

Public Reason and Biotechnologies

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Lecture course, 4 April – 3 May 2016

Professor Baccharini will be Guest Professor (Erasmus+ Program) at the Institute of Philosophy in April and May 2016. As a Guest Professor he will teach a course on his recent book, *In A Better World? Public Reason and Biotechnologies*. The course will be taught in the period 4 April to 3 May 2016, 4 days per week (Monday – Thursday, 18–20h, Im Moore 21, room A004), and will count as a full course in the Philosophy program of Leibniz Universität Hannover (primarily M.Ed. Philosophie, M.A. Wissenschaftsphilosophie, 5 LP). Interested students from other programs are very welcome to join in! The course will be taught in English. All participants are asked to register for the course on StudIP.

The course is related to Professor Baccharini's researches on political philosophy and biotechnologies. The intention is to propose a model of justification of public policies related to biotechnologies on the basis of John Rawls's model of public reason. A first stage of Professor Baccharini's research was completed by publishing the results in his book, *In A Better World?* At the moment he is developing and deepening some of the issues addressed in that book, in particular in relation to the question of moral bioenhancement in general and in relation to the question of how to deal with psychopaths.

Professor Baccharini's book can be downloaded as a PDF at no charge from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272023594_Public_Reason_and_Biotechnologies and will also be available on the StudIP page of the course.

Additional literature:

Kitcher, P. (1997): *The Lives to Come*, New York: Simon and Schuster.

Persson, I. and Savulescu, J. (2012): *Unfit for the Future. The Need for Moral Enhancement*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.