



Multimedia Library Collection:

Preston, Christopher J., "Synthetic Biology: Drawing a Line in Darwin's Sand"

Preston, Christopher J. "Synthetic Biology: Drawing a Line in Darwin's Sand." *Environmental Values* 17, no. 1 (2008): 23–39. doi:10.3197/096327108X271932 .

Maintaining the coherence of the distinction between nature and artefact has long been central to environmental thinking. By building genomes from scratch out of "bio-bricks," synthetic biology promises to create biotic artefacts markedly different from anything created thus far in biotechnology. These new biotic artefacts depart from a core principle of Darwinian natural selection—descent through modification—leaving them with no causal connection to historical evolutionary processes. This departure from the core principle of Darwinism presents a challenge to the normative foundation of a number of leading positions in environmental ethics. As a result, environmental ethicists with a commitment to the normative significance of the historical evolutionary process may see synthetic biology as a moral "line in the sand." (Source: [The White Horse Press](#))

© 2008 The White Horse Press. Republished with permission.

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_17no.1_preston_christopher_j.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1703.html>
- The White Horse Press
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327108X271932>
- <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1703.html>