Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences – Final Report

1.) Cloning Practice, Cloning Fear: The History of Nuclear Transplantation, 1920s – 1960s

2.) Nathan Crowe, Program in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

3.) My dissertation examines the development of a biological technique, nuclear transplantation, from its inceptions in the 1930s through the 1960s when it became synonymous with cloning. I begin by analyzing the various threads that led to the development of the technique at a cancer institution in the early 1950s during a time in which the discipline of embryology was in flux. In the 1950s, I trace how nuclear transplantation evolves and spreads to various laboratories throughout the world, analyzing how scientific arguments emerge as the technique was used in different settings and with different goals. Finally, I trace how nuclear transplantation became associated with scientific humanism movements in the early 1960s, when they saw nuclear transplantation as a possible panacea for future biological problems and as a starting point for ethical discussions concerning the direction of science.

4.) Results:

a. Presentations:


b. Completed all research and wrote three out of four dissertation chapters between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

c. Received a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at Arizona State University, Center for Biology and Society. Begins fall, 2011.

5.) Future Project Plans: I have an anticipated defense date of October, 2011. I also have significant plans to revise the dissertation into a book in the upcoming years.