

MORTAL OBJECTS

How might we change ourselves without ending our existence? What could we become, if we had access to an advanced form of bioengineering that allowed us dramatically to alter our genome? Could we remain in existence after ceasing to be alive? What is it to be human? Might we still exist after changing ourselves into something that is not human? What is the significance of human extinction? Steven Luper addresses these questions and more in this thought-provoking study. He defends an animalist account, which says that we are organisms, but claims that we are also material objects. His book goes to the heart of the most complex questions about what we are and what we might become. Using case studies from the life sciences as well as thought experiments, Luper develops a new way of thinking about the nature of life and death, and whether and how human extinction matters.

STEVEN LUPER is Professor of Philosophy at Trinity University, Texas. He is the author of *Invulnerability: On Securing Happiness* (1996) and *The Philosophy of Death* (Cambridge, 2009), and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Life and Death* (Cambridge, 2014).

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Identity and Persistence through Life and Death

STEVEN LUPER

Trinity University



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Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vi</i>
Introduction	1
1 Material Objects	7
2 Conformism	25
3 Organisms	40
4 Incregratism	63
5 Selves	76
6 The Cogito	95
7 Living and Dying	110
8 Welfare and Nonexistence	128
9 What We Can Become	140
10 (Re)making Ourselves	160
11 The Meaning of Life and Death	176
<i>References</i>	189
<i>Index</i>	201

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Chapter 6 descends from an essay I wrote more than a decade ago for *Living Skepticism*. I later withdrew the essay, as the publication of *Living Skepticism* was postponed indefinitely by its editors. I presented a version of Chapter 7 as “Existence and Death,” a keynote address at the Conference on “Good Death,” sponsored by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities and by Kings College, Cambridge University, UK (on January 10, 2019). The section on “Lems” draws on Luper 2015. Chapter 11 was to appear first as a contribution to Iddo Landau, ed., *The Oxford Handbook on Meaning in Life*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, but book projects are apt to be delayed, and I am now unsure as to the timing of publication.

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