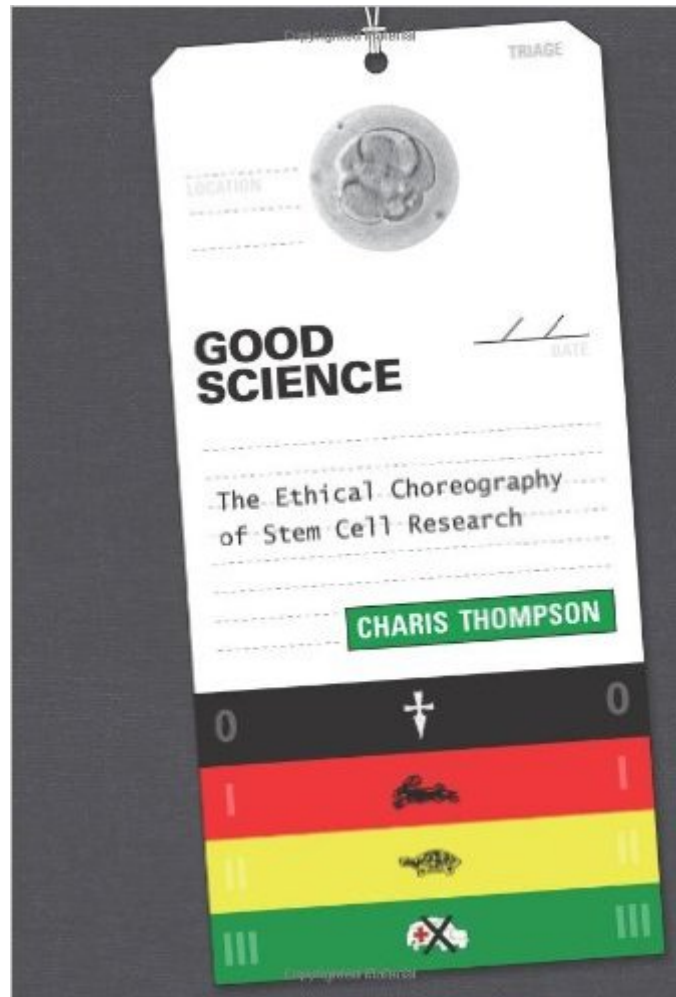


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Good Science: The Ethical Choreography Of Stem Cell Research (Inside Technology)



Synopsis

After a decade and a half, human pluripotent stem cell research has been normalized. There may be no consensus on the status of the embryo -- only a tacit agreement to disagree -- but the debate now takes place in a context in which human stem cell research and related technologies already exist. In this book, Charis Thompson investigates the evolution of the controversy over human pluripotent stem cell research in the United States and proposes a new ethical approach for "good science." Thompson traces political, ethical, and scientific developments that came together in what she characterizes as a "procurial" framing of innovation, based on concern with procurement of pluripotent cells and cell lines, a pro-cures mandate, and a proliferation of bio-curatorial practices. Thompson describes what she calls the "ethical choreography" that allowed research to go on as the controversy continued. The intense ethical attention led to some important discoveries as scientists attempted to "invent around" ethical roadblocks. Some ethical concerns were highly legible; but others were hard to raise in the dominant procurial framing that allowed government funding for the practice of stem cell research to proceed despite controversy. Thompson broadens the debate to include such related topics as animal and human research subjecthood and altruism. Looking at fifteen years of stem cell debate and discoveries, Thompson argues that good science and good ethics are mutually reinforcing, rather than antithetical, in contemporary biomedicine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thompson's thinking is very sharp. She believes that as growing fields like biomedicine, genomics,

bio-informatics intersect with controversial topics like eugenics, genetic privacy, and regeneration, that ethics must be an integral part at every phase of the conversation. She makes a strong case that the social, ethical, and legal issues are not downstream implications anymore but part and parcel of the scientific research itself. In this environment she encourages and advocates for openness in dissent bringing together the best result from many different kinds of contributors from different disciplines and life experiences. Her thinking and writing goes far beyond the usual debates that are so characteristic of books covering the emerging post-human condition in science and medicine. She moves the conversation to an entirely new level.

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