

Christopher Thomas Scott

The Vortex of Expectations: Visions, Aspirations and the Promise of Longevity Research

Bibliography

Overall, C. (2004) *Aging, Death, and Human Longevity: A Philosophical Inquiry*. University of California Press, Berkeley. This excellent book tackles the widespread opposition prolonging healthy life, laying bare some of its unhelpful underpinnings (such as ageism, sexism, and technophobia). It has encouraged me to think creatively about what longer life could offer humanity.

Cave S. (2013) *Immortality: The Quest to Live Forever and How It Drives Civilization*. Biteback Publishing, London. An excellent reference text that weaves philosophy and history in our desire to defy mortality. He makes a distinction that is relevant to my project: the so-called “medical immortal” trying to extend live to the next year or next decade.

Williams B. (1973) ‘The Makropoulos Case: Reflections on the Tedium of Immortality’, in his, *Problems of the Self: Philosophical Papers 1956–1972*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 82–100. Williams argues that if we were truly immortal, we would be infinitely bored with our existence and long to die. It turns on a character, EM, who lives a human existence over a long period of time.

Chappell T. (2009) Infinity Goes Up On Trial: Must Immortality Be Meaningless? *European Journal of Philosophy* 17(1):30-44. In response to Bernard Williams, Chappell’s contrarian argument is that a good human life is one in which a variety of projects are lived at a time, and that because there are inexhaustible goods, that an immortal life could be meaningful.

Nuland S. (1993) *How We Die: Reflections on Life’s Final Chapter*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Sherwin Nuland’s book describes the physical processes of dying and death, and does so in a way that profoundly demonstrates the biological inevitability of life’s end. It is sometimes painful to read, but always truthful.

Hall S. (2003). *Merchants of Immortality*. Mariner Books, New York. This is the book that inspired me to write my book *Stem Cell Now*. Stephen Hall is a master science writer, and his articles and books are as well researched and thought out as any academic monograph.