Animal biotechnology is controversial. Its development is accompanied by contingency and change, generating inherent scientific uncertainty. Deeply entrenched disagreements about values are at the heart of public debate and political decision making.

In order to deal more effectively with animal biotechnology’s social controversy, this thesis proposes a pragmatic reconstruction of the practices of ethics and governance in the Netherlands. This implies a shift from the traditional justification of moral truths to the development and facilitation of deliberative processes.

How can we create a framework for the deliberation of animal biotechnology that is pluralistic, democratic and creative?

This thesis argues that one of the most central elements is creating a space for reflective learning about value diversity and conflict. It presents the development and experimentation of two deliberative instruments that can facilitate a stepwise reflective learning process of inquiry and deliberation of animal biotechnology. Ultimately, this process aims at the creative management of different perspectives and values in the democratic community.