

Democracy and political economy of genetic engineering

**This thesis is presented for the Degree of Research Masters With Training
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I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any tertiary education institution.

.Delys Weston

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Abstract

This thesis aims to provide a more critical framework for the assessment of future technologies and therefore social directions and to help to bring an understanding to the relationship between global political economy, corporate power, ideology, science and technology. This is essential given the many issues facing contemporary society – issues of sustainability and humanity's place in the broad ecology, of the need for a diversity of economies, societies and cultures, of the need for greater economic equality and equity across the globe.

The relationship between globalisation, science and technology, democratic governance and citizens is explored using the case of genetic engineering technologies. The thesis draws on a conceptual framework provided by the theory of political economy to facilitate the assessment of the impact of a technology on society . It provides a critical framework for looking at individualised, sectoral and short term interests versus the often conflicting interests of what is termed the 'common good'. The juxtaposition of the neo-liberal, conservative and contemporarily dominant world view with that of the more radical, political economy stance exposes the tension between these two ways of viewing human history and the future of humankind.

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Acronyms

ABC	Australian Broadcasting Commission
ACCHO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DDT	Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane
G7	U.K., U.S., France, Italy, Canada, Germany, Japan
G8	G7 plus Russia
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GE	Genetic Engineering
GM	Genetically Modified
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
HGP	Human Genome Project
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IVF	Invitro Fertilisation
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NIH	National Institute of Health
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
OGTR	Office of Gene Technology Regulator

PHA	Public Health Association
PHM	People's Health Movement
RCEP	Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution
SWAHS	South West Area Health Service
TNC	Transnational Company
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation