

The Humanities Institute of Stony Brook/College of Arts and Sciences  
**VOICES IN CULTURAL STUDIES**



Dr. Jackie Stacey  
Professor of Cultural Studies  
Manchester University

**Title: The Cinematic Life of the Gene: Cloned Bodies on the Screen**

**Seminar Coordinators:** Dr. Elizabeth Ann Kaplan, SUNY Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies; Director, The Humanities Institute at Stony Brook; Past President, The Society for Cinema and Media Studies (telephone 631 632 7765)

**and**

Dr. Lisa Diederich, Assistant Professor, Women's Studies (631 632 9176)

**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 4:30PM room 1006 of the Humanities Building

**Abstract**

What kind of anxieties and desires surrounding the reordering of difference, embodiment and individuality are articulated in films concerned with genetic engineering and cloning? The transformation of reproduction through genetic engineering arguably threatens many of the key foundationalisms of western culture which have concerned feminist theorists for several decades now. This lecture discusses some of the ways in which mainstream cloning films, such as *Gattaca*, *Species*, *Code 46* and *The Island* have re-imagined the body, reproduction, sexuality, racialisation and the boundaries around the human. It then focuses in more detail on two films by independent women film makers, *Teknolust* and *Genetic Admiration*, to explore the convergence between new modes of biological and cultural reproduction.

**Biography**

Jackie Stacey is Professor of Cultural Studies at Manchester University. She is a co-editor of *Screen* and of *Feminist Theory*. She is author of *Star Gazing: Female Spectators and Hollywood Cinema* (1994) and *Teratologies: A Cultural Study of Cancer* (1997) and co-author (with Sarah Franklin and Celia Lury) of *Global Nature, Global Culture* (2000). She has also co-edited a number of books, including *Romance Revisited* with Lynne Pearce (1995) *Thinking Through the Skin* with Sara Ahmed (2001) and *Queering Screen* with Sarah Street (2007). She is currently completing a book for Duke University Press entitled: *The Cinematic Life of the Gene*

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