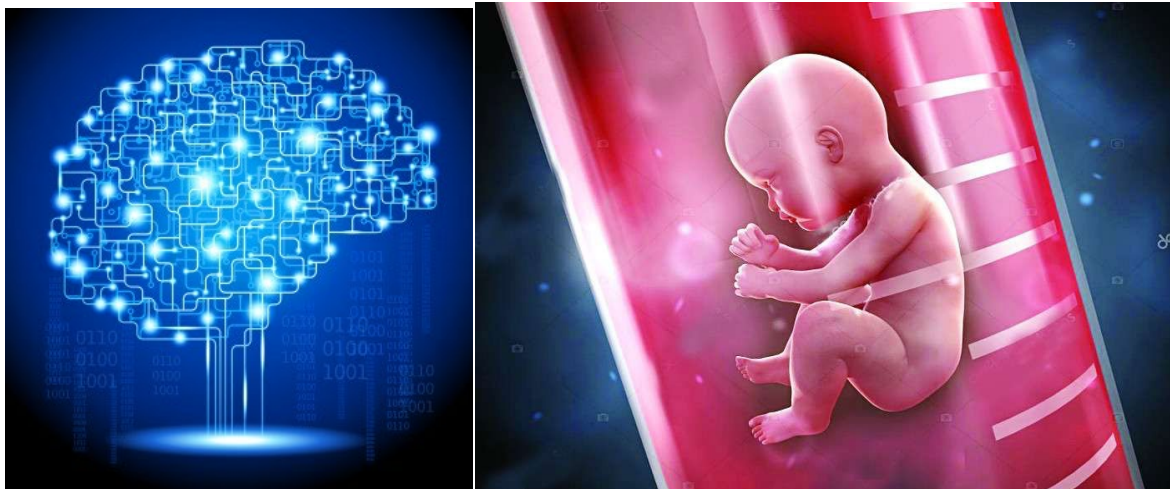


‘Novel Beings’ Workshop:

When we create new forms of life, what is it to be human?

10:00-16:00 Thursday 19th September, Newcastle University,
G21/22 in the Devonshire Building

Supported by Newcastle University Humanities Research Institute



Advances in biotechnologies including synthetic genomics, and in artificial intelligence research, promise the emergence of new lifeforms. These ‘novel beings’ may even be conscious, and would pose entirely new challenges for society.

Convenors: Dr David Lawrence, Dr Sarah Morley

Agenda

Coffee/Tea on arrival – 9.30am

Introduction- 10:00- 10:30

Dr Sarah Morley, Dr David Lawrence (Newcastle University)

Session 1- 10:30-12:00

10:30-10.45 Dr Daniel Tigard (RWTH Aachen University)

10:45-11:45 Group Discussion

- *How does your area of expertise intersect with ‘novel beings’*
- *Why might it matter?*
- *What role might your area have in shaping perceptions?*

Lunch- 12:00-13:00

Session 2- 13:00-15:00

13:00- Professor Rachel Armstrong (Newcastle University) Reflections

13:15- Dr Henry Shevlin (University of Cambridge)

13:30- Group Discussion

- *What does moral patiency mean to you?*

14:15- Professor Shaun Pattinson (Durham University)

14:30 Group Discussion

- *What are the problems with how personhood is deployed in your area?*
- *What is one non-negotiable criteria for personhood for regulatory purposes?*

Coffee/tea to be served at 14:30

Session 3- 15:30-16:00

- *Dr David Lawrence, Dr Sarah Morley Roundup/Next Steps*