

Volgograd State Medical University
Department of Philosophy, Bioethics and Law

Lectures on Bioethics

**BIOETHICAL PARADIGM IN
THE CULTURE OF FUTURE**

Definition

The necessity to speak about the culture of future is conditioned by the fact that modern culture came in its development to some limit. Transgressing of this limit is fraught with disastrous scenario for all humankind.

What is culture? Culture is a special machine of survival, consisting of the means of ruling of human individual and collective behavior.

The fundamental means of ruling in modern culture.

.Fundamental means of ruling is simulative capital. World market is making more and more activity, acceleration of circulation of commodity and money. But as the result, one can see the loss the task of this circulation. Market is making motion for the sake of motion. It is working for itself. For ex., It's unlikely that somebody understands the causes of the leaps of stock indices.

Circulation of capital is stunning
Real of our life.

This aspect of modern capitalism is expressed in phrase “money talks”

- This expression implies “silence” of human.
- Actually the striking event has happened: human-creator became servant (operating staff) of own “masterpiece” (capital).
- Reality corresponds to illusive, self-originating image, when money makes money.
- This speculative madness generates deep crises.

- Capital has got tendency for transformation in quiasisubject, for whom people, nature, culture are only objects.
- Now it can lead to ruin of humankind in unimaginable scales.
- Capitalism went out of control and is moving carried by anarchy of market forces.

- Derivative from simulative capital is second means of ruling in modern culture: global social stratification, which nowadays came to the limit of its polarization .
- At one pole there are 500-5000 superrich people, families and financial groups who possess the half of world capital and property.

- At the second pole all other 7 billions of people.
- Among this 7 billions one can distinguish 3 billions every of which is living on a bit more than 2\$ a day.
- Each 8-th human in the world is starving.
- It means that growing polarization is reaching some limits when world socio-cultural system is not able to function normally and is gravitating towards global social burst.

- Such burst in the world full of the weapons of mass destruction can lead humankind to self-destruction.
- One should specially emphasize that modern culture has got under itself colossal mine. For if for the growth of capital one must expand markets than sooner or later situation will come that they will become in size of all planet. One can define this as globalization.

- But then capitalism as the system of development causing modern type of culture must cease its existence .
- Therefore one should speak about culture of future with new means of ruling of human behavior.
- One can propose bioethics, bioethical paradigm for the realization of this role.

- Paradigm (from gr. Example)- system of the most general principles which are accepted by people.
- In bioethical paradigm one can see overcoming opposition “Tradition- modernity” in new dialectical synthesis.
- Tradition is the totality of supreme principles regarding individual human being.

- One should especially take note that among 15 principles of bioethics paramount place belongs to justice, solidarity, cooperation, sharing of benefits, protection of future generation .
- These principles is the concrete expression and application of Tradition in modern socio-cultural reality.

- Returning to bioethical principles one can distinguish too: human dignity, respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity, confidentiality, autonomy, individual responsibility, non-discrimination and non-stigmatization, social responsibility.
- These principles are outcome of modern culture.

- They supplement principles of Tradition in synthetic unity of bioethical paradigm of culture application of which in postcapitalist period can mark contours of positive scenario of human development.
- “Bioethics as social science must be interpreted as ethics of justice” (Sedova N.N.)

- This principle of justice implies some smoothing of strong stratificative difference by means of decentration of capital when it is introduced considered and balanced scale of global progressive of taxing and may be abolition of loaning interest in bank operations.

- From philosophical point of view justice is the measure and order of the balanced distribution of goods and burdens. It implies introduction of UBI (unconditional basic income) as guaranteed minimum of human existence in case of special need.

IDEA OF TRANSHUMANISM

- Transhumanism proposes perpetual improvement of human, based on the latest discoveries of the scientific and technical progress.
- In 1998, Nick Bostrom and David Pearce founded “world transhumanistic association”.
- It is characterized as international non-commercial organization, standing up for

- ethical employment of the technology for the enhancement of human abilities.
- Position of the association: human development did not achieve final point. The whole set of new technologies (neuropharmacology, artificial intellect cybenetics and nanotechnologies) has got the potential for the increasing, enhancement of human possibilities, resources.

- Transhumanists stand for the increased financing of the research into radical rise of the length of healthy life and promote the development of medical and technological means of the improvement of memory, concentration etc. Transhumanists suppose that everyone would be able to use such means for the improvement of the different parameters of own cognitive, emotional and

- physical state. It is not only natural extension of the traditional purposes of medicine and technology, but great humanistic opportunity for the real improvement of human condition.
- Taking into account already existing highly-technological achievements (deciphering of genome, bioplastic operations, methods of gene engineering) one can imagine that already in our century such type of human will be created, which will have

- first of all “non-human” (or superhuman) characteristics. Among them one can distinguish ability to see in the darkness, to hear in ultrasonic range, to regenerate injuries fast, to modify the form of body in necessary parameters, to check radio signals using implanted nanodevices.
- Contact with the computer will be realized directly thorough brain.

- It is very important that this new type of human will live in absolutely another perception of time, surpassing usual human in all spectrum of vital space.
- It will be natural superiority of absolutely other way of existence partly biological, but partly cybernetic.

- The result of human enhancement will be his transformation in bio- artefact.
- Two tendencies of the development of biotechnologies will meet here: inanimate will get signs of living being, but human will get technogenetical qualities.

- Human enhancements are not only compensative functionals, which are able to make up for human shortages- from organic to intellectual, but transform human in other species.