

Milestones– Human Practice – iGEM BGU

12.6.13

Meeting with Dr. Isaac (Yanni) Nevo, the head of the Philosophy Department at BGU. We introduced our project and told him that we plan to investigate the ethics of synthetic biology. He explained that there are two basically different approaches to the question: either an anthropocentric view, in which human beings and their needs are the central issue, or a non-anthropocentric view, which takes into account the rights of other living beings and of nature itself. Most ethics committees in the government and academia take the anthropocentric view, while an organization such as Greenpeace operates from a non-anthropocentric perspective.

19.6.13

Human Practice Subteam meeting. We continued to formulate our human practice strategy and define our goals. Because the meeting with Professor Nevo was so interesting, we decided to conduct more meetings to learn more about ethics and other point of views.

22.7.13

Human Practice Subteam meeting. We decided that our main goal will be to reach out to populations not familiar with synthetic biology and educate them and encourage discourse. We brainstormed about creative ways to reach communities and groups of people that might not generally take an interest in science.

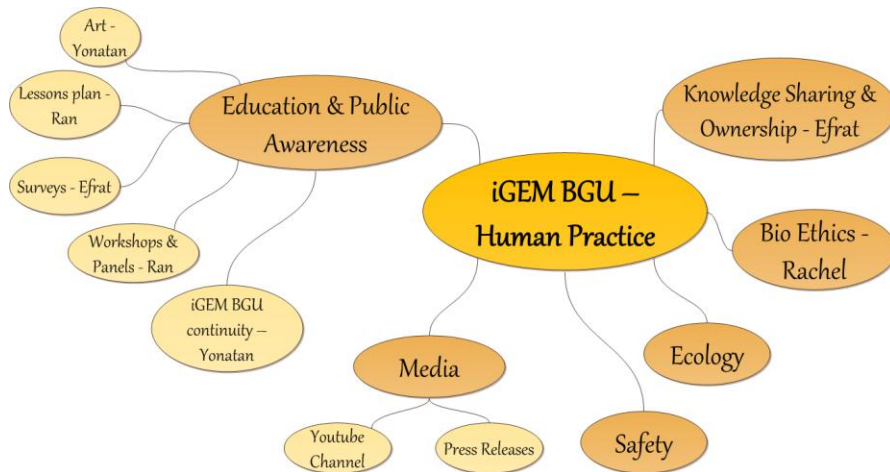
5.8.13

We met with Yael Ifergan, head of the Sustainable Agriculture/Genetic Engineering (SAGE) campaign in Greenpeace Israel, the leading Israeli campaign for marking genetically engineered products. We heard about the interesting things they do, and about the lack of proper regulation in agriculture in Israel. We also learned about past unfortunate cases where genetically modified organisms were released to nature with harmful results. She heard about our idea and goals and raised her own concerns about our project.



18.8.13

Team meeting. We built a human practice "map" with all our different goals and activities and divided responsibilities between us. We also prioritized all the ideas that have not yet been executed.



19.8.13

Team meeting dedicated to the survey. We wanted to finalize the exact goals of the questionnaire and brainstorm about the best way to conduct it. We also worried that we would have a hard time wording questions that are not biased in and of themselves, and so we decided to use high-quality surveys done in past as our model.

20.8.13

iGEM_BGU in a two-page spread in Yediot Ahronot, Israel's leading newspaper! [Click here to see more.](#)

2.9.13

Meeting with Dr. Roey Tzezana about the survey. He raised the concern that our survey will be biased due to our limited abilities to spread the survey to populations in Israel that are less active on internet or do not usually answer these kind of questionnaire. Therefore, we realized that it is important to give out some of the surveys in paper copies as well. He also explained that he sees our survey as a pilot project for a larger, more representative survey about public opinion of synthetic biology that he will conduct through the Interdisciplinary Center for Technology Analysis & Forecasting at Tel-Aviv University.

10.9.13

iGEM_BGU on "Twittering Statuses," one of Israel's leading Facebook group, with over 300,000 likes! [Click here to see more.](#)

12.9.13

iGEM in Science Night! [Click here to see more.](#)

15.9.13

iGEM interviewed on the Channel Two News!

18.9.13

Meeting with Neta, our team's website designer, to decide how to represent all of our human practice activities on the team's wiki. We made a diagram of the structure of the HP section of the website:

