



the Ethics Centre of South Australia



Ethics Centre of South Australia

Central Seminar Series 2008

Tuesday 4 March 2008

3.30pm – 4.30pm

Scots Centre (*next to Scots Church*)

Cnr North Terrace and Pulteney Street, Adelaide

You can't stop progress: the case of nanotechnology

Presented by

John Weckert

The frequently heard statement that you can't stop progress can mean various things. It might mean that we should not try to stop progress because that will just stop or delay various improvements to our lives. Or it could mean that it is futile to try to stop progress because it is inevitable. For our purposes here progress will be taken to be technological development, so the questions are whether technological development should be stopped and whether it can be. I will argue first that there is nothing inevitable about technological development; it just looks that way because of the relationship between societal values and technology, and second, that some development should be stopped. The arguments will be applied specifically to nanotechnologies and will attempt to bring out some of the complexities and assumptions often hidden in debates about developments in technology in general and in nanotechnologies in particular.

John Weckert is Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, an Australian Research Council funded centre based at Charles Sturt University, The Australian National University and the University of Melbourne, and Professor of Computer Ethics in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Charles Sturt University. Currently he is Research Fellow in Ethics at the Ethics Centre of South Australia (ECSA) and the Ian Wark research Institute (IWRI). He is the founding editor-in-chief of the Springer journal Nanoethics: Ethics for Technologies that Converge at the Nanoscale.

Please RSVP to Vicki Hattam, Centre Coordinator
T 08 8302 4817 E vicki.hattam@unisa.edu.au

Public Seminar
All Welcome