ROLES OF JUSTICE IN BIOETHICS

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Abstract: This Element traces the origins and development of bioethics, the principles and values involved in the discipline, and the roles of justice among these principles and values. The main tasks given to the concept of justice have since the late 1970s been nondiscrimination in research, prioritization in medical practice, and redistribution in healthcare. The Element argues that in a world challenged by planet-wide political and environmental threats this is not sufficient. The nature and meaning of justice have to be rethought. The Element does this by dissecting current bioethical approaches in the light of theories of justice as partly clashing interpretations of equality. The overall findings are twofold. Seen against the background of global concerns, justice in bioethics has become a silent guardian of economic sustainability. Seen against the same background, we should set our aims higher. Justice can, and must, be put to better use than it currently is. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/rolesofjusticeinbioethics

Keywords: bioethics, justice, equality, principles, social, ecological

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