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Frankenstein's Shadow

A Bicentennial Assessment of the *Frankenstein* Narrative's Influence

A June 2016 1½-day symposium during the bicentennial of Mary Godwin (Shelley's) conception of *Frankenstein* at Centre Brocher in Hermance, Switzerland.

Purpose:

The purpose of the June 2016 Brocher Workshop is to commemorate the origin of the *Frankenstein* narrative by bringing together scholars from many disciplines to assess its influence in different times and cultures, including its resonance in debates about public policy governing biotechnology, medicine, and other emerging technologies.

The *Frankenstein* narrative has been incorporated deeply into fiction, film, and popular culture. It has also influenced how we think about the ethics of medical technology and the role of science and scientists. Many policy reports about regulation of recombinant DNA, gene therapy, genetically modified foods, genomic editing, and novel surgical technologies invoke the Frankenstein myth (sometimes accurately, more often a version influenced by Hollywood derivatives).

Time and place:

Based on reconstruction of events and textual references, scholars posit that Mary Godwin (who six months later married Percy Bysshe Shelley) conceived of the idea behind her 1818 novel in the wee hours of June 16, 1816 in Cologny, on the south shores of Lac Lemman, which is now along the E Bus route from Rive in Geneva to Fondation Brocher and Hermance. The symposium will take place on the 14th and 15th of June, 2016, ending just hours before the exact bicentennial.

Program sponsors:

Arizona State University: David Guston (School for the Future of Innovation in Society and Center for Nanotechnology in Society) and Edward Finn (Center for Science and the Imagination, School of Arts, Media and Engineering)

University of Lausanne: Marc Audetat and colleagues

Duke University: Robert Cook-Deegan (Sanford School of Public Policy, Departments of Biology, and Internal Medicine [School of Medicine])

Day 1, 14 June 2016: The Frankenstein Narrative in Policy Debates

Lunch and welcome

Noon: Welcome

- **Dave Guston** and **Ed Finn** to welcome everyone, explain Frankenstein Bicentennial events and ASU involvement
- **Cécile Caldwell Vulliét**y to welcome to Villa Brocher and Centre Brocher and introduce staff and explain about Fondation Brocher
- **Marc Audetat** to welcome to Switzerland and mention this workshop in context of activities connected to Univ. Lausanne, other related events

12:25-1:30 Eat lunch, then over dessert, **Robert Cook-Deegan** to introduce **Alexander Morgan Capron** as after-lunch speaker

1:35-2:00: Keynote talk and Q&A in lunch venue

Alexander Capron, “Frankenstein’s echoes in contemporary bioethical debates: lessons from the recombinant DNA and human gene therapy debates in the early 1980s for genome editing today”

2:00-2:15

Move to conference room

How the *Frankenstein* narrative has influenced perceptions of science, technology and medicine in bioethics and public policy

2:15-2:35

- **Henk van den Belt**, “Frankenstein in debates about synthetic biology and genome editing technologies” (Netherlands)

2:35-2:55

- **Kayte Spector-Bagdady**, “Frankenstein’s Shadow in Contemporary Bioethics and Health Policy Debates” (US)

2:55-3:15

- Reaction panel: Cook-Deegan, Capron, Oppenheimer

3:15-3:30

- Break

Frankenstein Beyond Biotech

3:30-3:50

- **Jack Stilgoe**, “Responsible Innovation & Geo-engineering” (UC London)

3:50-4:10

- **Olivier Glassey**, Lausanne, “Artificial Intelligence and Robotics”

4:10-4:30

Reaction panel: Guston, Spector-Bagdady

4:30-6

Reception and break

Dinner

6-7:30: Group dinner

7:30-8: After-dinner speaker: **Mahvesh Murad**

Day 2, 15 June: The Frankenstein narrative in literature, culture, and science

Venue: Conference room

9:00-12:30

Frankenstein in literature, film, and culture

9:00-10:30: First session

9:00-9:20

- **Allison Kavey** “No Monster, this Creature: the natural philosophy and theology behind Frankenstein's creation”

9:20-9:50

- **Marc Audetat** and **Ioanna Solidaki**, University of Lausanne and Lunafilm, “Frankenstein, or, The Impossible Divorce between Science and Fiction, and Cultural Ramifications in Theatre and Film”

9:50-10:30

Reaction panel: Lederer, Murad, and Williams

10:30-11

Break

11-12:30: Second session:

11-11:20

- **Elizabeth Young**, Mount Holyoke College, “Black Frankenstein”

11:20-11:40

- **Kim Hammond**, author

11:40-noon

- **Shannon Nicole Conley**, James Madison University, “Monstrous Motifs, Imaginative Capacities, and the Governance of Assisted Reproductive Technologies”

noon-12:30

Reaction panel: Audetat and Finn

12:30-2

Lunch and post-lunch talk

12:30-1:30

Lunch

1:30-2

Les Friedman “Frankenstein's ‘Universal’ Appeal: The First Great Cinema Cycle”

2-5 Museum exhibits and archives

2-3:30 First Session

2-2:15

- **Susan Lederer**, “Frankenstein’s Shadow and the National Library of Medicine Exhibit”

2:15-2:30

- **Judith Guston**, Rosenbach Library, “Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Monster Within”

2:30-2:45

- **David Anton Spurr**, Bodmer Library and Museum, and University of Geneva

2:45-3

- **Liz Denlinger**, New York Public Library, “The Horrors of My Secret Toil: Representing the Ethics of Victor Frankenstein's Labor in Museum Exhibitions”

3-3:30

Break

3:30-5 Second Session

3:30-3:50

- **Marcia Balisciano**, Franklin House Museum, “The Modern Prometheus”

3:50-4:10

- **Juliet Burba**, Bakken Museum of Minnesota “Mary Shelley and Her Monster”

4:10-5:00

- **Ed Finn**, ASU, “Frankenstein Digital Museum” [Ed also makes transition to announce reception and dinner plans]

5-6 **Break and local strolls to Hermance, shoreline, or wine fields**

6-7 **Reception**

7-8 **Dinner**

Distinguished speaker and announcement of June 16 events and other activities (**Cécile Caldwell Vulliét**y and **Dave Guston** to introduce Langdon Winner and adjourn the workshop).

8:15 or so

- **Langdon Winner**, RPI, “Frankenstein and Autonomous Technologies”