

(This video references Video 43.)

In this video (Video 43), I defended abortion by analogy with removing a human clone implanted in your body.

Some people responded to my argument by saying that it applies only to abortion in cases of sexual assault and not consensual sex, since in my “cloning” scenario, you were kidnapped by a malicious agent.

However, I think this response is mistaken, and I’ll explain why here.

When you make an argument by analogy, you’re not claiming that the two cases are the same in every respect, just in the respects that are relevant to the issue at hand—in this case, the *morally relevant* respects.

And if you think there’s a moral difference between abortion in cases of sexual assault vs. consensual sex, then the morally relevant difference seems to be the pregnant person’s responsibility for the situation.

But in my “cloning” scenario, your responsibility is the same as in unplanned pregnancy from consensual sex.

In both cases, you take an action (having sex or going out at night) that has a risk of an outcome (pregnancy or getting implanted with a clone). In both cases, you’re not intending that outcome. But still, the risk is foreseeable, and the chance is the same.

So, if it’s permissible to exercise your bodily autonomy and remove the clone from your body (even given this level of responsibility), then it’s also permissible to get an abortion in cases of unplanned pregnancy from consensual sex.