

RECOMBINAT ORAI

#1751

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Adam Zaretsky – Bio artist

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Abstract:

The workshop Recombinant ORAI is concentrated on the influence of techno-scientific change upon society, hence the ideological, social and ethical discourses of Genetic Engineering (GM Food, Human Genome Project, etc.), and the cross-issues of biotechnological research, informatics, industrialization, and techno-utilization. The project also takes into account the spreading of Bio-Sciences (including flourishing bio-business, genetic databanks, security issues) and the reception by media, and the public. This especially because current research of broad fields in biotechnology and aspects of genetic engineering in a cultural and a social sense, may assist us in the visualizing of our future.

The workshop takes into consideration the Nagoya Orai book. This will represent a successful immersive educational experience for interested participants.

The short introductory tutorial part is provided by Dr. Liljana Simjanovska, geneticist. It consists of: Introduction in laboratory practice (methods and equipment for RNA/DNA analyses: RNA&DNA extraction, Southern blot, Northern blot, DNA fingerprinting, PCR, RT/PCR, ASO hybridisation, SSCP, DGGE, DNA cloning and DNA sequencing).

The workshop in fact represents a continuation of the project “Society and Genomic Culture”

which took place in Skopje, Macedonia, 2001. Namely, for the artistic part of the workshop we have created a system (already successfully applied in Skopje) consisted of using another textbook from the past, the encoding hexagrams from the I-Chin into DNA. The involvement of a group of artists in the creation of a sequence to be inserted into an organism is a rather penetrating way to breach the gap between wet lab work and popular conceptions about gene splicing. Not only has the group created a system, but also we each took turns consulting the Oracle of the Book of Changes to form a group sequence of uncertain fortune, which may be considered as radical text poetry and a way to meditate on the role of the arbitrary, in semiotics, in evolution and in human behaviour. The artists threw coins, which were then translated into both divination text and sequentially recorded chemical amino acids. The sequence, derived from the universal random luck access point, is now a stable and inheritable sequence in a MC-12 (Macedonian Chi 12 artists) strain of K-12 E. Coli. To sum up, the proposed workshop will culminate in the construction of a random and collaborative sequence of DNA that would come up from the Nagoya Orai book, which will then, inserted into the K-12 E. Coli genome (or similar).