

BETTER THAN HUMAN



THE PROMISE AND PERILS
OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

ALLEN BUCHANAN

Better Than Human The Promise And Perils Of Enhancing Ourselves

Allen Buchanan



Better Than Human The Promise And Perils Of Enhancing Ourselves:

Better than Human Allen Buchanan, 2011-10-04 Is it right to use biomedical technologies to make us better than well or even perhaps better than human Should we view our biology as fixed or should we try to improve on it College students are already taking cognitive enhancement drugs The U S army is already working to develop drugs and technologies to produce super soldiers Scientists already know how to use genetic engineering techniques to enhance the strength and memories of mice and the application of such technologies to humans is on the horizon In *Better Than Human* philosopher bioethicist Allen Buchanan grapples with the ethical dilemmas of the biomedical enhancement revolution Biomedical enhancements can make us smarter have better memories be stronger quicker have more stamina live much longer avoid the frailties of aging and enjoy richer emotional lives In spite of the benefits that biomedical enhancements may bring many people instinctively reject them Some worry that we will lose something important our appreciation for what we have or what makes human beings distinctively valuable Others assume that biomedical enhancements will only be available to the rich with the result that social inequalities will worsen Buchanan shows that the debate over enhancement has been distorted by false assumptions and misleading rhetoric To think clearly about enhancement we have to acknowledge that human nature is a mixed bag and that our species has many design flaws We should be open be open to the possibility of becoming better than human while never underestimating the risks that our attempts to improve may back fire Better than Human Allen Buchanan, 2011-07-01 Is it right to use biomedical technologies to make us better than well or even perhaps better than human Should we view our biology as fixed or should we try to improve on it College students are already taking cognitive enhancement drugs The U S army is already working to develop drugs and technologies to produce super soldiers Scientists already know how to use genetic engineering techniques to enhance the strength and memories of mice and the application of such technologies to humans is on the horizon In *Better Than Human* philosopher bioethicist Allen Buchanan grapples with the ethical dilemmas of the biomedical enhancement revolution Biomedical enhancements can make us smarter have better memories be stronger quicker have more stamina live much longer avoid the frailties of aging and enjoy richer emotional lives In spite of the benefits that biomedical enhancements may bring many people instinctively reject them Some worry that we will lose something important our appreciation for what we have or what makes human beings distinctively valuable Others assume that biomedical enhancements will only be available to the rich with the result that social inequalities will worsen Buchanan shows that the debate over enhancement has been distorted by false assumptions and misleading rhetoric To think clearly about enhancement we have to acknowledge that human nature is a mixed bag and that our species has many design flaws We should be open be open to the possibility of becoming better than human while never underestimating the risks that our attempts to improve may back fire Pharmaceutical Freedom Jessica Flanigan, 2017 Jessica Flanigan defends patients rights of self medication on the grounds that same moral reasons against medical paternalism in clinical

contexts are also reasons against paternalistic pharmaceutical policies including prohibitive approval processes and prescription requirements

Contemporary Controversies in Catholic Bioethics Jason T. Eberl, 2017-07-24 This volume comprises various viewpoints representing a Catholic perspective on contemporary practices in medicine and biomedical research The Roman Catholic Church has had a significant impact upon the formulation and application of moral values and principles to a wide range of controversial issues in bioethics Catholic leaders theologians and bioethicists have elucidated and marshaled arguments to support the Church's definitive positions on several bioethical issues such as abortion euthanasia and reproductive cloning Not all bioethical issues however have been definitively addressed by Catholic authorities and some Church teachings allow for differing applications in diverse circumstances Moreover as new biomedical technologies emerge Church authorities rely on experts in science medicine philosophy theology law and other disciplines to advise them Such experts continue to debate issues related to reproduction genetics end of life care and health care policy This volume will be a valuable resource for scholars in bioethics or Catholic studies who will benefit from the nuanced arguments offered based on the latest research This volume is also instructive for students entering the field to become aware of the founding philosophical and theological principles informing the Catholic bioethical worldview

Rethinking Cognitive Enhancement Ruud H. J. Meulen, Ahmed Mohammed, Wayne Hall, 2017 This book critically explores and analyses the scientific and ethical debates surrounding cognitive enhancers Including contributions from neuroscientists neuropsychopharmacologists ethicists philosophers public health professionals and policy researchers the book offers a multidisciplinary critical consideration of this topic

Medicine and Social Justice Rosamond Rhodes, Margaret Battin, Anita Silvers, 2012-09-13 This unique and comprehensive second edition of an important volume presents writing from renowned authors about achieving social justice in medicine Each of the 42 chapters addresses continuing and emerging policy challenges facing medicine They deepen our understanding of theoretical and practical aspects of issues in the contemporary debate

Genetic Enhancement and Technomoral Change Jon Rueda, 2025-10-31 This book presents a groundbreaking analysis of the anticipatory ethical issues associated with human genetic enhancement It provides instructive clarifications for understanding the philosophy and science behind this long standing bioethical debate and identifies how genetic enhancement may impact the moral codes of future societies Part 1 examines the historical conceptual scientific and ethical challenges related to human genetic enhancement The Interlude introduces the emerging philosophical debate on technomoral change Part 2 addresses reproductive choice genetic justice and equal treatment to illustrate how enhancement technologies may alter future social morality Finally the book explores the anticipatory governance of genetic enhancement qualifying the necessity and limitations of public engagement identifying different types of epistemic and moral uncertainties and offering meta normative recommendations for public policy Genetic Enhancement and Technomoral Change will be of interest to scholars and advanced students interested in bioethics philosophy of technology and

anticipation studies of science and technology **Prophets of the Posthuman** Christina Bieber Lake, 2013-09-30 *Prophets of the Posthuman* provides a fresh and original reading of fictional narratives that raise the question of what it means to be human in the face of rapidly developing bioenhancement technologies Christina Bieber Lake argues that works by Nathaniel Hawthorne Walker Percy Flannery O'Connor Toni Morrison George Saunders Marilynne Robinson Raymond Carver James Tiptree Jr and Margaret Atwood must be reevaluated in light of their contributions to larger ethical questions Drawing on a wide range of sources in philosophical and theological ethics Lake claims that these writers share a commitment to maintaining a category of personhood more meaningful than that allowed by utilitarian ethics *Prophets of the Posthuman* insists that because technology can never ask whether we should do something that we have the power to do literature must step into that role Each of the chapters of this interdisciplinary study sets up a typical ethical scenario regarding human enhancement technology and then illustrates how a work of fiction uniquely speaks to that scenario exposing a realm of human motivations that might otherwise be overlooked or simplified Through the vision of the writers she discusses Lake uncovers a deep critique of the ascendancy of personal autonomy as America's most cherished value This ascendancy coupled with technology's glamorous promises of happiness helps to shape a utilitarian view of persons that makes responsible ethical behavior toward one another almost impossible *Prophets of the Posthuman* charts the essential role that literature must play in the continuing conversation of what it means to be human in a posthuman world **Bioethics and Medicine** C. Ben Mitchell, 2025-09-01 In *Bioethics and Medicine A Short Companion* C Ben Mitchell challenges the prevailing view of bioethics as solely a matter of expert problem solving Instead he argues that the ethics of medicine is deeply rooted in an ancient profession with a rich moral heritage **Imagined Futures in Science, Technology and Society** Gert Verschraegen, Frédéric Vandermoere, Luc Braeckmans, Barbara Segaert, 2017-04-07 *Imagining forecasting and predicting the future* is an inextricable and increasingly important part of the present States organizations and individuals almost continuously have to make decisions about future actions financial investments or technological innovation without much knowledge of what will exactly happen in the future Science and technology play a crucial role in this collective attempt to make sense of the future Technological developments such as nanotechnology robotics or solar energy largely shape how we dream and think about the future while economic forecasts gene tests or climate change projections help us to make images of what may possibly occur in the future This book provides one of the first interdisciplinary assessments of how scientific and technological imaginations matter in the formation of human ecological and societal futures Rooted in different disciplines such as sociology philosophy and science and technology studies it explores how various actors such as scientists companies or states imagine the future to be and act upon that imagination Bringing together case studies from different regions around the globe including the electrification of German car infrastructure or genetically modified crops in India *Imagined Futures in Science Technology and Society* shows how science and technology create novel forms of

imagination thereby opening horizons toward alternative futures By developing central aspects of the current debate on how scientific imagination and future making interact this timely volume provides a fresh look at the complex interrelationships between science technology and society This book will be of interest to postgraduate students interested in Science and Technology Studies History and Philosophy of Science Sociology Cultural Studies Anthropology Political Sciences Future Studies and Literary Sciences

Medical Law and Ethics Jonathan Herring, 2020 Medical Law and Ethics covers the core legal principles key cases and statutes that govern medical law alongside the key ethical debates and dilemmas that exist in the field Carefully constructed features highlight these debates drawing out the European angles religious beliefs and feminist perspectives which influence legal regulations Other features such as a shock to the system public opinion and reality check introduce further socio legal discussion and contribute to the lively and engaging manner in which the subject is approached Online resources This book is accompanied by the following online resources Complete bibliography and list of further reading Links to the key cases mentioned in the book A video from the author which introduces the book and sets the scene for your studies Links to key sites with information on medical law and ethics Answer guidance to one question per chapter

Technology and the Virtues Shannon Vallor, 2016 New technologies from artificial intelligence to drones and biomedical enhancement make the future of the human family increasingly hard to predict and protect This book explores how the philosophical tradition of virtue ethics can help us to cultivate the moral wisdom we need to live wisely and well with emerging technologies

God's Light Bulb Muzella Hayes Ph.D, 2019-10-22 Earthly man does not always understand the revelations of the Word it is therefore sometimes necessary to use metaphors or parables as Jesus did when teaching the Jews about the kingdom of God In the same vein this dissertation uses the metaphor of a light bulb that can emanate light when plugged into an electrical source to the light that shines from God Going further with this metaphor the light bulb of God takes its energy from the Lord himself as it shines in the lives of everyone who believes in God Light is used to show the way as roads airport runways and stations are lit to facilitate easier traveling to humans Light as humans know it was only possible after electricity was discovered Caldwell stated that in New York by the late 1870 s electric light was no longer a novelty though the city didn't get its first consumer power grid until eight teen eighty two The city put electrical lights to good use as the New York Train System lit up the tracks twenty four hours a day this provided an indication of the way the train would go This was considered light that would guide the way for so many people travelling the city This train line pointing to the way people should go can be seen as a metaphor for The Way in a biblical sense There are people who do not know or believe that the first light was God's light

The Transhuman Antihero Michael Grantham, 2015-09-25 Advances in science and technology no longer change how we live they determine it In the not too distant future techno scientific developments may make individuals stronger smarter healthier and more productive but to what end Addressing this question speculative fiction has created an abundance of transhuman characters protagonists with extraordinary strength

intelligence or abilities. Often they are antiheroes, openly rejecting or rejected by society and acting on immoral or extreme principles that challenge readers to approve, condemn, excuse, or explain. This study explores the antihero of speculative fiction as a paradoxical blend of human and transhuman. These protagonists illustrate the dynamics of individual, technological, scientific, and societal norms and blur distinctions between human and machine, biology and technology, right and wrong. Fictional works covered include Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818), Olaf Stapledon's *Odd John* (1935), Alfred Bester's *The Stars My Destination* (1956), William Gibson's *Neuromancer* (1986), Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' *Watchmen* (1986-1987), Richard Morgan's trilogy *Altered Carbon* (2001), *Broken Angels* (2003), and *Woken Furies* (2005), and *Black Man* (2007).

[Handbook of Bioethical Decisions. Volume I](#) Erick Valdés, Juan Alberto Lecaros, 2023-06-14. The *Handbook of Bioethical Decisions* is aimed at addressing and analyzing the most important ethical concerns and moral quandaries arisen in biomedical and scientific research. As such, it identifies and problematizes on a comprehensive range of ethical issues researchers must deal with in different critical contexts. Thus, the *Handbook Vol I* may be helpful for them to make decisions and deliberate in complex practical scenarios. In this fashion, the volume reunites different points of view to give readers room enough to get a better knowledge and take their own position on pressing bioethical issues of the day. Consequently, this work seeks to engender dense ethical epistemology scientists can count on when conducting latest generation biomedical research. By bringing together an impressive array of contributions on the most important elements and categories for at the bench bioethical decisions, as well as offering chapters by some of the most world renowned and prominent experts in bioethics, the *Handbook Vol I* is a paradigmatic text in its area and a valuable resource for courses on bioethics and biomedical research, as well as courses that discuss ethics and the biosciences at different professional levels: biomedical industry, pharmacological companies, and the public sphere in general.

The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Human Enhancement Fabrice Jotterand, Marcello Ienca, 2023-08-01. The *Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Human Enhancement* provides readers with a philosophically rich and scientifically grounded analysis of human enhancement and its ethical implications. A landmark in the academic literature, the volume covers human enhancement in genetic engineering, neuroscience, synthetic biology, regenerative medicine, bioengineering, and many other fields. The *Handbook* includes a diverse and multifaceted collection of 30 chapters, all appearing here in print for the first time, that reveal the fundamental ethical challenges related to human enhancement. The chapters have been written by internationally recognized leaders in the field and are organized into seven parts: Historical Background and Key Concepts; Human Enhancement and Human Nature; Physical Enhancement; Cognitive Enhancement; Mood Enhancement; and Moral Enhancement; Human Enhancement and Medicine; Legal, Social, and Political Implications. The depth and topical range of the *Handbook* makes it an essential resource for upper-level undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows in a broad variety of disciplinary areas. Furthermore, it is an authoritative reference for basic scientists, philosophers, engineers, physicians, lawyers, and other professionals who work on

the topic of human enhancement **Contemporary Catholic Health Care Ethics** David F. Kelly, Gerard Magill, Henk ten Have, 2013-04-01 Contemporary Catholic Health Care Ethics Second Edition integrates theology methodology and practical application into a detailed and practical examination of the bioethical issues that confront students scholars and practitioners Noted bioethicists Gerard Magill Henk ten Have and David F Kelly contribute diverse backgrounds and experience that inform the richness of new material covered in this second edition The book is organized into three sections theology basic issues underlying Catholic thought methodology how Catholic theology approaches moral issues including birth control and applications to current issues New chapters discuss controversial end of life issues such as forgoing treatment killing versus allowing patients to die ways to handle decisions for incompetent patients advance directives and physician assisted suicide Unlike anthologies the coherent text offers a consistent method in order to provide students scholars and practitioners with an understanding of ethical dilemmas as well as concrete examples to assist in the difficult decisions they must make on an everyday basis Contemporary Catholic Health Care Ethics, Second Edition David F. Kelly, Gerard Magill, Henk ten Have, 2013-03-28 Contemporary Catholic Health Care Ethics Second Edition integrates theology methodology and practical application into a detailed and practical examination of the bioethical issues that confront students scholars and practitioners Noted bioethicists Gerard Magill Henk ten Have and David F Kelly contribute diverse backgrounds and experience that inform the richness of new material covered in this second edition The book is organized into three sections theology basic issues underlying Catholic thought methodology how Catholic theology approaches moral issues including birth control and applications to current issues New chapters discuss controversial end of life issues such as forgoing treatment killing versus allowing patients to die ways to handle decisions for incompetent patients advance directives and physician assisted suicide Unlike anthologies the coherent text offers a consistent method in order to provide students scholars and practitioners with an understanding of ethical dilemmas as well as concrete examples to assist in the difficult decisions they must make on an everyday basis **Medicine and Society, New Perspectives in Continental Philosophy** Darian Meacham, 2015-05-22 This volume addresses some of the most prominent questions in contemporary bioethics and philosophy of medicine liberal eugenics enhancement the normal and the pathological the classification of mental illness the relation between genetics disease and the political sphere the experience of illness and disability and the sense of the subject of bioethical inquiry itself All of these issues are addressed from a continental perspective drawing on a rich tradition of inquiry into these questions in the fields of phenomenology philosophical hermeneutics French epistemology critical theory and post structuralism At the same time the contributions engage with the Anglo American debate resulting in a fruitful and constructive conversation that not only shows the depth and breadth of continental perspectives in bioethics and medicine but also opens new avenues of discussion and exploration For decades European philosophers have offered important insights into the relation between the practices of medicine the concept of illness and society more broadly understood These interventions have generally striven

to be both historically nuanced and accessible to non experts From Georges Canguilhem s seminal *The Normal and the Pathological* Michel Foucault s lectures on madness sexuality and biopolitics Hans Jonas s deeply thoughtful essays on the right to die life extension and ethics in a technological age Hans Georg Gadamer s lectures on *The Enigma of Health* and more recently Jürgen Habermas s carefully nuanced interventions on the question of liberal eugenics these thinkers have sought to engage the wider public as much as their fellow philosophers on questions of paramount importance to current bioethical and social political debate The essays contained here continue this tradition of engagement and accessibility In the best practices of European philosophy the contributions in this volume aim to engage with and stimulate a broad spectrum of readers not just experts In doing so the volume offers a showcase of the richness and rigor of continental perspectives on medicine and society

On the Origin of Superheroes Chris Gavalier, 2015-11-01 Most readers think that superheroes began with Superman s appearance in *Action Comics No 1* but that Kryptonian rocket didn t just drop out of the sky By the time Superman s creators were born the superhero s most defining elements secret identities aliases disguises signature symbols traumatic origin stories extraordinary powers self sacrificing altruism were already well rehearsed standards Superheroes have a sprawling action packed history that predates the *Man of Steel* by decades and even centuries *On the Origin of Superheroes* is a quirky personal tour of the mythology literature philosophy history and grand swirl of ideas that have permeated western culture in the centuries leading up to the first appearance of superheroes as we know them today in 1938 From the creation of the universe through mythological heroes and gods to folklore ancient philosophy revolutionary manifestos discarded scientific theories and gothic monsters the sweep and scale of the superhero s origin story is truly epic We will travel from Jane Austen s Bath to Edgar Rice Burroughs s Mars to Owen Wister s Wyoming with some surprising stops along the way We ll meet mad scientists Napoleonic dictators costumed murderers diabolical madmen blackmailers pirates Wild West outlaws eugenicists the KKK Victorian do gooders detectives aliens vampires and pulp vigilantes to name just a few Chris Gavalier is your tour guide through this fascinating sometimes dark often funny but always surprising prehistory of the most popular figure in pop culture today In a way superheroes have always been with us they are a fossil record of our greatest aspirations and our worst fears and failings

Better Than Human The Promise And Perils Of Enhancing Ourselves Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has become more apparent than ever. Its ability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Better Than Human The Promise And Perils Of Enhancing Ourselves**," published by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve to the book's central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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