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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL
VIEWS & NEWS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Job Opportunity: Program and Communications Associate](#)

The Center for Genetics and Society is accepting applications for the position of Program and Communications Associate. Please click [here](#) for the complete job announcement.



[Applications Open: CGS Project Director on Race, Genetics and Society](#)

The [American Council of Learned Societies](#) has selected CGS as a host organization for its [Public Fellows Program](#). Applications for CGS Project Director on Race, Genetics, and Society can be made through the ACLS until March 24.



[Join us for Talking Biopolitics on No Más Bebés](#)

Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino, director and producer of the documentary *No Más Bebés* will talk about their film, their research and California's history of sterilization with Alexandra Stern on Wednesday, March 2. Register [here](#).



[CGS Website Reboot: We Need Your Feedback!](#)

Please fill out a [quick survey](#) to let us know how we can best improve CGS's online presence.



[Join us in Berkeley: Screening and Discussion of *DNA Dreams*, Tuesday, April 12](#)

The final event in this season's [*Being Human in a Biotech Age*](#) film series is set for Tuesday, April 12 at 4pm in 470 Stephens Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. [*DNA Dreams*](#) is a haunting documentary about the Chinese company that styles itself "the world's largest genomics organization," and its hunt for the genetic basis of intelligence. A panel with Troy Duster and others will follow the screening.



CGS COMMENTARY

[Scientists Make Mice Glum](#)

by Pete Shanks

Researchers investigate human genetic variant for seasonal affective disorder (SAD) in transgenic mice models.



[Bridging Borders: Transnational Surrogacy, Queer Kinship & Reproductive Justice](#)

by Elliot Hosman

A report on the *Making Families* conference at UC Berkeley connecting reproductive justice, queer kinship, and transnational surrogacy practices, stories, and research.



[Cross-Border Reproduction: An "Ethic of Care" and an Unregulated Market](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky

What can a human rights-based ethic of care contribute to addressing the troubling aspects of intercountry assisted reproduction?



CGS in the NEWS

▶ [The Possibility Of A Three-Parent Baby](#)

[Cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Indra Lakshamanan, *The Diane Rehm Show*

A discussion about the science, ethics, and politics of a controversial technique that is a form of inheritable genetic modification.

▶ [Gene editing: The next frontier in America's abortion wars](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Sarah Karlin, *Politico*

"Fears about eugenics and a brave new world are concerns that are shared by people across the political spectrum."

▶ [Is a Surrogate a Mother?](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Michelle Goldberg, *Slate*

A battle over triplets raises difficult questions about the extent to which contracts can deal with pregnancy, childbirth, and transferring parental rights in a commercial setting.

▶ [California stem cell agency may fund tests to edit genes in human embryos](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Melody Petersen, *Los Angeles Times*

The state's stem cell institute is reviewing its ethics guidelines to determine whether they are strong enough to safely allow studies in which scientists would attempt to edit the genes of embryos.

[A Nobel Laureate's 'Unsettling Note' From California's Human Gene](#)

▶ [Editing Conference](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by David Jensen, *California Stem Cell Report*

The Center for Genetics and Society weighs in on the possibility that California's stem cell agency will fund germline gene editing research

NEWS

▶ [Should you edit your children's genes?](#)

by Erika Check Haydenn, *Nature News*

In the fierce debate about CRISPR gene editing, it's time to give patients a voice.

▶ [This CRISPR Moment](#)

by Françoise Baylis and Janet Rossant, *The Walrus*

Editing human DNA the way we edit text—are we ready?

▶ [Cautious approach warranted for new gene-editing technique](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *The Sacramento Bee*

We urgently need a moratorium on using CRISPR technology on future people, and a full public debate while we learn more about its potential positive and negative effects.

▶ [What's the difference between genetic engineering and eugenics?](#)

by Robert Gebelhoff, *The Washington Post*

Where we draw the line between "negative eugenics" and "positive genetic intervention" is a political question.

▶ [Patients Unsure about the Value of Cutting-Edge Gene-Editing](#)

Technology

by Dina Fine Maron, *Scientific American*

Some affected groups are still weighing the potential benefits and threats of deploying such interventions for medical care.

▶ 'Rogue scientists' could exploit gene editing technology, experts warn

by Alan Yuhas and Kamala Kelkar, *The Guardian*

A senior geneticist and a bioethicist agree with the US spy chief's claim that gene editing technology could have huge, and potentially dangerous, consequences.

▶ Gene Editing: Coming to a Kitchen Counter Near You

by Danielle Venton, *KQED Science*

The point is to make science more accessible by providing low-cost supplies for people to practice gene editing at home.

▶ China Builds a Faster Beagle in Gene-Editing Race With U.S

Bloomberg News

U.S. companies racing to develop a promising gene editing technology are up against a formidable competitor -- the Chinese government.

▶ Carrie D. Wolinetz of the NIH on gene editing

by Xavier Symons, *BioEdge*

"Unlike non-heritable human gene editing, editing of embryos raises many scientific, safety, ethical, societal, and policy issues that need to be sufficiently considered and addressed."

▶ Caribou Bio's New CRISPR Patent Isn't About Gene Editing

by Alex Lash, *Xconomy*

A new patent highlights a lower-profile potential use for the "gene editing" biotechnology: genetic detection and analysis.

▶ [There's No Excuse For Doctors To Treat Patients According To Race](#)

by Amitha Kalaichandran, *Huffington Post [Canada]*

Professor Dorothy Roberts suggests that we revisit the concept of race when it comes to delivering health care and conducting biomedical research.

▶ [Harvard's Eugenics Era](#)

by Adam S. Cohen, *Harvard Magazine*

Given that Harvard affiliates will play a large role in genetic engineering, it is important to contemplate how wrong so many people tied to the University got it the first time—and to think hard about how, this time, to get it right.

▶ [The History of Eugenics in Quebec and at McGill](#)

by Hailey MacKinnon, *The McGill Tribune*

McGill University is known for its cutting-edge scientific research. Many may not know, however, that McGill was a communication hub between eugenicists in Britain and Canada.

▶ [NC appeals court rules on eugenics cases](#)

by Anne Blythe, *News & Observer*

In a series of cases related to people who were involuntarily sterilized, the state ruled that one woman was ineligible for compensation.

▶ [The Anthropometric Detective and His Racial Clues](#)

by Ava Kofman, *The Public Domain Review*

The spectre of race, in particular Francis Galton's disturbing theory of eugenics, haunts the early history of fingerprint technology.

▶ [DNA sweeps pose wrenching ethical questions](#)

by Carol Goar, *The Star [Toronto]*

In the remote indigenous community of Garden Hill, Manitoba, police are collecting DNA samples from every male 15-66 years of age to find the killer of 11-year-old Teresa Robinson.

▶ ['It smells of Big Brother': Some question legality, effectiveness of Louisiana's expansive DNA database](#)

by Bryn Stole & Danielle Maddox Kinchen, *The New Orleans Advocate*
In Louisiana, one of the first states to allow DNA to be taken at arrest, 340,000 of 500,000 DNA profiles are now from arrestees.

▶ [The Troubling Rise of Rapid DNA Testing](#)

by Ava Kofman, *New Republic*
Your DNA can now be read in less time than it would take to wait at a typical DMV. New portable rapid DNA devices may represent a giant leap backward for civil liberties.

▶ [It should be safety-first on stem cell therapies](#)

by Editorial, *The Boston Globe*
The FDA appears poised to take comprehensive action that would strengthen the rules governing stem cell therapies, with a public hearing on April 13 to inform draft guidelines.

▶ [Researchers claim to have made artificial mouse sperm in a dish](#)

by David Cyranoski, *Nature News*
A study describes 12-month old mice born from eggs fertilized with artificial spermatids, but some are not convinced by the report.

▶ [Chinese Cloning Firm Pumps \\$15 Million into California Stem Cell Business](#)

by David Jensen, *California Stem Cell Report*
A financially strapped California stem cell company could be taken over by a Chinese enterprise that says it can clone humans, and is "only holding off for fear of the public reaction."

▶ [Genetic information as "perceived disability": Chadam v. PAUSD](#)

by Jennifer K. Wagner, *Genomics Law Report*
Parents are alleging that a school district violated their son's rights when it transferred the boy to another school due to a genetic marker he carries.

▶ [Not Every Drop of a Person's Blood Is the Same, a Study Says](#)

by Donald G. McNeil Jr., *The New York Times*

As diagnostic tests rely on ever-tinier amounts of blood, some scientists are striking a note of caution. As it turns out, not every drop of blood is identical.

▶ [If You Want Life Insurance, Think Twice Before Getting A Genetic Test](#)

by Christina Farr, *Fast Company*

As genetic testing explodes, US federal law bans health insurers from denying coverage based on results. But the same doesn't apply for disability, life insurance, or long-time care.

▶ [When Parents and Surrogates Disagree on Abortion](#)

by Katie O'Reilly, *The Atlantic*

An ongoing legal battle between a gestational carrier of triplets and a father-to-be shows the messiness of surrogacy contracts.

▶ [Egg Donation and Surrogacy Scam \[Press Release\]](#)

U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation

A California fertility broker defrauded would-be parents, egg donors, and surrogate mothers while living a lavish lifestyle off the proceeds, says the FBI.

▶ [A look into the bioethics of commercialized surrogacy](#)

by Clare Fogarty, *The McGill Tribune*

Discussions centered on the Canadian law that criminalizes the payment of surrogate mothers.

▶ [For Fertility Treatment, Wounded Veterans Have To Pay The Bill](#)

by Quil Lawrence, *NPR*

A law passed in 1992 made it illegal for the VA to pay for IVF, which some people oppose because embryos are often destroyed. But thousands of vets have injuries that make IVF their only option for having a family.

▶ [This Entrepreneur Is Using Big Data to Help More Women Get Pregnant](#)

by Leena Rao, *Fortune*

Celmatix's algorithms compare a database of millions of women who have tackled fertility issues to a patient's personal health and fertility data.

▶ [The FDA Now Officially Belongs to Big Pharma](#)

by Martha Rosenberg, *AlterNet*

The new FDA commissioner, overwhelmingly confirmed by the Senate, is on record arguing that collaboration between industry and regulators is a good thing.

▶ [Thousands of goats and rabbits vanish from major biotech lab](#)

by Sara Reardon, *Nature News*

Dallas-based Santa Cruz Biotechnology is one of the world's largest antibody providers — and the subject of a US government animal-welfare investigation.

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