



# Negotiating Bioethics: The Governance of UNESCO's Bioethics Programme (Genetics and Society)

*Adèle Langlois*

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The sequencing of the entire human genome has opened up unprecedented possibilities for healthcare, but also ethical and social dilemmas about how these can be achieved, particularly in developing countries. UNESCO's Bioethics Programme was established to address such issues in 1993. Since then, it has adopted three declarations on human genetics and bioethics (1997, 2003 and 2005), set up numerous training programmes around the world and debated the need for an international convention on human reproductive cloning.

*Negotiating Bioethics* presents Langlois' research on the negotiation and implementation of the three declarations and the human cloning debate, based on fieldwork carried out in Kenya, South Africa, France and the UK, among policy-makers, geneticists, ethicists, civil society representatives and industry professionals. The book examines whether the UNESCO Bioethics Programme is an effective forum for (a) decision-making on bioethics issues and (b) ensuring ethical practice. Considering two different aspects of the UNESCO Bioethics Programme – deliberation and implementation – at international and national levels, Langlois explores:

- how relations between developed and developing countries can be made more equal
- who should be involved in global level decision-making and how this should proceed
- how overlap between initiatives can be avoided
- what can be done to improve the implementation of international norms by sovereign states
- how far universal norms can be contextualized
- what impact the efficacy of national level governance has at international level

Drawing on extensive empirical research, *Negotiating Bioethics* presents a truly global perspective on bioethics. The book will be of interest to students and scholars of sociology, politics, science and technology studies, bioethics, anthropology, international relations, and public health.

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