

Constructing the Body Inside and Out: Genetic and Somatic Modification

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Introduction

The transgressive possibilities of a future where new genetic technologies are applied to reproduction include: clones, chimeras, children born from multiple genetic progenitors, children born from the fusion of same sex germ cells and children born with modified genes to design in certain desired traits. They are also currently subject to legislative prohibition in Australia and elsewhere: (*Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* (Cth) (PHCR Act), *Assisted Human Reproduction Act 2004* (Can)). In a chapter I co-wrote with Roxanne Mykitiuk on this topic, we challenged the ideas of the normal and natural that appeared to be policed through these various legislative instruments. Normalcy, we argued, involved judgments about “natural” characteristics that were in fact based on cultural and ideological determinations about what is socially desirable. We argued that, apart from the obvious need for controls on scientific research in reproduction to ensure safe and

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This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.