

Global Biopolitics Research Group

世界生物政策学研究组织



The global politics of human embryonic stem cell science

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Research Group

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Fieldwork

- United States
- European Union (Brussels)
- South Korea
- Japan
- China
- Australia

Analysing the case of stem cell health technologies

- The global bioeconomy
- The global political economy
- The global moral economy

Working papers

Global stem cell bioeconomy

- *Supply side*
 - Materials and the human tissue market (umbilical cord blood, oocytes, reproductive materials and clinical labour)
 - Stem cell banks
 - Finance: the role of venture capital
- *Demand side*
 - Large demand for potential products (the issue of media hype)
 - The fragility of public trust and consumer confidence

Problems in the bioeconomy of stem cells

- Product development time of 10-15 years - uncertainty
- Stem cell firms engaged in basic research or early stage trials - poor cash flow
- Lack of corporate partnerships with pharmaceutical or medical device companies
- Presence/absence of public money to absorb the development risk (e.g. California)
- National regulatory politics and policies

Working papers

Global stem cell political economy

- National R and D policies, public/private joint venture policies
- Institutions of national and transnational regulation and governance (human embryo research, intellectual property rights)
- Transnational policy networks and narratives (industry, religion)
- Bioethics: a new technology of governance?

Working papers

Global stem cell moral economy

- Significance of the national and transnational cultural context of the new science (eg Catholicism, Hinduism, Confucianism)
- Need for new technologies of governance to deal with cultural conflict over new health technologies
- The emerging role of bioethics as a new form of transnational governance that enables the trading of values
- The case of the European Union and its Framework Programmes

Global politics of hESC science - the optimistic view -

- Large scientific and economic potential as a new health technology
- Leading to an international competition for advantage
- Reinforced by transnational pressures from science and industry
- Where cultural values are negotiated through the use of bioethics
- Resulting in appropriate regulatory policies

Global politics of hESC science

- uncertainty and instability -

- The international significance of local political cultures in the emergence of new health technologies
- A small, underdeveloped and volatile industrial sector
- Characterised by a gap between the views of science and those of the market
- Accompanied by the activation and trading of a range of cultural values
- Negotiated through a close engagement between bioethics and the apparatus of science and regulation
- Producing a spectrum of national and international policy responses

Emerging issues

- The contribution of East Asia and in particular China and India to the global political dynamic in stem cell health technologies
- The impact of the changing form of the global pharmaceutical industry and in particular the outsourcing of clinical trials to developing countries
- The testing of new business models by the 'emerging economies' in response to their weak domestic markets in new health biotech
- The ability of bioethics to act as a new technology of governance

Thank you



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