

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783600703321
Titolo	Ethics and Law in Biological Research // edited by Cosimo Marco Mazzoni
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden; ; Boston : , : Brill   Nijhoff, , 2002
ISBN	1-280-46805-X 9786610468058 1-4175-5148-8 90-474-0306-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (273 p.)
Collana	Nijhoff Law Specials ; ; 52
Disciplina	174/.957
Soggetti	Bioethics Cloning - Moral and ethical aspects Medical ethics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	I. The Limits of Science and Biological Investigation / C.M. Mazzoni. -- II. Cloning: Biological and Moral Aspects J. Finnis, et al. -- III. Cloning in Popular Imagination A. Cavarero, et al.
Sommario/riassunto	Scientific research on biotechnologies has become the protagonist of discoveries that exert a formidable impact on public opinion. Every day popular opinion is challenged by the media, so that it becomes not only a witness of these developments, but is also, to a certain extent, forced to become a judge of those cases where human and animal genetics have been investigated over the last decades. The man-in-the-street is thus confronted by moral positions ranging from cautious approval, to wait-and-see attitudes, to unconditional condemnation. On the other hand, scientists are involved in the ethical evaluation of the results of their own research. However, the results of scientific pursuits are capable of producing immediate effects on the daily life of every human being. Consequently, alongside the scientists, people feel strongly about their need and their right to contribute to an accurate assessment of the effects of science on society. This is a collection of essays reflecting a considerable range of different cultural experiences

and different ethical underpinnings. The main subject is cloning. Cloning is the most accessible and most readily perceived point of convergence from which ethical judgments on the current developments of scientific investigations can be proposed. Cloning is also the `paradox' on which the confrontation between scientific research and popular imagination is focused.

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