



The Ethics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

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Three Views on the Embryo

- Person or “human subject”
- Just tissue
- Neither person nor stuff
 - Entitled to special respect
- Bomb in the infertility clinic

What Would Respect for Embryos Require?

- Rules out frivolous or trivial uses of embryos
- ES cell research not trivial
 - Consistent with respect for embryos as a form of human life

Other Ethical Issues

- Payment to egg providers
 - Is there any moral reason to distinguish between donors for reproductive purposes and donors for research purposes?
- Discarded/created distinction
- Chimeras/hybrids