

# Elon Musk and "Baked in" Bioethics

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### Scale 1 - interventions

### Small scale, local interventions

Changing agricultural practice e.g. moving from maize to drought resistant sorghum



### **Global interventions**

Changing the weather

Surveillance of Earth systems

**Techno-solutions** 

Familiar bioethics

Not so familiar bioethics

Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down? What are the methodological and ethical implications of doing this?

## Scale 2 – shared values at different scales

#### **Local ethics**

Increasing focus on localisation of climate change ethics and politics

Calls for shared commitments to global justice, equity, inclusivity, respect for local/indigenous knowledges.



### **Global/Planetary ethics**

Addressing climate change requires collective action

Identification and agreement of and commitment to shared values.

Search for shared values a common concern

Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down to engage meaningfully both with (some) difference of knowledge and value, and (some) shared values and knowledge?

Connections with political philosophy

# Scale 3 – disagreement at different levels

### Local knowledge

All local and indigenous knowledge practices will include persistent false beliefs [smoking is good for health]

Different local/indigenous knowledge practices can disagree and conflict

Internally and between groups

### **Global ethics**

Polarisation, multipolar world

Fake news and misinformation

Crises of expertise

**Politics** 

Disagreement and radical value conflict, are persistent features of climate change ethics?

Critique is not incompatible with respect. It is required for it.

# Scale 4 – expanding circle of co-production?

### **Human centred**

Singer's expanding circle of bioethics: humans

Calls for co-creation and coproduction: humans



#### **Eco-social**

Singer's expanding circle of bioethics: humans, animals, the planet(?)

What is the coherent scope of an expanded circle of co-production: animals?

Are all duties human duties?

Familiar bioethics

Not so familiar bioethics

Can bioethics be coherently and usefully scaled up and down to engage meaningfully with the human/non-human? What does this mean for politics of bioethics?

## "Baked in" Bioethics

In his introductory talks, Julian Sheather said,



If we don't identify and address ethical issues, we risk 'baking in' existing inequalities and structural injustices.

My reformulation,

If we are serious about identifying and addressing inequalities and structural injustices, we need to ensure that 'bioethics' is baked into climate change debates, policy, and intervention.

'Baking bioethics in', means baking in respectful (critical) engagement with conflict and radical value disagreements – from the local to the global.