

The background of the slide is a faded, high-angle photograph of a laboratory setting. It shows numerous glass Erlenmeyer flasks and graduated cylinders arranged on a white surface, likely a lab bench. The glassware is mostly empty or contains a light-colored liquid. The lighting is soft, creating a clean and professional scientific atmosphere.

# **Human Practices: Toward a Venue.**

**Ethics, Security, and Synthetic Biology**

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	Event	Problem	Metric	Parameters	Equipment	Venue
Nat. Comm. for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, 1974	Tuskegee, Willowbrook	How to define parameters in a heterogeneous field of researchers, ethicists, and research subjects, so as to yield autonomy for each?	Autonomy [liberalism, biopower]	Generalizable Knowledge; Selection of Subjects; Informed Consent; Cost/Benefit Analysis (health and industry);	Consent, Cost/Benefit Analysis, Selection of Subjects made into a practice [Mode 1]	Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Asilomar Conference on Recombinant DNA, 1975	Recombinant DNA controversy	How should work with recombinant DNA be governed?	Autonomy [liberalism, biopower]	Biohazards Framing; Character; Community Norms; Expertise; Risk Assessment	Safety procedures and regulations to minimize risk ("biological and physical barriers"; "containment") [Mode 1]	Second Generation RAC (governmental and advisory)
Nat. Comm. on Biomedical and Biotechnical Research, 1980	Letter from Christian and Jewish associations	What problems beyond safety does recombinant DNA pose? What is the time-frame that bioethics should be concerned about?	Values and Responsibility [neo-liberalism, biopower]	Social and Natural Consequences ("likelihood"); Control Beyond Safety; Cost/Benefit vs. "Deeper Anxieties"	Fora: consciousness-raising about "implications"; "mixed private-public" & "wide ranging" participation; public "translation" so as to "protect the future." [Mode 2]	Advisory oversight organization, coordinating fora [diagnosis and implications]
The Ethical Legal and Social Issues Program of the Human Genome Project, 1990	Human Genome Project: big science for biology, for biotech and pharmaceutical industry, for humanity	How to disconnect the jurisdictional and the veridictional in the life sciences? How to align/dissociate biology and ethics? How to orient ethics away from jurisdictional questions?	Values and Responsibility [neo-liberalism, biopower]	Align separation of science, technology, and ethics; shift from review to implications; shift from audit to diagnosis	Expert cataloguing; value generation and circulation; mobilization of communication to establish and authorize talking points [Mode 1, Mode 2]	Competition for limited-term grants
The President's Commission on Bioethics, 2001	Election of George Bush; stem cell research aligned with evolution and abortion	What are the critical limits of biopower? How does bioethics (autonomy + values and responsibility) reinforce them?	The Truly Human [sovereignty, dignity]	Serious speech acts; the ethical is paramount over biology; the far-future as the site of ethical concern	Extended argumentation as preparation for far-future; publically transparent deliberation [Mode 3]	National commission to facilitate "fundamental inquiry into the human and moral significance" of biotechnology
The Department of Homeland Security, 2002	9/11	How to govern security?	Security [sovereignty, biopower+dignity]	Efficiency; bureaucracy; urgency; vigilance	Governmental agencies; mobilization of expertise; interfacing the biosciences with security agencies [Mode 1]	Governmental in the strong sense of resources and power
The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, 2005	9/11; post-genomics	How to integrate security as "dual-use" into the government of the biosciences?	Community and Responsibility [liberalism+neo-liberalism, biopower]	Dual-use framing of security; coordination of first-order experts; scientific autonomy; reassurance	Reports laying out options and proposing guidelines for nation-based oversight [Mode 1, Mode 2]	Advisory review commission
Human Practices, 2009	SynBERC (2006); blockage (2007); negligence (2009)	Equipment, veridictional secession, diagnostic; Venue, jurisdictional secession, ars synthetic Ethics, veridictional + jurisdictional + ethical, Diogenes	Flourishing	Collaboration, second-order, adjacent, inquiry, spirituality	Leveraging; vigorous insistence, warranted assertion, assurance [Mode 3]	Agile assemblage: multi-sited inquiry

	Venue	Metric	Parameters
Nat. Comm. for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, 1974	Function: Audit Form: Institutional Review Board	Standard: Autonomy Matrix: liberalism, biopower	Frame: Protection Variables: Generalizable Knowledge; Selection of Subjects; Informed Consent; Cost/Benefit Analysis (health and industry);
Asilomar Conference on Recombinant DNA, 1975	Function: Audit, Advisory Form: Second Generation RAC	Standard: Autonomy Matrix: liberalism, biopower	Frame: Safety Variables: Character; Community Norms; Expertise; Risk Assessment
Nat. Comm. on Biomedical and Biotechnical Research, 1980	Function: Diagnosis, Implications Form: Oversight organization	Standard: Values and Responsibility Matrix: neo-liberalism, biopower	Frame: Social Consequences Variables: "Likelihood"; Control Beyond Safety; Cost/Benefit vs. "Deeper Anxieties"
The Ethical Legal and Social Issues Program of the Human Genome Project, 1990	Function: Diagnosis, Implications Form: Competition for limited-term grants	Standard: Values and Responsibility Matrix: neo-liberalism, biopower	Frame: Implications Variables: Align separation of science, technology, and ethics; shift from review to implications; shift from audit to diagnosis
The President's Commission on Bioethics, 2001	Function: Diagnosis, Implications Form: National commission to facilitate "fundamental inquiry into the human and moral significance" of biotechnology	Standard: The Truly Human Matrix: sovereignty, dignity	Frame: Protection Variables: Serious speech acts; the ethical is paramount over biology; the far-future as the site of ethical concern
The Department of Homeland Security, 2002	Function: Monitor and Intervene Form: Governmental in the strong sense of resources and power	Standard: Security Matrix: sovereignty, biopower/dignity	Frame: Security Variables: Efficiency; bureaucracy; urgency; vigilance
The National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, 2005	Function: Formal Guidelines Form: Review commission	Standard: Security, Responsibility Matrix: liberalism/neo-liberalism, biopower	Frame: Reassurance Variables: Dual-use framing of security; coordination of first-order experts; scientific autonomy;
Human Practices, 2009	Function: Reconstruction Form: Multi-sited assemblage	Standard: Flourishing Matrix: synthetic anthropos	Frame: Capacities Variables: Collaboration, second-order, adjacent, inquiry, spirituality

## Human Practices: Venue



**Function**      **Reconstruction**



## Human Practices: Reconstruction

***Reconstruction can be nothing less than the work of developing, of forming, of producing (in the literal sense of that word) the intellectual instrumentalities which will progressively direct inquiry into the deeply and inclusively human—that is to say moral—facts of the present scene and situation.***

**-- John Dewey**

# Human Practices: Venue



**Function**

**Reconstruction**



**Audit**

**Audit, Advisory**

**Diagnosis, Implications**

**Diagnosis, Implications**

**Diagnosis, Implications**

**Monitor, Intervene**

**Formal Guidelines**

## Human Practices: Metric



**Standard**   **Flourishing**



## **Human Practices: Flourishing**

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***Flourishing is a translation of a classical term (eudaimonia) and as such a range of other possible words could be used: thriving, the good life, happiness, fulfillment, felicity, abundance and the like. Above all, eudaimonia should not be confused with technical optimization as we hold that our capacities are not already known and that we do not understand flourishing to be uncontrolled growth or the undirected maximization of existing capacities.***

***The question of what constitutes a good life today, and the contribution of the bio-sciences to that form of life must be vigilantly posed and re-posed.***

**-- Rabinow and Bennett**

# Human Practices: Metric



**Standard**

**Flourishing**



**Autonomy**

**Autonomy**

**Values, Responsibility**

**Values, Responsibility**

**The Truly Human**

**Security**

**Security, Responsibility**

# Human Practices: Parameters



**Frame**

**Capacities**



# Human Practices: Capacities

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*How can the growth of capacities be disconnected from the intensification of power relations?*

-- Michel Foucault

# Human Practices: Parameters



**Frame**

**Capacities**



**Protection**

**Safety**

**Social Consequences**

**Implications**

**Protection**

**Security**

**Reassurance**