

Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute



with

Professor Sheila Jasanoff

Program on Science, Technology and Society (STS) Kennedy School of Government Harvard University

Life within Reason: Law and Politics at the Frontiers of Biology

More than sixty years after one of the 20th century's most significant breakthroughs in scientific knowledge, the discovery of the structure of DNA, it seems appropriate to consider how a scientific revolution works alongside other social forces to bring about the "co-production" of natural and social order. The ethical, legal, and social dilemmas now presenting themselves at the frontiers of biological research complicate everyday understandings of the relations between scientific and social progress, such as technological determinism and the law lag, which attribute to science an almost unlimited capacity to remake social meanings and values. Instead, the idiom of co-production calls attention to the ways in which multiple forms of social meaning making—in law, ethics, and human self-fashioning—operate together to define our sense of what life is and what we should seek to preserve or protect about the nature of human life in particular.

Discussants:

Professor Bruno Strasser, University of Geneva Professor Calvin Ho, National University of Singapore Professor John Tasioulas, King's College London

Date/time: July 27, 2016 at 11.00am
Venue: Room F05 Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention Institute
Hirschengraben 84, 8001 Zurich