**Bio-Objects: Breaking Binaries and Becoming Boundary Crawlers**

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# This article investigates the animal and human as transobjects through technological engineering which reposition the entities as bio-objects and “boundary crawlers”.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# The paper will be divided into two parts. Part one will look at the transgenic animal as a bio-object in the field of science (making contact with entities such as Humouse™ and OncoMouse™). Part two will examine the human body as source material by considering transplants and somatic-cell nuclear transfer, technologically enhanced embryogenesis and bodies as test subjects and laboratories. I consider how society conceptualizes these entities as an amalgamation of biology, use value and technology

# Although the paper participates in the cyborg debate, I push beyond this definition to argue that ‘bio-objects’ currently occupy a ‘no space’ through incomparable hybridization. I argue that the “boundary crawler” straddles an impossible space and is impossible to locate in existing binaries of biology/technology, natural/manufactured and ‘priceless life’/economic value. As the bio-object is engineered specifically for scientific and economic use, then the cyborg definition becomes complicated as the entity is ‘objectified’ as malleable base-matter rather than what Donna Haraway envisions as the celebratory reimagining of bio-forms. Bio-objectification further impacts notions of (trans)identity and (trans)gender through reducing entities to commodities.

1. Term employed by: Tora Holmberg and Malin Ideland, ‘Challenging Bio-objectification: Adding Noise to Transgenic Silences’, in *Bio-objects: Life in the 21st Century*, ed. by Niki Vermeulen, Sakari Tamminen, and Andrew Webster (Surrey: Ashgate, 2012), pp. 13- 26, p. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)