

Sex and Gender Education in the Biotech Century

A subRosa Performance

The audience-participatory performance, “Sex and Gender Education in the Biotech Century,” gives a digital twist to the use of traditional low-tech classroom methods and teaching aids (such as filmstrips, slide shows, workbook projects, vocabulary tests, model building, and role-playing), in order to inspire critical thinking about the relationship of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) to sexuality, reproduction, and gender. The show includes segments on “How to Have a Baby with the New Reprotech,” “What is the

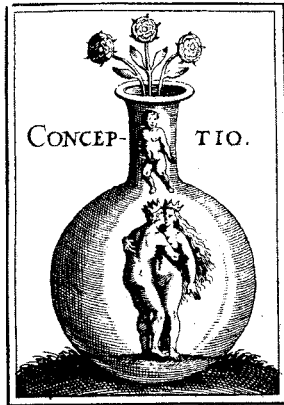
Human Genome Project?” “Recombinant Genetics and Genetic Engineering,” and “Applied Social Genetics (Social Eugenics).” Participants are involved in a full range of learning

activities, and the show ends in a “mixer” during which participants attempt to match up with a genetically ideal mate to create a perfect baby. (This performance was commissioned for “Digital Secrets,” Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, 2000; and performed a second time at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, 2002.)

Following are excerpts from subRosa’s *Sex and Gender Ed in the Biotech Century Workbook*, and pictures of both performances.

Morena Subterra addresses class.





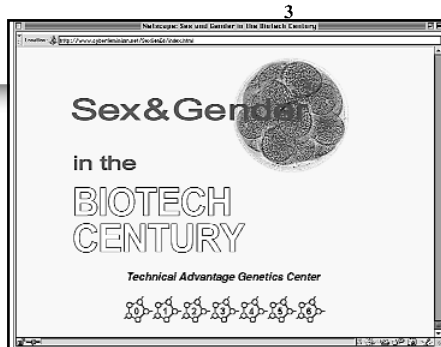
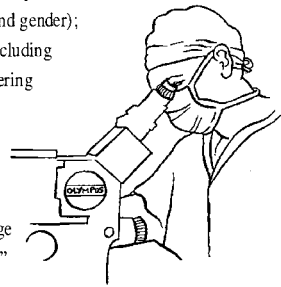
A New Creation in the Biotech Century

“Every major economic and social revolution in history has been accompanied by a new explanation of the creation of life and the workings of nature. The new concept of nature is always the most important strand of the matrix that makes up any new social order. In each instance, the new cosmology serves to justify the rightness and inevitability of the new way human beings are organizing their world by suggesting that nature itself is organized along similar lines.”

(J. Rifkin, *The Biotech Century*, p.196.)

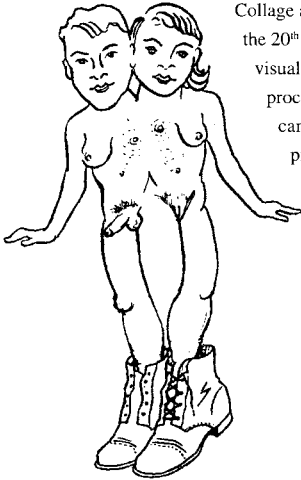
SEX and GENDER in the BIOTECH CENTURY

The mysteries of the creation of matter, of nature, of what life is, and of the processes of human reproduction have preoccupied scientists, philosophers, artists, writers, theologians—and children—since human culture began. The new bio-technologies, genetic and medical human engineering, as well as social, cultural, racial, gender, and economic factors fueled by global exchanges and mixings, have the potential for producing “new humans,” new subjectivities, new relations among bodies, and new answers to ancient questions about life and being human. Sexuality and gender construction are at the heart of (Western) discussions of human identity and subject formation. To date, there has not been much research about the effects the new biotechnologies may have on our conceptions of sex and gender, and on subject formation. These questions are the basis of **subRosa’s** speculations, research, and experiments. Our topics include: Sexuality and gender now (new representations of the sexual organs, new conceptions of anatomy and human biology, queer sexuality, multicultural constructions of sexuality and gender); Reproductive technology (Assisted Reproductive Technologies including IVF, cloning, fertility and infertility); Genetics and genetic engineering of plants, animals and humans; mutation and the Human Genome Project; Applied Social Genetics (Eugenics, gene pool mixing, hybrid families, finding your ideal genetic mate, designing “perfect” babies). “The story of creation is being retold. This time around, nature is cast in the image of the computer and the language of physics, chemistry, mathematics, and the information sciences.” (J. Rifkin, *The Biotech Century*, p. 211)



Sex and Gender Ed web site.

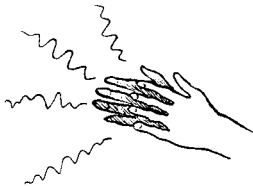
Recombinant Sexuality and Gender



Collage and Montage were the groundbreaking aesthetic modes of the 20th Century in film, radio, advertising and publicity images, visual art, literature, poetry, architecture and photography. These processes which rely on recombination of elements, also became the basis of most image and text producing software programs on computers and in electronic media.

In the Biotech Century DNA splicing and recombination, and digitized morphing, 3-D modeling and animation software programs, present new imaging possibilities and new EMBODIED flesh possibilities. DNA splicing across species boundaries can cause organisms to EXPRESS recombined characteristics in REAL BODIES. Among the myriad new possibilities which this technology will spawn, let us consider 3 suggestions of how to extend "normal" sexual and gender binaries of male/female, hetero/homo, couple/single, to a range of embodied libidinal expressions.

For example: the palm of the hand could be genetically programmed to grow erectile tissue, thus making shaking or holding hands an orgasmic experience. Hi-fives, applause, and political glad handing will truly come into their own!!



Similarly clitoral tissues could be grown in inner elbows so that linking arms with someone can cause an orgasm. Just imagine the joy and skyhigh morale of a group of protesters with linked arms!

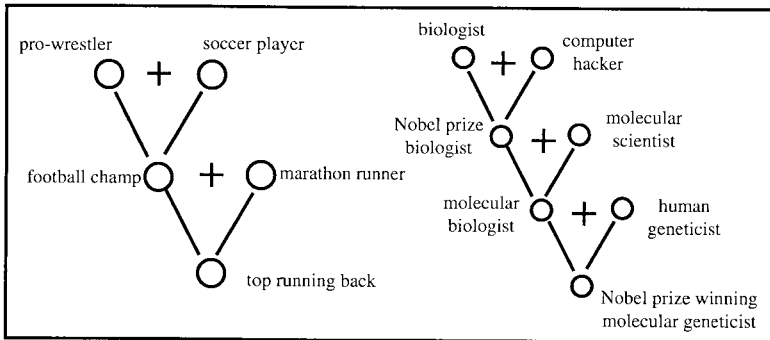
Provocative is also the idea of intrapersonal brain sex in which the neurons of one person's brain could fire genetically programmed receptors in another person's brain just by thinking about them, and cause instant orgasm in the other. A whole room full of people could be stimulated and reduced to useless bliss at the same time. Imagine!!!



Lecture at Sex and Gender Education Show.

Ten Ways to Enhance Yourself Genetically

1. Triple your income.
2. Move to a gated community in a first-world country.
3. Invest in your children. Send them to a major research university.
4. Have children only by Assisted Reproductive Technologies.
5. For women wanting "natural" children: Have sex with many different men during ovulation to ensure that the best sperm wins. For men desiring "natural" children: Impregnate as many women as possible in order to ensure continuation of your genetic line.
6. Practice parental eugenics and eugenic sacrifice when necessary. When making babies with Assisted Reproductive Technologies choose genetic traits in donor eggs and sperm which will enhance your genetic germ line in a few generations. For example:



7. Practice pre-implantation genetic diagnosis through embryo biopsy, and employ selective reduction after embryo implantation.
8. Take advantage of all new medical procedures based on genetic therapy, for example, somatic gene therapy.
9. Invest in new biotechnology and genetic research stocks.
10. Eat genetically modified foods.



Filling out Workbooks.

Applied Social Genetics / Eugenics

Monsters
Hybrids
Mestizos
Cyborgs
Freaks
Androids
Mulattos
Goddesses
Recombinants
Teratomas
Dwarfs
Aliens
Martians
Witches
Zombies
Mutants
Conjoined
Twins
Ghosts
Artificial Life
Mermaids
Replicants
*Centaur*s
Giants
Freaks

Why are we so fascinated and terrified by the impure, mixed creatures which exist in real life and have populated our imaginations, dreams, myths, stories, and art since human culture began? Uncertainty and the unknown can now be banished. **Applied Social Genetics** or **New Social Eugenics** is a rationalized procedure for making babies based solely on the parents' pragmatic selection of physical attributes and desirable genetic traits. This circumvents the old style, patently race and class based eugenic practices that negatively sought to get rid of certain ethnic, racial, and economic groups, and replaces them with fully scientific and genetically based choices for producing the best offspring possible.



Looking for ideal Genetic Matches.

A Modest Proposal for the Biotech Century

It is time to celebrate that humanity is now in the position to solve one of its most pressing and tragic problems—that of infant mortality and the birth of unwanted and “unfit” children, including:

- *the missing babies of the favela carried away by diarrhea
- *girl-babies smothered at birth or aborted
- *US crack babies which do not thrive
- *fetuses aborted for whatever reason
- *AIDS babies all over the world
- *famine babies, war babies, poor babies, congenitally malformed, diseased, and damaged babies—the list is endless.

Advanced Reprotechnology and genetic modification of plants, animals, and humans, coupled with nationally and globally enforced new eugenic practices and applied social eugenics (including parental eugenics, eugenic sacrifice, genotype mating and fiscal eugenics) is the rational, efficient, humane and technologically feasible way of over-coming age-old problems which ravage even the most advanced nations. No longer will there be illegitimate children, poor people having too many children, or infant mortality due to bad heredity, poverty, and economic and social deprivation. No longer will there be genetically unfit babies due to perpetuation of defective genetic lines. Moreover, a globally planned and enforced eugenic policy will get rid of the problems of overpopulation or unbalanced population once and for all. And then The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—Famine, War, Ruin and Death will ride no more.

Think about it:

- No More Dead Babies
- No More Ghost Babies
- No More Little Angels
- No More Reproductive Waste
- No More Missing Offspring
- No More Abortions
- No More Unwanted Children



What You Can Do: Organize local eugenic education groups and begin to lobby your local, state, and federal governments to form a Federal Eugenics Administration which will pass legislation to positively enforce new eugenic practices nationally and internationally. Practice new eugenics yourself and encourage your family and friends to do so also.



A successful match!