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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL
VIEWS & NEWS

March 10, 2016

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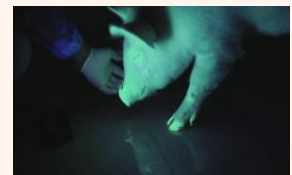
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[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 discussion with [Troy Duster](#) and [Terry Johnson](#) will follow the screening.



[Online NOW: Talking Biopolitics with *No Más Bebés* filmmakers Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino, interviewed by Alexandra Minna Stern](#)

In case you missed the live online conversation about the award-winning documentary *No Más Bebés*, a full recording of that event is [now available](#).



[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.



[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.



CGS COMMENTARY

[The Perils of Human Gene Editing for Reproduction](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky, *Washington Examiner*

Human gene editing for reproduction would be unsafe, is unneeded for medical purposes, and would be dangerously unacceptable on societal grounds.



[My Genes, Myself?](#)

by Jessica Cussins, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

We have become accustomed to ascribing agency to individual genes. But every now and then a story comes along that reminds us just how foolish we are.



[Cryonics Taken Apart](#)

by Pete Shanks

Corey Pein has written an exposé of Alcor, the cryonics company he describes as "technophilic necromancers."



[CRISPR Eugenics in The X Files](#)

by Elliot Hosman

In the comeback season finale, the show explores the use of human gene editing to combat global warming and overpopulation.



[Uterus Transplants: Identifying Stakeholders & Objections](#)

by Elliot Hosman

Clinical trials have migrated from Sweden to the US, and questions regarding safety, ethics, and social justice are mounting.



CGS in the NEWS

[\[Radio\] Gene Editing for Individuals and their Families and Family](#)

▶ [Caregiversy](#)

[an interview with CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Gordon Atherley, *Voice America*

A discussion of human gene editing, and the ways it should and not be used.

▶ [Frozen Eggs and Title IX](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Mary Ann Mason, *Chronicle of Higher Education*

If you're counting on that procedure to delay your family while you get your career going, think again.

NEWS

▶ [Human Babies from CRISPR Pigs](#)

by Stuart Newman, *HuffPost Science*

300 years after Jonathan Swift, can anyone doubt that the grandchildren of some people born this year will be delivered fresh off the farm?

▶ [How Brave New World Is Sneaking Up On Us](#)

by John Farrell, *Forbes*

Paul Knoepfler is not a scientist given to alarmism, but it's pretty clear from his informative new book that the Brave New World is already upon us.

▶ [CRISPR patent belongs to aliens](#)

by Sara Reardon, *Nature*

Returning with a new season after over a decade, The X Files uses technologies like CRISPR gene editing to tell stories at the intersection of science, politics, and conspiracy theories.

▶ [How CRISPR Made it Onto The X-Files](#)

by Jon Brooks, *KQED*

The plot involves humans who are stripped of their immune systems, accomplished via CRISPR/Cas9.

▶ [CRISPR: gene editing is just the beginning](#)

by Heidi Ledford, *Nature News*

The real power of the biological tool lies in exploring how genomes work.

▶ ['Imbeciles' Explores Legacy Of Eugenics In America](#)

All Things Considered, NPR

Adam Cohen's new book tells the story of the 1927 Supreme Court case Buck v. Bell. The ruling permitted the state of Virginia to sterilize an "imbecile" — a scientific term of the day.

▶ ['Idiocracy' Is One of the Most Elitist and Anti-Social Movies Ever—
Why Do Liberals Love Referencing It?](#)

by Adam Johnson, *AlterNet*

"The pro-eugenics 2006 film finds a home with confused liberals who would rather blame bad breeding than structural classism and racism."

▶ [The End of Cross-Border Surrogacy?](#)

by Donna Dickenson, *Project Syndicate*

India, Nepal, Thailand, and Mexico have introduced measures that would limit or ban foreigners from hiring locals as surrogate mothers. Cambodia and Malaysia look likely to follow suit.

▶ [Over 80 surrogate babies born abroad for Irish parents](#)

by Catherine Shanahan, *The Irish Examiner*

Ireland is drafting unprecedented legislation covering surrogacy after a delegation trip to India where the majority of Irish couples go to engage a surrogate mother.

▶ [Fertility, grief and big business are not a good combination](#)

by Catherine Bennett, *The Guardian*

The woman who wants to carry her dead daughter's child sets in relief our confusion about rights and needs.

▶ [Cleveland Clinic Performs First Successful Uterus Transplant In The U.S.](#)

by Merrit Kennedy, *NPR*

This opens up another possible path to parenthood besides surrogacy or adoption for U.S. women who do not have a uterus, or who have a uterus that does not function.

▶ [First Uterus Transplant in U.S. Has Failed](#)

by Denise Grady, *The New York Times*

A day after a news conference lauding what seemed to be a successful surgery, the recipient developed a serious complication and the organ was removed.

▶ [Response to Call for Essays: Read the Fine Print Before Sending](#)

[Your Spit to 23andMe](#)

by Katherine Drabiak, *The Hastings Center Bioethics Forum*

In recent years, Big Data has taken firm hold in numerous sectors, revolutionizing the volume and velocity at which businesses can collect, curate, and use digital information.

▶ [Exclusive: 23andMe 'spit kits' may head to the shelves of this huge retail chain](#)

by Ron Leuty, *San Francisco Business Times*

Genetic information company 23andMe Inc.'s "spit kits" will be available at Walgreens stores, a company leader says.

▶ [When baby is due, genetic counselors seen downplaying false alarms](#)

by Beth Daley, *New England Center for Investigative Reporting*

Even after the birth, when their baby looked fine, their genetic counselor insisted that the result of the test was not a mistake.

▶ [Illumina, the Google of Genetic Testing, Has Plans for World Domination](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *Wired*

As lucrative as its 90 percent slice is for Illumina now, the whole pie is likely to get even bigger in the future.

▶ [This genetics company claims it can sequence and analyze your entire genome for \\$999](#)

by Tanya Lewis, *Business Insider*

With a doctor's referral, Veritas Genetics will offer smartphone interface and analysis of around 2,000 common clinical conditions.

▶ [Genetic Test Firm to Make Customers' Data Publicly Available](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

In an unusual move, Ambry Genetics is making 10,000 of its customers' exomes

publicly available — without explicit consent.

▶ [Forensics gone wrong: When DNA snares the innocent](#)

by Douglas Starr, *Science/AAAS*

Biologist Greg Hampikian heads the Idaho Innocence Project, and uncovers instances where DNA evidence was false or misconstrued.

▶ [DNA Under the Scope, and a Forensic Tool Under a Cloud](#)

by Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times*

Cutting-edge technology has enabled analysis of ever-tinier genetic samples. But as the science pushes boundaries, some experts are raising reliability questions.

▶ [Evidence on trial](#)

by Martin Enserink, *Science/AAAS*

Forensic science is reforming in the wake of a landmark report.

▶ [Teaching medical students to challenge 'unscientific' racial categories](#)

by Ike Swetlitz, *STAT*

Medical school curricula traditionally leave little room for nuanced discussions about the impact of race and racism on health, physicians and sociologists say.

▶ [Everybody Freeze!](#)

by Corey Pein, *The Baffler*

The decades-old quack procedure, which involves freezing corpse parts for later resuscitation, was for a long time apocryphally associated with such wealthy eccentrics as Walt Disney.

▶ [A Biotech Evangelist Seeks a Zika Dividend](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

A diverse biotechnology company hopes its genetically engineered mosquitoes

can help stop the spread of a devastating virus. But that's just a start.

▶ [Bad News Flash: Scientists Did Not Cure Autism, Cancer Or Alzheimer's](#)

by Steven Salzberg, *Forbes*

Even when the science itself is good, bad reporting raises false hopes and eventually undermines the public's confidence.

▶ [The Brain Gets Its Day in Court](#)

by Greg Miller, *The Atlantic*

A new study found that the number of judicial opinions referencing neuroscience as evidence more than doubled between 2005 and 2012.

