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"Biocentrism and Genetic Engineering"

Dobson, Andrew

Dobson, Andrew. "Biocentrism and Genetic Engineering." *Environmental Values* 4, no. 3 (1995): 227–39. doi:10.3197/096327195776679501 .

I consider the contribution that a biocentric perspective might make to the ethical debate concerning the practice of genetic engineering. I claim that genetic engineering itself raises novel ethical questions, and particularly so when confronted with biocentric sensibilities. I outline the nature of these questions and describe the biocentric basis for them. I suggest that fundamentalist opposition to projects of genetic engineering is unhelpful, but that biocentric claims should now be a feature of ethical consideration. I conclude, though, that while environmental ethicists can contribute powerfully to debates concerning the future of genetic engineering, the ultimate direction it takes is likely to be beyond their control.

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