

# **Science and Ethics**

## **A Joint Perspective**

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# SCIENCE AND ETHICS

## A JOINT PERSPECTIVE

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## **Three Responses to the Bodies Exhibit**

Rebecca Marmor

Exhibitions such as “Bodies” in Manhattan and “Body World” in Los Angeles provide what was once an unthinkable opportunity for the public: the chance to peer into actual human bodies which have been dissected to display organs, bones and other internal structures of interest. For the price of a movie and popcorn, any child or adult can enter an exhibition hall and gaze at a number of bodies (structures from over two hundred bodies are often shown) which have been carefully posed and dissected to reveal brains, hearts, blood vessels, fetuses *in utero*, and various pathological stages of disease. Although the educational power of such exhibits is undeniable (to understand why, one need only to see the faces of smokers standing close enough to touch a pair of preserved lungs from a person who suffered from emphysema) the ethical issues brought up by the exhibits are both pressing and cause for concern. With the rising popularity and acceptance of these exhibits across the world, the time has come to pause and reflect for a moment on the ethics of displaying the bodies of deceased humans, *en masse*. This