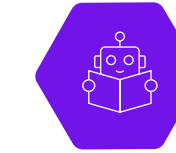




It's life but not as we know it

Imagine if... tomorrow we never die

Robotics



Bio engineering



Artificial intelligence



By 2071, the richest and most powerful of people have found ways to prolong life whether through cloning, through genetic manipulation or by transferring their memories and personalities to artificial intelligences or robots.

Fundamental questions arise over what it means to be human and the extent to which an artificial being or a clone can genuinely embody the personality and persona of a living person. As families seek to capture the essence of loved ones to allow interactions after death, and individuals seek an immortality of sorts, then the line between life and death will start to blur, raising fundamental questions in law and in religion.

Of course, there will be questions over the extent to which clones and avatars can continue to act on behalf of their deceased person, and quite what this means for inheritance and the rights of descendants of that individual. Who has the rights to the image and persona of a deceased person, or are such rights vested in the clone?

There will be concerns over the integrity of the process of transference as well as the cyber security of the clone or avatar itself, and the extent to which it can be manipulated in its new form.

If such transference becomes acceptable to society then this will have fundamental implications for the structure and stability of society itself, as the concept of aging and death changes.