Contemporary biopolitical divides in the light of the debate over human enhancement

The aim of the article is to characterise biopolitics in the context of the controversy surrounding human enhancement. A diagram created by James Hughes is brought into play in order to depict the particular nature of contemporary political divides following the emergence of the biopolitical sphere. The dispute between the transhumanists and the bioconservatives relating, in essence, to the issue of the modification of human nature is best grasped as exemplified by the debate surrounding the problem of human enhancement. The analysis is based on three points which, to a large extent, determine the form of the dispute, namely, the assumption of extreme connectedness, the precautionary principle and the category of distributive justice in the biopolitical perspective. An explicit emphasis is placed on the fact that the problems which emerge in the debate differ from classical political issues and demand a redefinition of the concepts fundamental to the human condition. The consequences of this change are of crucial significance to the resolution of questions emerging in both the public sphere and legislation.