

# **The Social Regulation of Stem Cell Research : Looking beyond regulatory exteriors in Asia**

15, December, 2008  
Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK

Organised by Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner, Seyoung Hwang and Achim Rosemann  
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## Invitation

### **The Social Regulation of SCR: Looking beyond regulatory exteriors in Asia**

Western researchers have often criticised the forcing of Western moral values such as respect for the human embryo upon non-Western countries. The regulation of hESR in Asia, then, would have been aimed at augmenting respect for the human embryo as a precious form of life. However, such presumptions ignore the question of why regulation of hESR is important, and to whom.

The regulation of hESR has a different rationale in different parts of the world: in developing countries the advancement of science has a different weight on the national agenda, and evaluations of the progress of scientific research is measured with a different yardstick in different political and national research environments. Moreover, research institutions have different cultural and political histories, so that the meaning of formal guidelines, legislation and social rules may differ.

From an international, comparative point of view, then, the regulation of hESR is influenced by a constellation of factors, including the availability of research facilities, the need for attracting foreign investments and companies, the wish to maintain a kosher image, policies for promoting national interests, and the protection of human life.

By comparing research conditions in country that differ in their financial circumstances, standard of science and technology, institutional set up and tradition, and politico-religious outlook, bioethical research regulation following international bioethical guidelines, in practice may be ruled by different informal bioethical practices.

- The circumstances in which reproductive materials are donated and the way they are used;
- The financial/social position of donors;
- The perceived urgency of developing new technologies (to advance the country; to advance research; to help patients);
- The attitude of researchers and guidelines to treating reproductive materials
- The level of de public debate;
- The expectations raised among the public about the use of stem cell therapies;
- The co-operation of patient groups and the support/opposition by the public;
- The available of equipment for keeping human reproductive materials;
- The availability of animal facilities for practicing research skills;
- The guidelines and practices of clinical testing of stem cell therapies;
- The social control among scientists;
- Formal and informal penal measures for bioethical violations;
- The hierarchy between science managers and laboratory researchers;
- The availability of other directions of research for scientists that prefer not to work with embryos.

Because these practices are of such importance, this conference welcomes presentations that address issues we welcome presentations that look beyond the regulatory exterior, addressing issues related to the informal side of regulatory mechanisms that influence research practices of stem cell research.

## Programme

Monday December 15

### **Conference venue**

Institute for Development Studies

Room: 220

9.00 – 9.15	<b>Welcome and coffee</b>	
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Values and voice in local practice of ethics</b>	
9.15 – 9.40	Ethics, affect, and relationality in Taiwanese stem cell research	Jennifer A. Liu
9.40 – 10.05	Reproductive labor: Embryo donation and stem cell distribution in the context of the IVF-stem cell interface in China	Achim Rosemann
10.05 – 10.30	Purity and danger and Japanese cell lives	Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner
10.30 – 11.00	Discussion	
11.00 – 11.15	<b>Coffee / tea break</b>	
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Looking in-depth: How scientists and medical practitioners work</b>	
11.15 – 11.40	Neo-liberal challenges and the logic of survival in South Korea: a unique approach to stem cell research?	Leo Kim
11.40 – 12.05	The organization of scientists and its relation to scientific productivity: a case study of Chinese stem cell research	Joy Yueyue Zhang
12.05 – 12.30	Cutting edge tactics: Experimenting with stem cell therapies in postsocialist China	Priscilla Song
12.30 – 13.00	Discussion	
13.00 – 13.45	<b>Lunch</b>	

**Session 3****The global and the local in stem cell bioethics**

13.45 – 14.10	Dis-locations: Local ethics and global debates on ESC research in India	Aditya Bharadwaj
14.10 – 14.35	Tall claims and dubious practices: the state of stem cell research, therapy and regulations in India	Prasanna Kumar Patra
14.35 – 15.00	Do you have to be one to know one? – Researching human embryonic stem cells in Israel	Barbara Prainsack
15.00 – 15.30	Discussion	

15.30 – 15.45

**Coffee / tea break****Session 4****Shaping the future of stem cell bioethics?**

15.45 – 16.10	Can iPS cells break through contradictions in Japan?	Azumi Tsuge
16.10 – 16.35	Regenerating the future: Public cord bank, ethics, and stem cell research after the Hwang scandal	Young-kyung Paik
16.35 – 17.00	Researching transparency and accountability in stem cell research in India	Jyotsna A. Gupta
17.00 – 17.30	Discussion	

17.30 – 18.00

**General discussion and closing**

## List of participants

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