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The Regenerative Ethics of a Scientific Melodrama

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Post-doc



In November 2016, a human embryonic stem cell line, known to many in South Korea as NT-1, was officially accepted into South Korea's National Stem Cell Registry. Although this was not front page news in South Korea, nevertheless, NT-1's official registration illustrates the persistent public scientific presence of Hwang Woo-suk, the once world famous Korean stem cell scientist whose human embryonic stem cell research ended with calamity and in disgrace. In this paper, I explore some of Hwang's more recent activities and return to analyze the public discourse surrounding his previous stem cell research, and subsequent scandal, to explain his present-day status as well as the persistence of his loyal supporters.

Marcie Middlebrooks has taught at Cornell University where she received her PhD in Socio-cultural Anthropology. She studied Korean religions at Seoul National University's Religious Studies Department and investigates the intersections of science, religion, and medicine. Most recently, she completed an article comparing South Korea's 2005 Hwang Woo-suk stem cell research scandal to the 2014 STAP stem cell scandal unfolding around Haruko Obokata in Japan.

3:30-5:00 PM, Thomson Hall #317

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