

POLITICAL SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

“Justice in the Genomic Era”

by

Colin Farrelly

Queen’s University in Canada



Advances in the biomedical sciences, especially our understanding of the role genes play in the development of different *phenotypes*- that is, observable characteristics like health, disease and behavior- might help us advance important moral aspirations. Those aspirations range from preventing and treating specific diseases, to realizing greater equality of opportunity, the healthy aging of a population, and expanding the scope of reproductive freedom. Is the prospect of “genetic engineering” humans something to be hailed or feared? Will it improve our prospects for living flourishing lives and creating more fair societies or will it threaten our very survival and/or create greater inequality and other grave societal problems? These are among some of the most pressing, and novel, societal concerns of the twenty-first century. My talk will survey the pace and scope of the advances of the “genetic revolution”, and some of the profound implications they raise for ethics and political theory. Of particular focus will be the social significance of “geroscience”, an interdisciplinary field of research that aspires to alter the rate of human aging to increase the human *healthspan* and compress the period of morbidity and frailty at the end of the life.

Colin Farrelly is (for the Fall 2018 term) the Visiting Fulbright Researcher in the Social Sciences at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. He is Professor of Political Studies (cross-appointed with Philosophy) at Queen’s University in Canada.

Friday, November 9, 2018

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Light Refreshments will be served!

Saunders 624, Harry Friedman Room

**NOTE: Colloquium is open to members and guests of the Department of Political Science
No recordings or videotaping permitted**

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