

Talk by Dr. Bernard Baertschi

Institut Éthique Histoire Humanités, University of Geneva

Natural or artificial: does it matter morally?

Monday, June 18th, 2018 at 2:00 PM | ITAS, Karlstr.11, Room 418

Abstract:

What is natural is intrinsically good and cannot harm; contrariwise, what is artificial is risky and, since it is made by human beings, it could be morally problematic. Such judgments are not infrequent in the public debates concerning the products of biotechnologies: GMO and nano in particular.

They raise two questions:

- Are artificial entities of another nature than natural ones (because human beings confer them something special)?
- Are artificial products and procedures more risky than natural ones?

After having disentangled several conceptual unclarities concerning the topic, I will venture to answer these two questions, arguing against human exceptionalism at this level.

Contact: Siri Weiße | Phone: +49 721 608-28722 | Email: siri.weisse@kit.edu

Seminar schedule online: <https://www.nanomat.de/NanoMat-ITAS-Seminar.php>

