

Frosty the No-Man? **Cryopreservation,** **Artifice, and Status**



Novel being – intelligent,
conscious life-forms **sapient** in
the same way or greater than are
human beings (Lawrence &
Brazier, 2018, 309).



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The idea is that one can ‘freeze’ their body immediately after legal death, with the aim of curative revival.

Five cryopreservation are companies running today.

Neuropreservation=\$48,000+; full-body preservation=\$200,000+

300-500 cryons globally, with 1000s more signed up upon their death (Swan 2019; Wilson 2021).



Are cryons **alive or dead?**

- ⦿ What constitutes death fluctuates temporally and geographically.
- ⦿ Cryons don't seem to be alive as they lack the features typifying life.
- ⦿ Cryons don't seem to be dead as they can (in principle) be revived.
- ⦿ This leaves us with two possibilities:
 - They are either alive or dead; we just don't know which.
 - They are neither alive nor dead but exist in a novel state.



Cryons as a novel being

- ◎ As a result of artifice, cryons sit outside the mortal framework that typifies our lives.
- ◎ Given their potential for revival, cryons seem worthy of moral status greater than corpses. Yet, they don't seem to have the same moral status as ourselves.
 - Nor any other state of existence.
- ◎ Cryons acquire novelty via their residence in a new state of existence.



How do we **respond?**

- ⦿ Add amendments to existing regulations and laws.
- ⦿ Retrofit existing systems.
- ⦿ Rebuild systems from the bottom up.
- ⦿ All of these have serious problems.
- ⦿ But the need for change's growing.



KrioRus Break in, Sep 8,
2021



Conclusion

- Novelty needn't be tied to substrate composition.
- Classical beings can be considered novel if they exist in socially challenging states.
- Resulting from their incompatibility with the mortal dichotomy, cryons are one example of this.
- As cryopreservation becomes more popular, legal and regulatory systems will need adjustment to accommodate those persons neither alive nor dead.



Thanks!

Any **questions?**

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