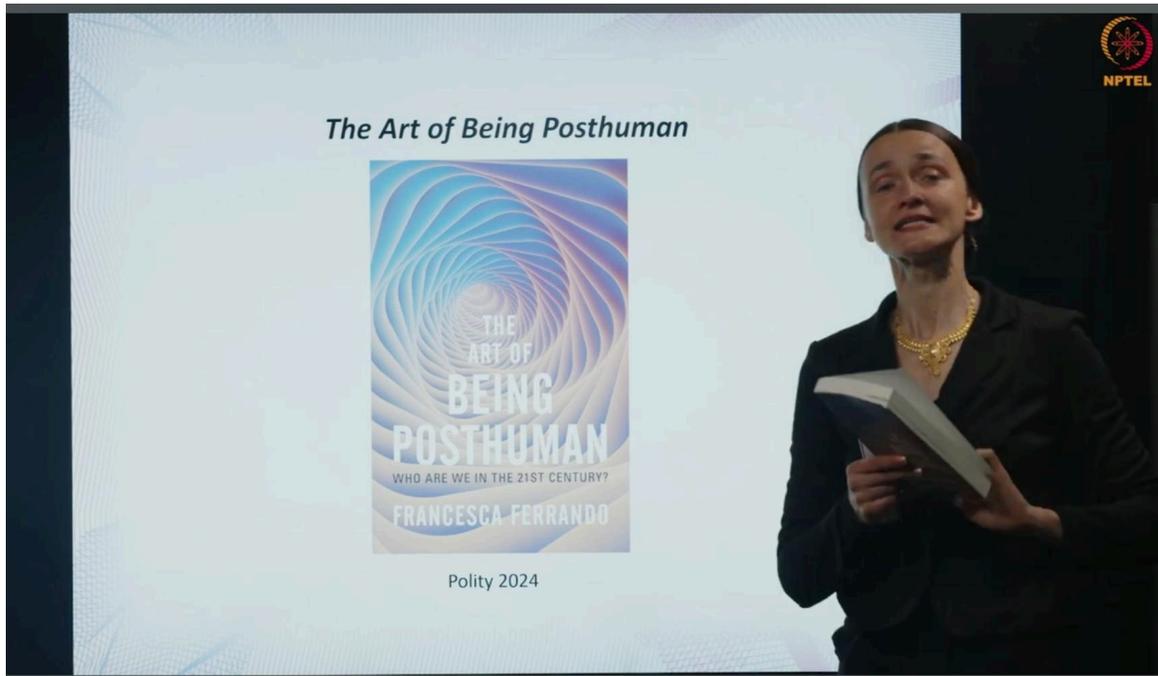


**Posthumanism: An Introduction**  
**Professor Dr. Francesca Ferrando**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**The University of New York**  
**Lecture 38**  
**Lec 38 : Human Enhancement - I**

Hi, everyone. My name is Francesca Ferrando. I'm a professor of philosophy here at NYU, Program of Liberal Studies, and I'm an author. And I'm very honored to be talking with all of you today about the main big question of enhancement. To enhance or not to enhance.

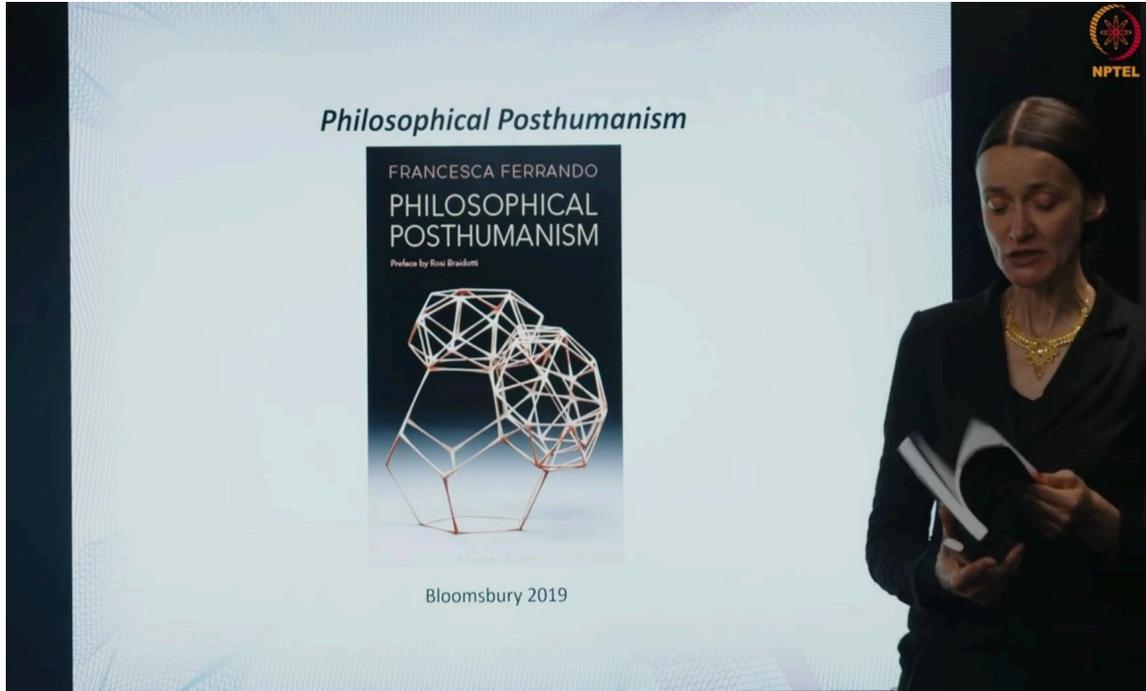
I would also like to thank Professor Pramod Nayar for this wonderful invitation and to say hi to all the students and to India, to the Indian subcontinent. I am extremely happy to be reflecting with all of you about these inspiring topics. I'm going to base my lesson on three chapters. The first one comes from the last book I just published. It's entitled *The Art of Posthuman*, published by Polity Press.

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And we are going to focus specifically on Meditation No. 3, which is called the Biotic Co-Emergence. And in this meditation, we reflect a lot on the human genome. We're also going to focus on another chapter, Chapter 25 of *Philosophical Posthumanism*. In Chapter 25, I directly address the topic of human enhancement.

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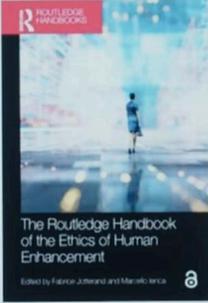


In many specific ways, for instance, how to regulate human enhancement, what is human enhancement, what is genetic discrimination, and so on. So if you are interested in human enhancement, you can find a lot of information here. Lastly, the main topic and narrative behind this lesson come from this book, the Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Human Enhancement. Specifically, my chapter is number three, 'To Be or Not to Be Enhanced,' just as the moon in posthuman terms. And here you're going to find a lot of interesting material reflecting on the notion of human enhancement.

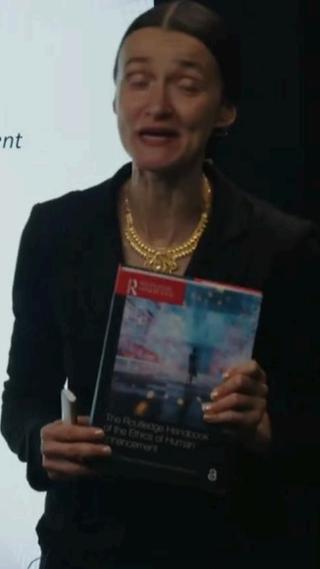
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**"To Be or Not to Be Enhanced?  
Just ask the Moon – in Posthuman Terms"**

In: Ienca, M. / Jotterand F.  
*The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Human Enhancement*



Routledge 2023



I'm also going to divide this lesson into three parts. In the first part, we are going to introduce the topic: What is enhancement? Get ready. Once upon a time, the moon asked, 'Who wants to be enhanced?' Everyone on Earth agreed.

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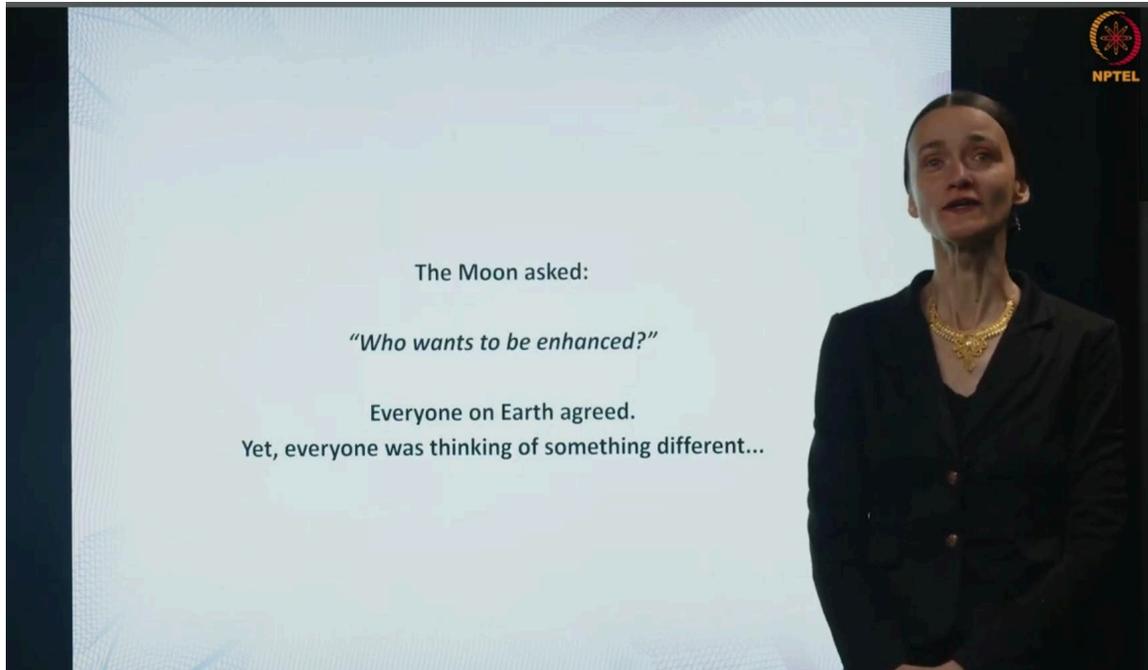
**Once upon a time...**



Revera 2010, CC BY SA

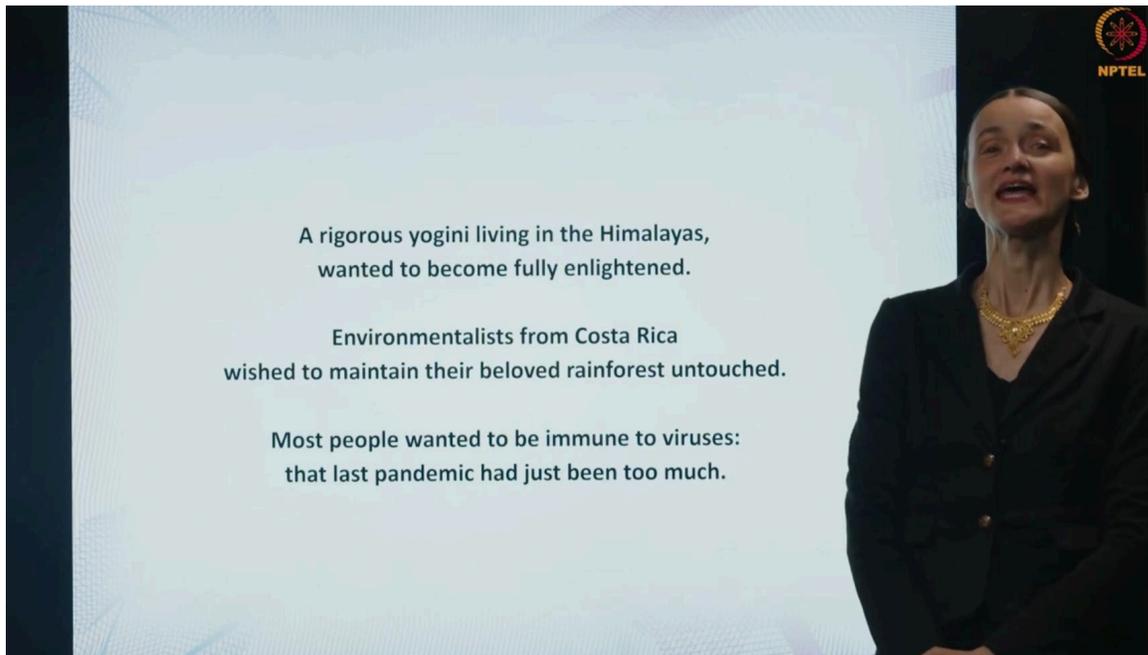


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Yet, everyone was thinking of something different. Erigulus Yogini, living in the Himalayas, wanted to become fully enlightened. Environmentalists from Costa Rica wished to maintain their beloved rainforest untouched. Most people wanted to be immune to viruses. That last pandemic had just been too much.

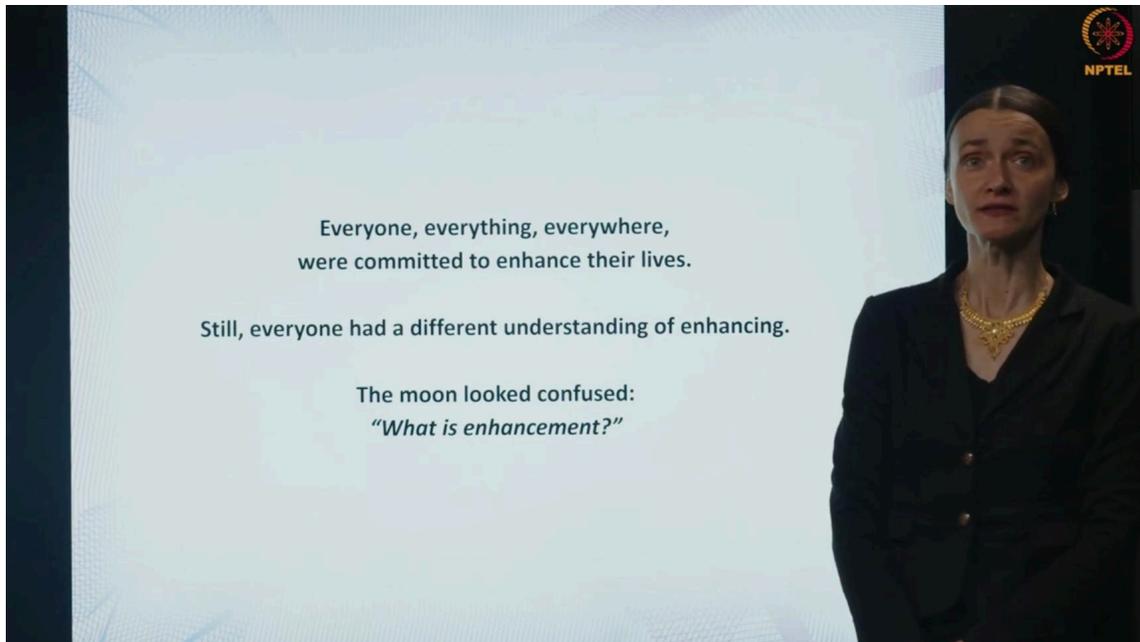
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The moon asked all beings. Most undomesticated non-human animals were just focusing on survival. Their habits were being destroyed. The technosphere also had something to share. So deeply it reverberated in the viscera of the satellites.

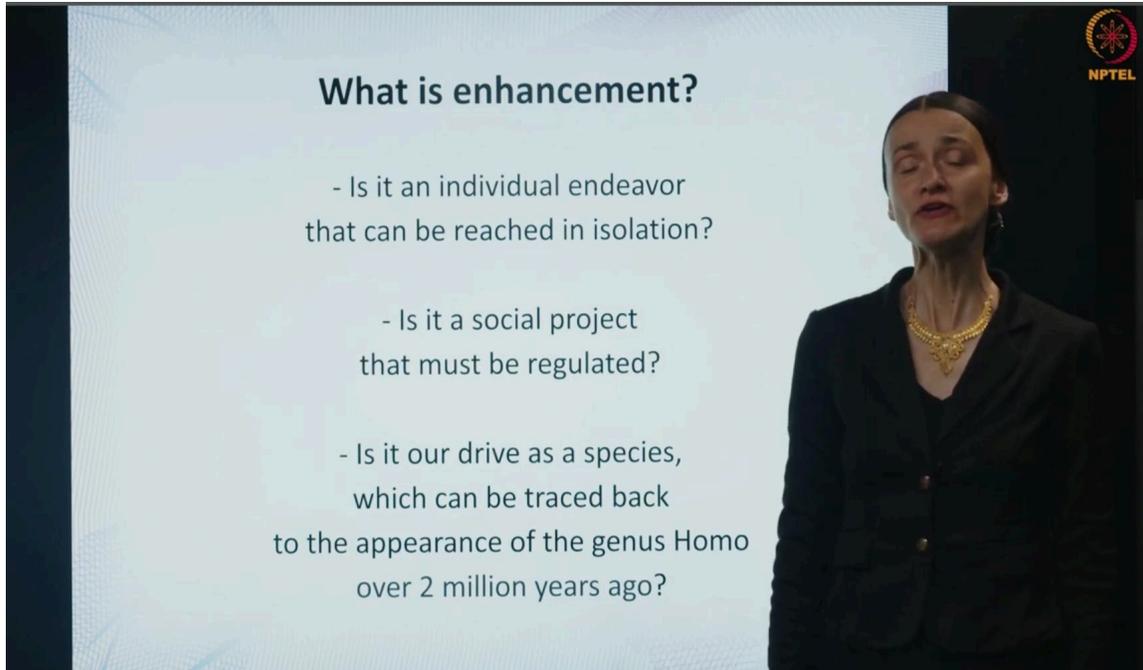
Everyone, everything, everywhere, were committed to enhancing their lives. Still, everyone had a different understanding of enhancing. The moon looked confused. What is enhancement? Think about this.

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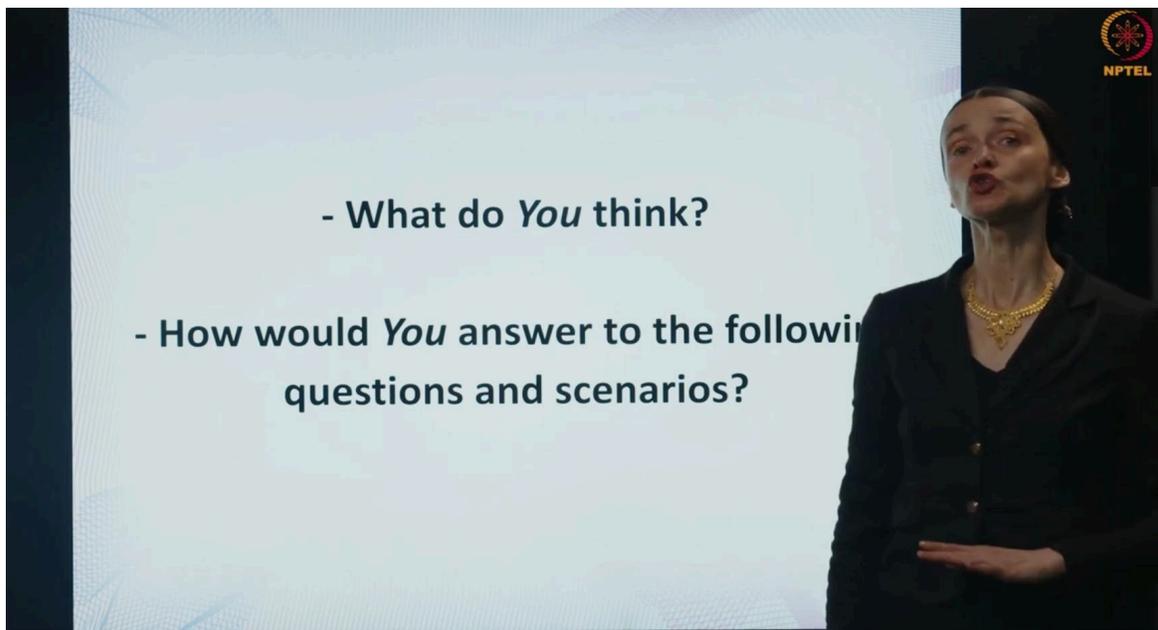
What is enhancement? Is it an individual endeavor that can be reached in isolation? Is it a social project that must be regulated? Is it our drive as a species which can be traced back to the appearance of the genus Homo over two million years ago.

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What do you think? From here on, we're going to explore many different scenarios. We're going to address this bioethical debate from an ethical standpoint. I'm not going to provide the answer, but I'm going to offer many opportunities for reflection.

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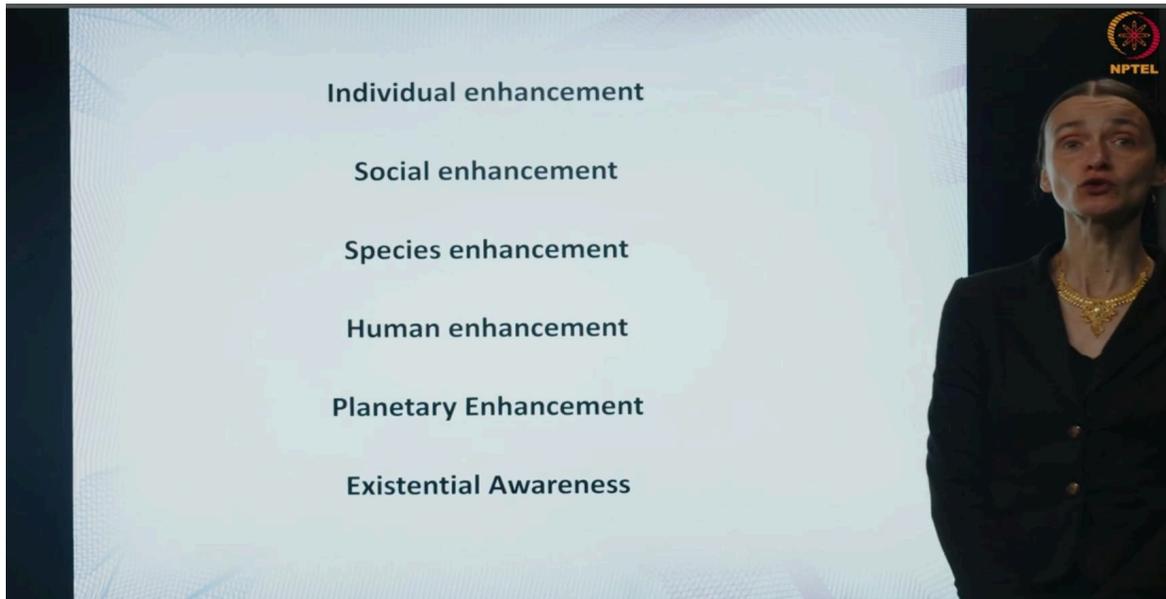


Why is that? Because the debate on enhancement, specifically human enhancement, is happening now and cannot be answered by just one person, a group of scholars, politicians, or one nation. Because the entire discussion, along with the biotechnologies

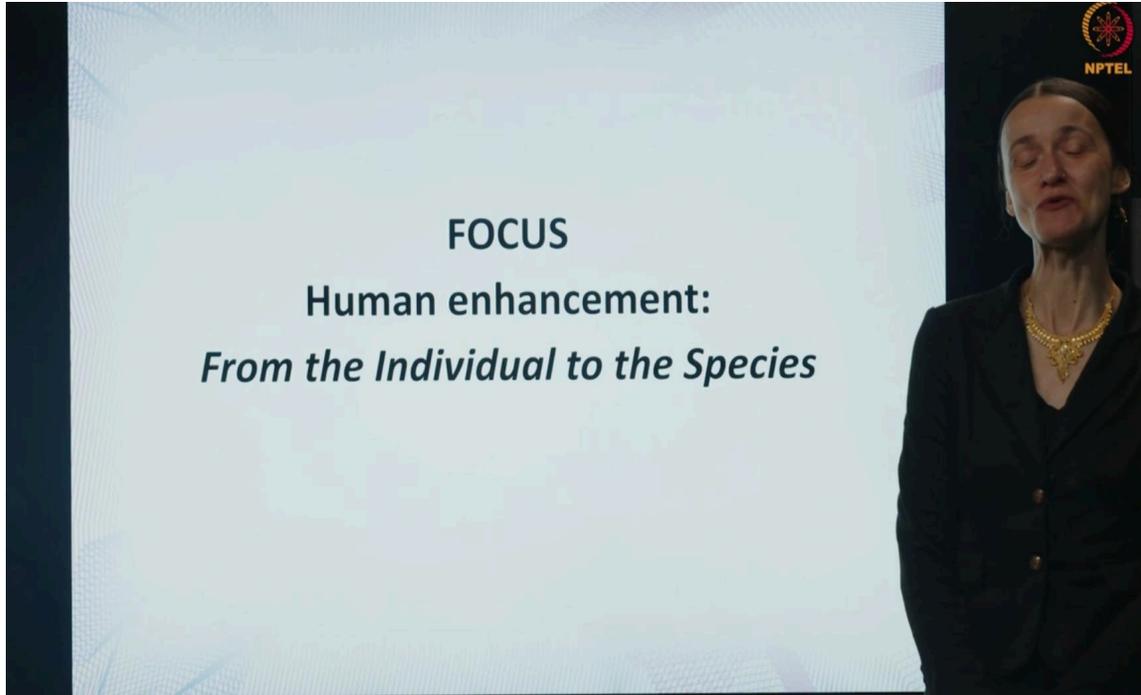
currently being developed, is affecting the human genome, the planet, and more. So this must be a discussion raised at the planetary, social, species, and individual levels. As a fun and inspiring assignment for this lesson, I'll ask you to respond to some of the questions and scenarios I'll pose in the second part of this lesson on enhancement.

You can choose, I'd say, at least three of them. And rest assured, there are no right or wrong answers. But the need is for open discussions. In this second part of our lesson, we'll focus on individual, social, species, human, and planetary enhancement. In the last part of our lesson, we'll delve into existential awareness.

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Thank you so much, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you in our second video, where we will begin reflecting on human enhancement from the individual to the species. My name is Francesca Ferrando, and I thank you all for watching this video.