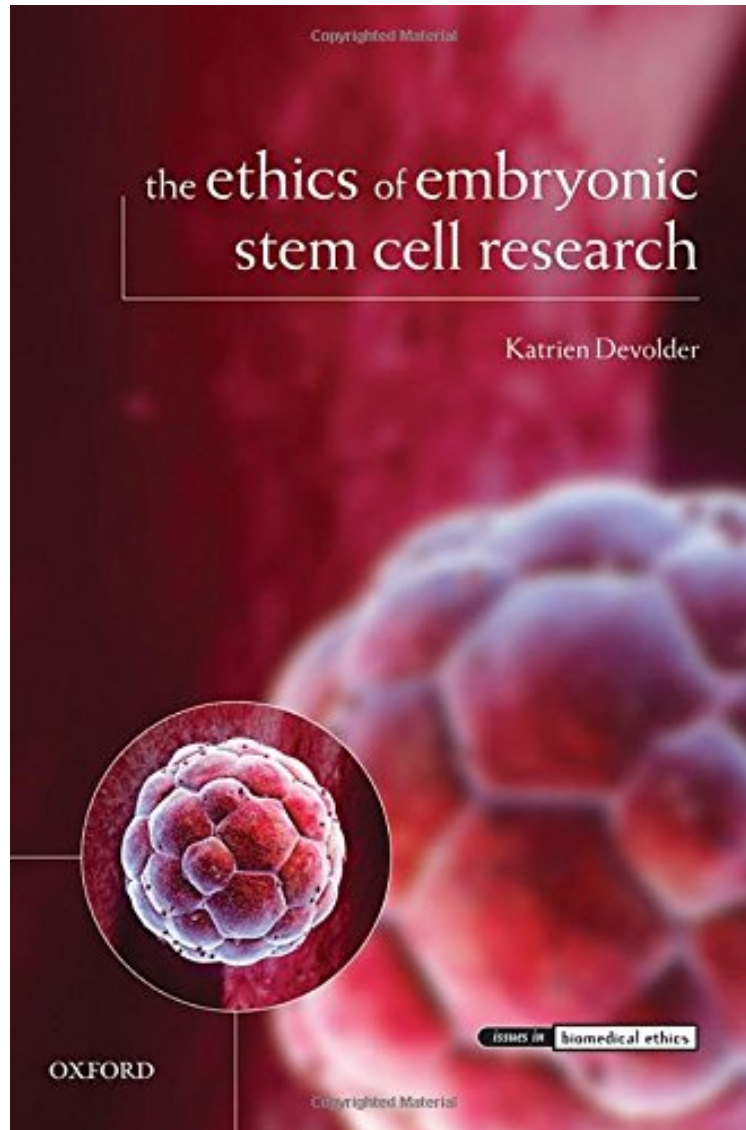


(Free pdf) The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Issues in Biomedical Ethics)

# The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Issues in Biomedical Ethics)

*Katrien Devolder*

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**Katrien Devolder : The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Issues in Biomedical Ethics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research (Issues in Biomedical Ethics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ethical overviewBy Stacy L PrittOverall this book was good. The author expertly laid out the ethical arguments surrounding the procurement of human embryonic stem cells for

research. Focusing more on the cutting-edge developments in the field, which the author devotes very little space to in the last chapter, would have improved the book. Absent from the book was any discussion on how research institutions would or should go about establishing guidelines and regulatory compliance for this type of research.

Embryonic stem cell research holds unique promise for developing therapies for currently incurable diseases and conditions, and for important biomedical research. However, the process through which embryonic stem cells are obtained involves the destruction of early human embryos. Katrien Devolder focuses on the tension between the popular view that an embryo should never be deliberately harmed or destroyed, and the view that embryonic stem cell research, because of its enormous promise, must go forward. She provides an in-depth ethical analysis of the major philosophical and political attempts to resolve this tension. One such attempt involves the development of a middle ground position, which accepts only types or aspects of embryonic stem cell research deemed compatible with the view that the embryo has a significant moral status. An example is the position that it can be permissible to derive stem cells from embryos left over from in vitro fertilisation but not from embryos created for research. Others have advocated a technical solution. Several techniques have been proposed for deriving embryonic stem cells, or their functional equivalents, without harming embryos. An example is the induced pluripotent stem cell technique. Through highlighting inconsistencies in the arguments for these positions, Devolder argues that the central tension in the embryonic stem cell debate remains unresolved. This conclusion has important implications for the stem cell debate, as well as for policies inspired by this debate.

"...this book is a mighty undertaking, as its subtext treats what it means to be human-even at the cellular level-and what absolute protection of human life might entail...Recommended." -- Choice "Devolder's monograph is, as ever, an impressive work of logic and clarity on an issue that continues to polarise. Her mastery of the topic is predicated on a rare ability to engage with, and translate, sophisticated scientific processes as well as philosophical concepts in an engaging and accessible manner." -- Journal of Applied Philosophy

About the Author  
Katrien Devolder, Ghent University  
Katrien Devolder obtained a PhD in Philosophy at Ghent University in 2006, after which she was awarded a six-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship by the Research Foundation Flanders. She conducted her postdoctoral work at the Bioethics Institute Ghent, Department of Philosophy and Moral Sciences, at Ghent University, as well as during long-term academic visits at several other universities, including the University of Oxford, Harvard University, and Princeton University. Between 2012 and 2014 she worked as an Assistant Professor at Ghent University, and from October 2014 onwards, she will be a Marie Curie Fellow at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford.