

Abstract

Law, morality and politics in bioethical law making in the Czech Republic

The central theme of this master thesis is bioethical law making in the Czech Republic and the influence of morality and politics on this law making. The main aim of the thesis is to find out who and under what circumstances influences whether and how laws are made in eight bioethical topics: abortion, transplantation, embryonic stem cell research, living will, artificial reproduction, sex change, surrogate motherhood and euthanasia. In its first chapter the thesis discusses the interaction of two normative systems – morality and law; and in its second chapter it discusses the relationship between morality and politics and law and politics. The third and fourth chapters reflect lessons learned from the previous chapters and apply its hypotheses to the analysis of the above mentioned eight bioethical topics. The master thesis arrives at a conclusion that Czech bioethical law making is split between liberal and conservative approaches. Furthermore it concludes that the majority of the most prominent and difficult moral dilemmas in bioethical law making have been decided historically and are part of the country's historical moral heritage.