

## Yale experiment to reanimate dead brains promises 'living hell' for humans

**Notes & Cues:****Article:**

Last month Yale University announced it had successfully resurrected the brains of more than 100 slaughtered pigs and found that the cells were still healthy.

The reanimated brains were kept alive for up to 36 hours and scientists said the process, which should also work in primates, offered a new way to study intact organs in the lab.

Although the pigs did not regain consciousness, the team admitted that it was conceivable that the brains could be kept alive indefinitely and that steps could be attempted to restore awareness. The team had not attempted either because it was uncharted territory ethically.

However, Nottingham Trent ethics and philosophy lecturer Benjamin Curtis said it could lead to humans enduring a "living hell".

"Even if your conscious brain were kept alive after your body had died, you would have to spend the foreseeable future as a disembodied brain without access to the sense that allows us to experience and interact with the world," he told The Conversation. "In the best-case scenario you would be spending your life with only your own thoughts for company.

"Some have argued that even with a fully functional body, immortality would be tedious. To end up a disembodied human brain may well be to suffer a fate worse than death."

**Summary:**