

Controversial Topic - Science and Morality

Every year, maybe every day, scientists can make more and more changes in the natural world. Developments like the cloning of complex animals, the ability to detect and/or treat diseases in fetuses before birth, sophisticated electronic identification and surveillance devices, and ever more devastating and effective weapons raise with increasing force questions about the responsibility of scientists for the uses to which their discoveries might be put.

Please consider the following questions yourself and also ask at least 2 others (1 scientist, 1 non-scientist):

Should scientists feel responsible for the potential unethical use of their work by others?
Why or why not?

If there is some sense of responsibility, what actions should scientists take?

Make sure you ask follow-up questions and talk in depth about this with your interviewees.

Some links to articles on this topic to help you understand it more and ask better questions.

<http://www.darwinmag.com/read/0502/fear.html>

<http://www.pugwash.org/reports/pim/pim18.htm>

<http://www.cnn.com/2002/LAW/05/columns/fl.hilden.chip/index.html>