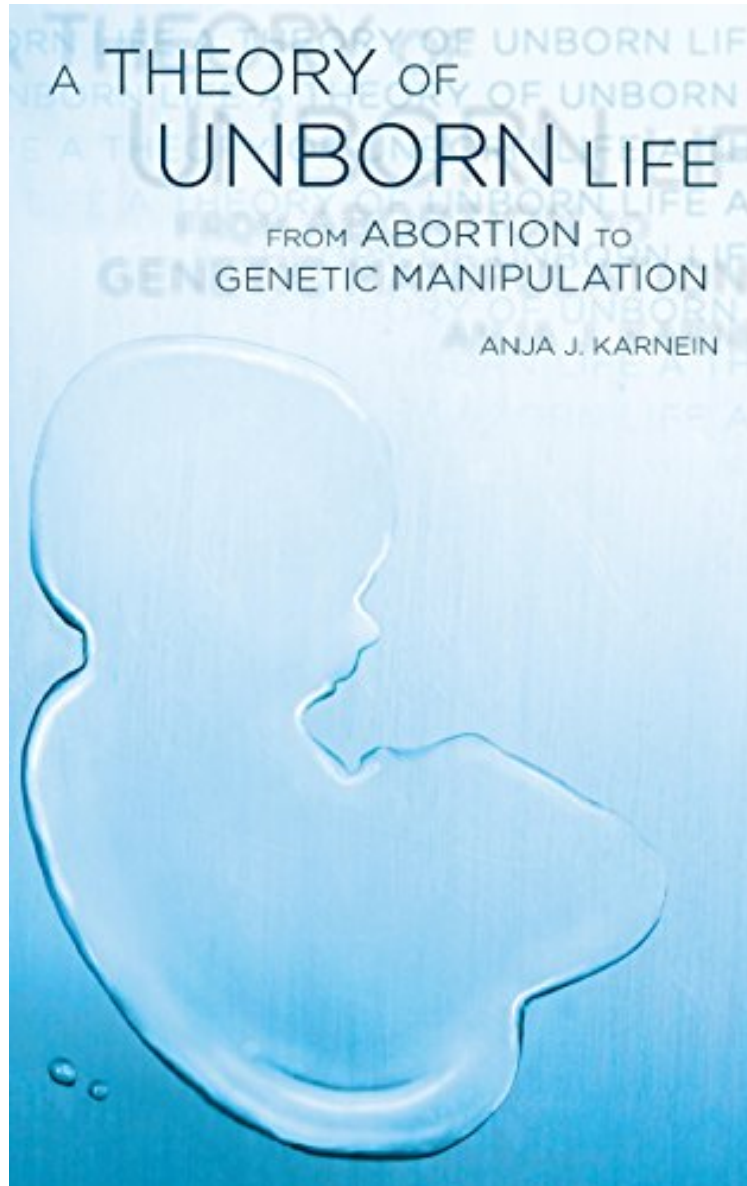


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# A Theory of Unborn Life: From Abortion to Genetic Manipulation

Anja J. Karnein

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**Anja J. Karnein : A Theory of Unborn Life: From Abortion to Genetic Manipulation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Theory of Unborn Life: From Abortion to Genetic Manipulation:

In light of new biomedical technologies, such as artificial reproduction, stem cell research, genetic selection and design, the question of what we owe to future persons-and unborn life more generally-is as contested as ever. In *A Theory of Unborn Life: From Abortion to Genetic Manipulation*, author Anja J. Karnein provides a novel theory that shows how our commitments to persons can help us make sense of our obligations to unborn life. We should treat embryos that will develop into persons in anticipation of these persons. But how viable is this theory? Moreover, what does it mean to treat embryos in anticipation of the future persons they will develop into? Exploring the attractiveness of this approach for Germany and the U.S. - two countries with very different legal approaches to valuing unborn life-Karnein comes to startling conclusions to some of today's greatest ethical and legal debates. Under Karnein's theory, abortion and stem cell research are legitimate, since embryos that do not have mothers willing to continue to assist their growth have no way of developing into persons. However, Karnein also contends that where the health of embryos is threatened by third parties or even by the women carrying them, embryos need to be treated with the same care due to the children that emerge from them. In the case of genetic manipulation, it is important to respect future persons like our contemporaries, respecting their independence as individuals as well as the way they enter this world without modification. Genetic interventions are therefore only legitimate for insuring that future persons have the necessary physical and mental endowment to lead independent lives so as to be protected from being dominated by their contemporaries. Evincing polarization and dogma, Karnein's clean, philosophically-driven analysis provides a sound ethical foundation for the interpretation of any variety of legal dilemmas surrounding unborn life.

From the Back Cover Advance Praise for "A Theory of Unborn Life" "Within the bioethical debate on reprogenetic technologies, Anja Karnein develops a pathbreaking and compelling position which crosses familiar frontlines. She engages liberal arguments in support of the proper respect for the independence of future persons and warns us of sliding into a regime of intergenerational domination. As much as the innovative substance I admire the lucid style and succinct argumentation of this extraordinary book." Jürgen Habermas "Anja Karnein has written an important and sharply argued book on a vital topic which deserves to be widely read, not least because she is one of the most interesting young philosophers writing in Europe today." John Harris, Director of the Institute for Science, Ethics, and Innovation, University of Manchester About the Author Anja J. Karnein is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Goethe University-Frankfurt am Main. Recently she has been a Visiting Fellow for the Center for Ethics, Harvard University, a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Society and Genetics at UCLA, and a Visiting Scholar at the Bioethics Center at NYU.