Film Journal: Gattaca

1. Vincent's parents, when consulting for their second child (Anton), are offered the opportunity to "eradicate potentially prejudicial conditions—premature baldness, myopia, alcoholism and addictive susceptibility, propensity for violence and obesity." Vincent's dad suggests that they should leave some things to chance. Is this an irresponsible suggestion? If I have the means to ensure that my child will not be born with these conditions, is it irresponsible to "leave these things to chance"?

2. In the film, Vincent explains that "genoism"—the practice of discriminating on the basis of genetic profiling—is illegal (though most folks do it anyway). Consider what's wrong with racism and sexism. Is genoism problematic in the same way? Is genoism immoral?

3.	Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis has been a reality for many years now. The main difference between our world and the <i>Gattaca</i> world is that PGD is not typically used to select desirable birth traits—when it's used in our world, it's typically used to avoid birth defects for high-risk-of-transmission couples. But consider the possibility of using PGD to develop what are sometimes called "designer babies"—babies that have predetermined genetic traits. What are some of the relevant moral issues here? Ought we, as a society, to allow individuals to use PGD to select the genetic traits of their offspring?
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