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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

March 1, 2018

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

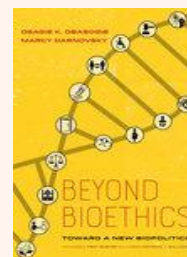
[Revisiting *Gattaca* in the Bay Area: Two nights. Two stellar panels.](#)

Next week: Don't miss these screenings and discussions of *Gattaca*! We'll explore the film's dystopic vision of a vastly unequal future based on human genetic technologies, and how it continues to shape our imaginations 20 years after its release. Register to reserve your spot for one or both of these free events: Tuesday [March 6 in Berkeley](#) at the David Brower Center (followed by a reception); and/or Thursday [March 8 in San Francisco](#) at the Main Public Library. More details [here](#).



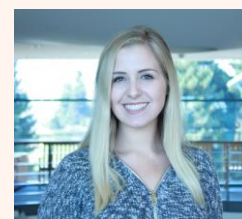
[About to be released — *Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics*](#)

Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics will be published this month by University of California Press. Edited by Osagie Obasogie (UC Berkeley Professor of Bioethics and CGS Senior Fellow) and Marcy Darnovsky (CGS Executive Director), this anthology brings together the work of several dozen cutting-edge scholars and advocates, all of them committed to a new perspective on human biotechnologies that is grounded in social justice and public interest values. With a Foreword by Troy Duster and Afterword by Patricia J. Williams; more information at [University of California Press](#) and [Amazon](#).



[Meet Katelyn Klein, CGS's new intern](#)

We are pleased to welcome Katelyn Klein to our CGS team. Katelyn is a graduating senior at UC Berkeley, where she is majoring in molecular and cell biology, with an emphasis in infectious disease, and minoring in disability studies. Read more about Katelyn and other CGS staff [here](#).



[CGS presents at American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting](#)

CGS Executive Director Marcy Darnovsky spoke on a panel called [Gene Editing](#)

[and Human Identity: Promising Advances and Ethical Challenges](#) about the urgent need to prohibit the use of gene editing for human reproduction.

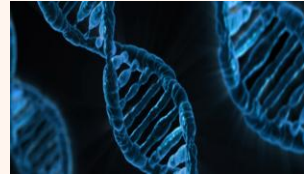


CGS COMMENTARY

[Reproductive Gene Editing Imperils Universal Human Rights](#)

By Marcy Darnovsky, Leah Lowthorp, and Katie Hasson, *OpenGlobalRights*

What do recent advances in molecular genetics have to do with human rights? Quite a lot, it turns out. And key human rights documents have recognized this for some time. (Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin translations are [available](#).)



[Personal Genomics Meets Blockchain](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

Nebula Genomics and several other companies aim to combine state-of-the-art genome sequencing with blockchain technology, the power behind the hugely hyped “digital currency” Bitcoin. They face many practical and ethical problems.



[Dog Cloning Headlines — Again](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

Barbra Streisand, the acclaimed singer, actress, philanthropist, activist, and feminist, cloned two of her three Coton de Tulear dogs.



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CGS in the NEWS

["Less Than a Drop in the Bucket"—Dueling Perspectives on](#)

▶ [California's First Stem Cell Royalty Check](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by David Jensen, *California Stem Cell Report*

The rules and regulations about royalty returns to California are confusing and unclear, and need to be made far more transparent. But it's hard not to ask whether this first royalty payment is anything other than theater, meant to assuage and allure voters now that CIRM is talking about another ballot measure for \$5 billion more from the public purse.

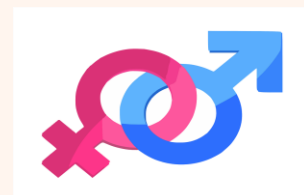


▶ [You Can Control Your Baby's Sex—if You Believe In Babydust](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Rebecca Gale, *Refinery29*

"People defend [sex selection] as a matter of autonomy and a matter of choice," Darnovsky adds. "But you're looking at the autonomy and choice of the parent, not at the possible autonomy and choice of the child."



NEWS

Assisted Reproduction

Eugenics and Genetic Selection

Human Genetic Modification and Gene Therapies

Precision Medicine

Various

HUMAN GENE EDITING AND GENE THERAPIES

▶ [Why A Gene Therapy Pioneer Is Raising Concerns About Treatments He Championed](#)

by Matthew Herper, *Forbes*

In an interview following his resignation as a scientific advisor to Solid Biosciences, Jim Wilson questions the safety of a technology he helped develop – at least when it is pushed to its limits.

▶ [If You're Gene Doping, Are Your Talents 'Natural'?](#)

by Thomas H. Murray, *The Daily Beast*

In theory, CRISPR could be used to try to insert into gametes a gene or genes linked to a trait, such as height or strength, thought to be advantageous in sport, but a lot can go wrong and lead to questions about what is considered “natural”.

▶ [Target, delete, repair: CRISPR is a revolutionary gene-editing tool, but it's not without risk](#)

by Mark Schwartz, *Stanford Medicine*

Stanford University researchers are among those developing CRISPR gene therapies for sickle-cell disease, as well as raising questions about regulation and oversight of gene editing technologies.

▶ [Drugs Don't Work If People Can't Afford Them: The High Price Of Tisagenlecleucel](#)

by Paul Kleutghen, David Mitchell, Aaron S. Kesselheim, Mehdi Najafzadeh, and Ameet Sarpatwari, *HealthAffairs*

How much profit is fair for a drug that could keep people alive, especially one that US taxpayers supported the foundational science to invent?

▶ [Gene-altering treatments are medicine's best shot yet against Huntington's disease](#)

by Emily Mullin, *MIT Technology Review*

After 25 years, genetic treatments are beginning to trickle out of the lab to treat the first patients.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

- News TOP -

▶ [In search of surrogates, foreign couples descend on Ukraine](#)

by Kevin Ponniah, *BBC*

Ukraine, one of Europe's poorest nations, is fast becoming the place to go for people desperate to find a surrogate to have their baby.

▶ [Iowa court upholds enforceability of surrogacy contracts](#)

by *Associated Press*

For the first time, the Iowa Supreme Court weighed whether surrogacy contracts can be enforced. Like most states, Iowa has no clear law on surrogacy.

▶ [The Truth About Infertility for Women Over 40](#)

by Sarah Kowalski, *Harper's Bazaar*

A woman shares her messy path to motherhood in hopes of breaking the stigmas around infertility and egg donation.

▶ [More Chinese women seeking IVF treatments abroad](#)

by *The Straits Times*

Since the relaxation of China's family-planning policies, women are increasingly travelling to fertility centres in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the United States due to a lack of sufficient fertility options and long wait times at centers in China.

▶ [Japanese man wins sole custody of 13 surrogacy children](#)

by Daniel Hurst, *The Guardian*

A wealthy Japanese man at the center of a "baby factory" scandal in Thailand has won sole parental rights to 13 children he fathered through Thai surrogate mothers.

▶ [Writer of IVF play blasts 'privatisation of reproduction'](#)

by Mark Brown, *The Guardian*

Playwright Jemma Kennedy's IVF treatment experience was so bad she felt she had to write a play that explores how the industry trades on fear and hope.

EUGENICS AND GENETIC SELECTION

- News TOP -

▶ [Lawyers set up hotlines for victims of 1948-1996 eugenics law](#)

by *Japan Times*

In five cities, lawyers have organized telephone counseling hotlines for individuals who were forced into sterilization or affected by the Eugenic Protection Law.

▶ [Victims of the eugenics law](#)

by *Japan Times Editorial*

A woman who was forcibly sterilized as a child following a mental health diagnosis is seeking state redress. Calls have grown for the government to take remedial measures for survivors.

▶ ['We lose 1,400 girls a year. Who will our boys marry?': Armenia's quandary](#)

by Suzanne Moore, *The Guardian*

Sex selection may have been outlawed, but a shortage of women threatens the very survival of a country where boys are traditionally seen as an investment and girls as a loss.

PRECISION MEDICINE

- News TOP -

▶ [Matching DNA to a diet doesn't work: 'We didn't even come close,' researcher says](#)

by Sharon Begley, *STAT*

Despite earlier suggestions that DNA might predict what type of diet would work best for you, a new study shows that "unlike cancer treatments, diets can't be matched to genotype."

► [Fairness in Precision Medicine](#)

by Kadija Ferryman and Mikaela Pitcan, *Data & Society*

This report is the first of its kind to deeply examine the potential for biased and discriminatory outcomes in the emerging field of precision medicine.

VARIOUS

- News TOP -

► [Can This Company Convince You to Love GMOs?](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic*

Companies using GMO's in novel ways are trying to reset the conversation around biotechnology—by foregrounding the benefits to consumers and advocating for transparency.

► [Barbra Streisand Cloned Her Dogs. For \\$50,000, You Can Clone Yours.](#)

by Matt Stevens, *New York Times*

Barbra Streisand's statement that she cloned her late dog brings renewed attention to the pet cloning business.

► [China's Xinjiang surveillance is the dystopian future nobody wants](#)

by Nithin Coca, *Engadget*

The future of technology, particularly for those in the Global South, could more resemble what's happening in Xinjiang than developments in Silicon Valley.

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