

Human Engineering

Author: Lucy

Sharratt<info@cban.ca><p>Scienceandtechnologyarenotvalueneutral.Advancesinscienceand technologyareoftenthe resultsofhumanactivityimbuedwithintentionandpurposeandembodyingtheper spectives,purposesandparticularobjectivesofpowerfulsocialgroups.Currenttechnologiesdonotequal lybenefitallsegmentsoffsocietyandarenotmeanttodoso.Tomaximizepublicsupportfortechnologicalde velopmentsandtomimizeopposition,technologyproponentsrarelyacknowledge,forexample,thedistr ibutional inequitiesandramificationsofwhattheyareproposing.</p><p>-

From<ahref="http://www.edmonds-

institute.org/wolbring.html"target="_self">ScienceandtheDisadvantaged,Dr.GregorWolbring,O ccasionalPaper,TheEdmondsInstitute,2000.</p><p>Seealso<ahref="http://www.mindfully.org/GE/ GE4/Silenced-Targets-

WolbringISIS30jan02.htm"target="_self">TheSilencedTargetsbyDr.Wolbring</p><p>Dr.Wolbri ngisfounderanddirectorofthe<ahref="http://www.bioethicsanddisability.org/"target="_self">Internati onalCenterforBioethics,CultureandDisability.</p><p>Seealsothe<ahref="http://www.gene- watch.org"target="_self">CouncilforResponsibleGeneticsforanalysisofhumanreproductivecloni ng,stemcellresearch,germlinemanipulation,geneticdeterminism,geneticstestingandprivacy:</p><p>

GeneticDeterminism(From<ahref="http://www.gene-

watch.org/programs/determinism.html"target="_self">CouncilforResponsibleGenetics):Biologi stshaveknownforalongtimethatgeneexpressioniscomplexandDNAdoesnotdeterminebiology,letalon eoethercharacteristicsofphysicalandmentalhealth,behaviorandintelligence.Nevertheless,overtheyear s,thedeterministicmodelthatgenesalonedefinebiologyhasbecomeenshrinedastheprevailingparadig m.ThisdogmawasmanifestedonalargescaleinthepursuitoftheHumanGenomeProject.Whydoscientist s,withthefullknowledgeofthevariousaspectsofthecellularmachineryandtheenvironmentworkincohort,c ontinuetoapplyandpropagateDNAmantra?Themotivationsmaybemany,butchiefamongthemisthe simplicityofthe?DNAiseverything?model,andtheoutsidecommercialandscientificincentivesavailablef orsuchafocus.TheapplicationofDNAideologyhasledtoaproblematicconstructionofrace,sexuality,andi ntelligence,asseenthroughalensofgeneticdeterminismandhasfosteredthebeliefthateachofusourp hysicalandmentalwell-beingarepre-

programmedandreflectthecompositionofourindividualDNA.Thisscientificinterpretationenhancesase nseofinevitabilityandforecloseseffortsatpromotingocialjusticebypresentingthemasfutile.</p><p>Se ealso<ahref="http://www.hgalert.org"target="_self">HumanGeneticsAlert</p><p>and<ahref=" http://www.genewatch.org/sub-396421"target="_self">GeneWatchUK</p>