

Title	Gattaca
Director	Andrew Nicoll
Date	1997
Area	Philosophy and technology
Theme	Technological dystopia
Plot Summary	The film portrays a future society in which one's profession and social status is determined by genetic inheritance. Those with genetic 'defects' are relegated to the worst jobs. It is best to design one's offspring to make them as perfect as possible. The protagonist Vincent (Ethan Hawke) is a 'god child', whose genetic makeup was left to chance by his parents. His younger brother was produced with the help of genetic screening, a process that become the norm. Vincent finds that he is part of a new underclass, rejected by insurers and excluded from the better jobs. As he notes, this society has turned discrimination into a science. By taking the identity of a genetically superior individual, Vincent infiltrates the prestigious Gattaca space academy to fulfill his dream of space travel. The film both emphasizes the role of genes in determining our behaviour, and holds that we can overcome our biological heritage.
Key Scenes	In one early scene we see the parents discussing genetic therapy decisions with a genetic engineer. IVF has been used to extract and fertilize the woman's eggs, which have been screened for genetic diseases, as well as for 'potentially prejudicial' conditions such as baldness, short-sightedness and propensity to obesity.
Relevant Text	