



Canadian Centre for
Ethics in Public Affairs



SCIENCE
IN HUMAN
CONTEXT



GenomeAtlantic

TRUST IN THE NEW SCIENCES: REMAKING THE HUMAN

GENES, GENOMICS AND HUMAN NATURE

Discussion of the role of genes has been plagued by linguistic uncertainty since their origin. At first the word 'gene' was little more than a place marker, a name for the presumed unit of inheritance. What is a gene? A gene is a difference maker. Yet geneticists also assumed that genes are trait makers. To this day, conflation between genes and mutations, between trait makers and difference makers, remains endemic. The meaning of the term has transformed over the course of the



century, not to mention proliferated. The status of genes as trait makers has come under severe challenge, as has the status of genes as difference makers. It is that very confusion between the two, and the place of that confusion in our understanding of human nature, of what is natural and what is unnatural, that will be explored in this talk.

DR. EVELYN FOX KELLER, Professor Emerita, History of Philosophy of Science, Program of Science, Technology and Society, MIT.

EDMONTON | APRIL 1 | 3:30 PM

TELUS CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Respondents: **TIM CAULFIELD CRC**, joint position in Law and Public Health
ROB WILSON, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta

HALIFAX | MARCH 30 | 7:00 PM

ALUMNI HALL, UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE

THIS EVENT IS PART FIVE OF A FIVE-PART NATIONAL LECTURE SERIES ON TRUST IN THE NEW SCIENCES PRESENTED BY THE SITUATING SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE CLUSTER AND THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ETHICS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

CCEPA is a joint initiative of:



CCEPA.CA | SITUSCI.CA
902.428.4731



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



CANADIAN INSTITUTE
for ADVANCED RESEARCH

evolution
study group