

Invitation

Targeted gene editing
and the child's right
to an open future

Monday
November 4th 2019
4:00 p.m.

CII Building
2nd floor
95 Eirinis str., 3041 Limassol



Cyprus
University of
Technology

Cyprus International Institute
for Environmental and
Public Health

Cyprus Unit
UNESCO Chair
in Bioethics, Haifa



CARDIOVASCULAR
EPIDEMIOLOGY
& GENETICS
RESEARCH LAB

The Cyprus Unit of the UNESCO chair in Bioethics (Haifa) and the Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Genetics Lab, invite you to an open lecture on:

Targeted gene editing and the child's right to an open future

Speaker: Dr. Evangelos D. Protopapadakis

Assistant Professor of Applied Ethics

Director of the NKUA Applied Philosophy Research Lab

Head of the Greek Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (Haifa)

School of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy,

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Abstract:

Among the strongest arguments against targeted gene editing is the one that assumes that any modification of the genome will necessarily violate the child's right to an open future, and this mainly due to the fact that children whose genome would undergo pre or post-natal manipulation will allegedly be aware of their future prospects, at least to some extent, and therefore they will not be able to proceed to autonomous choices according to their own free will. In my presentation I will argue that the right to an open future, as far as targeted gene editing is concerned, necessarily presupposes – and depends upon – the corresponding right to genetic ignorance, which I will challenge as self-defeating and inconsistent. Based on this view, I will further argue that the right to an open future is equally problematic.