

Genes, CRISPR/Cas 9, and Posthumans

CRISPR/Cas 9 is probably the most important technological invention of this decade. Due to its invention, the realm of ethical challenges related to genes has significantly increased in relevance. Another central development is the use of big data for the process of gene analysis. It is prerequisite for many other technologies, as it enables us to find out correlations between genes and specific traits. During my talk, I will give an overview over some of the most important ethical challenges concerning genes: Gene analysis and big gene data, selecting fertilized eggs after IVF and PGD, modifying genes by means of CRISPR/Cas9, and synthetic biology and the creation of biological systems. I will specifically deal with the issue of germ line modifications using Crispr, as it might have the potential of enhancing evolution, so that posthumans can come about.