASE OF HUMAN CLONING IN A TIME OF CONTAGION

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D-631 (UNIVERSITY HALL)

3:00 - 4:30 P.M.

WHAT IS CLONING? WHAT COULD IT BE USED FOR? ...

... SHOULD WE EVEN BE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS?

HUMAN CLONING HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO THE REALM OF SCIENCE FICTION. WHILE MANY SCIENCE FICTION PLOTLINES MAKE ENTERTAINING CONTRIBUTIONS TO POPULAR CULTURE AND CINEMA, THEY TEND TO STRAWMAN OR VILIFY THE CONCEPT AND PURPOSE OF CLONING.

THIS PRESENTATION WILL REVIEW OF SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR ARGUMENTS SURROUNDING THE NOTION OF HUMAN CLONING. WE WILL IDENTIFY AN ASSUMPTION REGARDING HUMAN FERTILITY THAT IS MADE BY NEARLY ALL ARGUMENTS, BOTH THOSE FOR AND AGAINST HUMAN CLONING. FINALLY, SOME CONJECTURE WILL BE OFFERED TO SEE HOW ADDRESSING THIS ASSUMPTION MAY PROVIDE FAVOR IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN CLONING. PERHAPS WE WILL RESOLVE THAT HUMAN CLONING OUGHT TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE FORE OF ARGUMENT. ALTERNATIVELY, PERHAPS OUR INTUITIONS ENSURE HUMAN CLONING REMAINS RELEGATED TO THE REALM OF SCIENCE FICTION AND PERSISTS AS SCIENTIFIC TABOO.

