

# Northern Ireland Ethics Forum

The NIEF is very pleased to be organizing three events that are taking place as part of the 2016 programme of Imagine: A Festival of Ideas.

They are free to attend and open to all

## Editing the Genome: “What do the Public think about Engineering Human Beings?”

Silvia Camporesi (KCL). 1430-1600, Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, Crescent Arts Centre.



Due to its efficiency and versatility “CRISPR” – a genome-editing technology - has been referred to as a 'game changer.' Scientific research using this technology to modify the genomes of human embryos was given the green-light by the UK's HFEA in January 2016. Whilst it has the potential to eliminate a range of illnesses and disabilities it could also be used for eugenic ends, or to create 'designer babies.' Whilst it is vital that scientists, bioethics and other academic experts consider whether and how to make use of this technology it is equally important that the public are kept informed and can express their views. In order to understand what members of the public think about genome editing Silvia and her colleague Dr Laura Marks conducted a survey of their views. More than 300 people participated. Silvia will present results of the survey and encourage a discussion with the audience.

[nief.org.uk/events/editing-the-genome-what-do-the-public-think-about-engineering-human-beings/](http://nief.org.uk/events/editing-the-genome-what-do-the-public-think-about-engineering-human-beings/)

The other events we are organising are:

**1. "Controversies about the Human Right to Health" Jo Wolff (UCL). 12.30-2pm, Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, Canada Room, QUB.**

[nief.org.uk/events/controversies-about-the-human-right-to-health/](http://nief.org.uk/events/controversies-about-the-human-right-to-health/)

**2. Panel Debate: “An Opt-Out Organ Donor Register: What is it, and should NI have one?”** Dr Chris Hingston (CLOD South Wales), Dr Paul Glover (Regional CLOD, Belfast, NI) and Nathan Emmerich (QUB). 1230-1400, Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. Old Staff Common Room, QUB.

[nief.org.uk/events/panel-debate-an-opt-out-organ-donor-register-what-is-it-and-should-ni-have-one/](http://nief.org.uk/events/panel-debate-an-opt-out-organ-donor-register-what-is-it-and-should-ni-have-one/)

## All Welcome