

# Introduction to *Korean* Bioethics

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# Background

- . Cultural, Historical Background
  - . *Neo*-Confucian social norms to pluralistic society: but on the Confucian foundation
  - . family-oriented decisions (even in formal relations) – rapid modernisation (driven by government)
- . Social
  - . the importance of individual realised, concerns for deconstruction of old-moral,
  - . from collectivity to individuality and the rights of minority
  - . science and technology driven society
- . Medical and Scientific
  - . medicine and science as tools of governance
  - . commercialisation drive in medicine (from 90's), and science (from late 90's)



# Bioethics: History

## BIOETHICS IN THE AIR

before 1990

- 1973. Mother and Children's Health Act
- 1977. Korean Medical Association, Code of Medical Ethics
- 1981. First Medical Ethics Education in Medical School

## PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

1990~

- 1980~ Pro-life activists: Catholics and Protestants
- Brain death and organ transplantation debates
- Landmark cases and Responses of professionals
- Research ethics awareness

## ACADEMIC INTEREST

late 1990~

- Academic Societies
- Landmark cases: Boramae Hospital case, Hwang WS case,
- Academic Institutions: Yonsei, Catholic Univ. Ewha, ...

## SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

2000~

- Legislations
- but they shared a common goal: the legislation of pre-regulatory approaches
- National Bioethics Committee
- National agency

according to *Fox and Swazey* (2007)

# Development

## WHO?

- Healthcare professionals
- Theorists: legal scholars and philosophers
- Activist
- Legislators and Authorities
- Bioethics *proper*

## WHAT?

- Reform everyday practice: patient–doctor relationship
- Education
- Evocation: public attention
- Academic interests and interdisciplinary dialogue
- Issues emerging from governance activity (distribution and regulation)
- Bioethics from theory to practice

# Bioethical Issues in Korea

- 1
- clinical ethics:
- Patient–Doctor relationship, conflict of interest
  - transplantation
  - end of life care
  - healthcare management

- 2
- ethics of reproduction:
- abortion
  - ART
  - parenthood
  - eugenic

- 3
- research ethics:
- research integrity
  - clinical trial
  - *genethics* :genomics, nano, personalised medicine...
  - conflict of interest

- 4
- ethics of public health
- distribution of healthcare resources
  - infectious disease control (i.e. Swine flu, MERS, HIV)
  - healthcare delivery system

- bioethics governance
- legislation
  - deliberation (ethics committees)
  - education and public engagement

# Reflection

- *Korean* bioethics? or bioethics in Korean society?
- the influence of the law in bioethics – bioethics as a tools of governance
- bioethics expertise
- the methodology and bioethics discourse