

## DISCUSSION AID #1: RAJAN'S BIOCAPITAL

*This information will serve us both in discussion as reminders and reference, and later (potentially), in your subsequent writing and projects.*

### Names, Places, Examples

- ✓ **DeCode Genetics / Kari Stefansson:** Icelandic genome company, created a genomic database, the "Health Sector Database," for population genetics; "We must get ourselves a bioethicist!" (39-41; 60-61)
- ✓ **SNP Consortium:** project by public researchers + big pharma to make bio info public to prevent genomic co. patenting (47+)
- ✓ **Celera Genomics / Craig Venter:** claimed his private co. would sequence human genome before public Human Genome Project inciting a race (48+)
- ✓ **National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI):** NIH funded project to identify SNPs, prevent private patenting (50)
- ✓ **Rep-X (62+):** anonymized commercial DNA repository Rajan uses as example of institutionalized bioethics under political economy of biocapitalism
- ✓ **Center for Biochemical Technology (CBT):** India's reinvented, market-oriented, public lab for genomic research, focusing on population genetics
- ✓ **Genome Valley / Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh (India):** biotech hub of India / area of 75% of farmer suicides 1997-2004
- ✓ **N. Chandrababu Naidu:** chief minister of Andhra Pradesh; "Vision 2020" modernization policy; leader of Telugu Desam party
- ✓ **ICICI Knowledge Park (82):** biotech park in Andhra Pradesh; collab. of state, financial services co. ICICI, and Silicon Valley
- ✓ **Wellspring Hospital / Genomed (84):** downtown Mumbai hospital started by NPIL, home to Genomed labs running clinical trials, largely on deproletarianized populations
- ✓ **NRI Entrepreneurs (91):** Indians working in Silicon Valley who were educated in India and feel indebted; partners in the development of the ICICI Knowledge Park in Hyderabad

### Terms, Concepts, Topics

- ✓ **Biocapital**
- ✓ **bio info vs. bio material (42)**
- ✓ **Craig Venter vs. HGP / public-private dynamic (49)**
- ✓ **sequencing human genome vs. genetic variability (50)**
- ✓ **personalized medicine:** therapies tailored to individual genetic profiles; depends on understanding genetic variation
- ✓ **single nucleotide polymorphisms [SNPs] (50):** a "major informational artifact" in biotech
- ✓ **new corporate activism (52):** term from book by Grefe & Linsky of same name (1995); corporate strategy for symbolic capital; Rajan cites SNP Consortium is an example of this (52)
- ✓ **strategic decommmodification (56):** rendering a commodity public; e.g. SNP Consort./corporate gifting
- ✓ **institutionalized bioethics (64+):** often *corporate* bioethics; Rajan identifies its universalism, American bias
- ✓ **critique of inventiveness (72):** Rajan argues conceptual arguments about invention are insufficient in matters of IP, materiality must be considered
- ✓ **Biopolitics (78-9):** Michel Foucault's term for the notion that "life becomes the explicit center of political calculation"; Rajan sees this as integral to understanding biotech and biocapital
- ✓ **corporate regimes of governance (80):** corporations becomes agents in areas traditional to the state, states adopt corporate strategies
- ✓ **indebtedness (80-1):** Rajan sees indebtedness operating in multiple senses in biocapitalism (moral-symbolic & monetary)
- ✓ **commodity vs. commercial capitalism (82):** the latter pertains to speculative marketplace not the values related to product manufacture and revenue generation
- ✓ **deproletarianization (97):** a reversal of an Industrial Revolution social process identified by Marx of converting populations into wage laborers; Rajan sees the Wellspring Hospital clinical trials strategy as an effect of deproletarianization due to shift from industrial to information economy
- ✓ **excluded vs. sacrificial population (99):** Rajan discusses the case of Brazil and AIDS and the resulting biopolitics of exclusion, comparing this to the biopolitics of Mumbai and Genomed/Wellspring example, resulting in creation of a "sacrificial population"
- ✓ **biological citizenship (102):** Petryna's term to talk about biological considerations in the construction and performance of citizenship