

PHILOSOPHY

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DIY biology: redefining the boundaries of science

The DIY biology is one of the most striking examples of the so-called “citizen science”, which builds its identity through the rhetoric of democratization as an opportunity for any person to participate in scientific practices, regardless of his previous professional history. Open access to science and technology, especially to those that are most directly related to our lives, is affirmed in the modus of a political imperative. In order to avoid monopolizing power over life, which is primarily claimed by academic institutions and industrial science, the biohacker movement proposes to create an extensive network of accessible community laboratories and hacker spaces that provide everyone with the opportunity to participate in the production of science. In the framework of this article, using the theory of “boundary work” by Thomas Gieryn I it is shown the rhetorical figures using by DIY biologists for statement their position and building their own ideology and justifying the “right to science”. The article also expresses the idea that demarcation of borders leads to a reassembly of the very concept of science.

Key words: biohacking, DIY biology, synthetic biology, genetic engineering, citizen science, garage science, open access, democratization of science, ideology of participation, boundary work.

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