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# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL  
VIEWS & NEWS

June 7, 2018

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Living in Gattaca](#)

A new [Life of the Law](#) podcast episode features CGS' recent co-sponsored [Gattaca events](#). *Living in Gattaca* takes a complex look at the classic film through present day perceptions of audience members and insights from the panels of scholars and advocates.



### [Facing History and Ourselves Seminar](#)

CGS is partnering with Facing History and Ourselves in the development and delivery of this year's seminar on [Race and Membership in American History: The Eugenics Movement](#), June 25-28.



### [Eugenics Bill Passes CA Senate](#)

On May 31, a California bill that would provide monetary reparations to survivors of state-sponsored eugenic sterilizations was passed unanimously by the State Senate. SB 1190, which establishes the Eugenic Sterilization Compensation Program, will now go to committee in the State Assembly. Find updates and additional information on the bill [here](#).



### [Marcy Darnovsky and Osagie Obasogie at CIIS](#)

Join CGS' Marcy Darnovsky and Osagie Obasogie as they discuss biotechnology, bioethics, and beyond at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco on Thursday, July 19 at 7pm. Tickets and additional information available [here](#).



## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Post-Graffiti Colossal Bizarro Babies: Softening us up for Engineered Infants?](#)

By Gina Maranto, POP A.R.T. Guest Columnist, *Biopolitical Times*  
Do street art renderings of outsized, muscled human babies that resemble aliens or chimeras make a future of genetically engineered babies seem more acceptable?



### [More Than Love: Eugenics and the Future of \*Loving v. Virginia\*](#)

By Osagie K. Obasogie, *Fordham Law Review*  
*Loving v. Virginia* is largely understood as a case that rejected the bigotry and hatred experienced by interracial couples and affirmed the idea that law supports love across racial lines. But *Loving* was not simply about love.



### [Fox Sports and 23andMe Rooting for an Ancestral Goal at the World Cup: What Can Possibly Go Wrong?](#)

By Charles Garzón, *Biopolitical Times*  
What's there to do when you feel left out of the planet's greatest sporting event? Fox Sports and 23andMe are banking on you wanting to rush out to take an ancestry test.



### [Connecting the Dots in a Flood of Genetic Testing Stories](#)

By Katie Hasson, *Biopolitical Times*  
In the wake of the “Golden State Killer” story, we’ve seen a barrage of reporting on genetic testing—and some encouraging attempts to connect the dots.



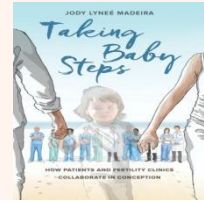
### [“All of Us” Launched](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*  
Amid hype and questions, NIH has opened national enrollment for its precision medicine data program with an ambitious goal of recruiting one million volunteers. .



[Review of \*Taking Baby Steps: How Patients and Fertility Clinics Collaborate in Conception\* by Jody Lyneé Madeira](#)

By Gina Maranto, Guest Contributor, *Biopolitical Times*  
Legal scholar Madeira examines common stereotypes about IVF and charts the journeys of those seeking infertility treatment.



[The FDA Takes on Quack Stem Cell Clinics](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*  
The FDA is beginning to move against dubious stem-cell clinics, and not a moment too soon.



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## CGS in the NEWS

▶ [Clinic Claims Success In Making Babies With 3 Parents' DNA](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]  
by Rob Stein, *NPR*  
"This is really an irresponsible kind of human experimentation...We just don't know what's going to happen to these children," Darnovsky of the Center for Genetics and Society says.



▶ [This fertility doctor is pushing the boundaries of human reproduction, with little regulation](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]  
by Ariana Eunjung Cha, *The Washington Post*  
"Come on. He clearly saw himself as in a position to begin a commercial enterprise — perhaps a very lucrative one at that — for an indication for which absolutely no one is saying it's okay," Darnovsky said.



- ▶ [Ancestry wants your spit, your DNA and your trust. Should you give them all three?](#)
- ▶ [DNA-testing companies say they can pinpoint your ethnicity. Can they?](#)
- ▶ [Who is the secretive Google subsidiary that has access to Ancestry's DNA database?](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky and Leah Lowthorp]  
Three-part series by Stuart Leavenworth, *McClatchy DC Bureau*  
Consumers are now paying to hand over their genetic code, their most sensitive individual identifier, to companies that could monetize it far into the future.

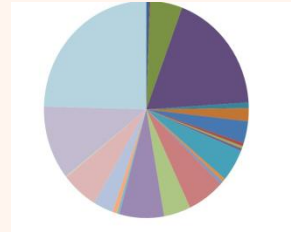


▶ [Is DNA testing telling us more than we want to know? The untold story of Ancestry.com](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Erica Evans, *Deseret News*

Will DNA be used to unlock cures to diseases and help people live longer, healthier lives? Or will it be used to manipulate nature in dangerous ways and to create lists of desirable and undesirable genes that further divide society?



### [Can We Make Life?](#)

► [Features CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Nova Wonders, *PBS*

“We just don't know what the unintended consequences might be, and anybody using a technology like this should really ask themselves whether it's worth the risk.”



### [Why More Women Are Going For The Big Freeze](#)

► [Features CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by NPR 1A, *NPR*

Oocyte cryopreservation, often called egg freezing, is becoming increasingly common, and even kind of glamorous. But it's expensive and there's no guarantee a woman will get pregnant.



### [Here's What It's Really Like to Freeze Your Eggs](#)

► [cites CGS]

Emilia Benton, *Popsugar*

Spoiler alert: it's not that easy. Freezing your eggs is actually more invasive than most people think, it's time-consuming, and it is most definitely not cheap. There are also numerous emotional and situational factors to consider.



## NEWS

Assisted Reproduction Policy in Canada

Assisted Reproductive Technologies

DNA Databases

DNA Forensics

Gene Editing

Genetic Selection / Eugenics

Genetic Testing

Race and Genetics

## GENETIC TESTING

### [Genetic Intelligence Tests Are Next to Worthless](#)

by Carl Zimmer, *The Atlantic*

An obsession with slippery genetic predictions could turn people's attention away from other things that influence how children do in school and beyond—things like their family's wealth, the stress in their neighborhoods, the quality of the schools themselves.

▶ [DTC: Direct to Children?](#)

by Katie Stoll, *The DNA Exchange*

A genetic test promising to predict the athletic and learning abilities of a child returned results for a dog and a sample of tap water.

▶ [Can Genetic Counselors Keep Up With 23andMe?](#)

by Sarah Elizabeth Richards, *The Atlantic*

The rise of spit kits is leaving consumers with lots of data and few answers. Genetic counselors could help people understand these results, but there aren't enough of them to go around.

▶ [Medicine's Wild West: 10 new genetic tests enter the market each day](#)

by Carolyn Y. Johnson, *The Washington Post*

Genetic tests are flooding the clinical market and only a small minority of physicians feel confident interpreting them.

▶ [Consumer DNA testing promises more than it delivers](#)

by Tina Hesman Saey, *ScienceNews*

Companies claim that they can read nearly everything about a person in his or her DNA profile, but consumer genetic testing has glaring limits.

## DNA DATABASES

- News TOP -

▶ [California Newborn DNA Database Shocks Parents](#)

by CBS Sacramento, *CBS News*

California has collected the DNA of infants for decades without parents realizing it. While nearly every state requires newborn blood tests, California is one of four states storing blood spots indefinitely in a state-run biobank.

▶ [23andMe Goes Global In Its Data-Mining Efforts](#)

by Megan Molteni, *Wired*

As the sheer amount of data they have obtained becomes overwhelming, 23andMe is turning to research collaborations with outside academics and institutions.

▶ [How to delete your DNA data from genetics companies like 23andMe and Ancestry](#)

by Erin Brodwin, *Business Insider*

Companies can and do sell your genetic data to third parties like pharmaceutical companies. Here's how to delete your data from a few of these services.

▶ [You Can't Hide Your Genes](#)

by Natalie Ram, *Slate*

Consumer genetic databases aren't the only side door for police to get your DNA. It's unclear whether, or under what circumstances, law enforcement can search other sources of genetic information, such as biobanks and medical databases.

## RACE AND GENETICS

- News TOP -

▶ ['It's a toxic place.' How the online world of white nationalists distorts population genetics](#)

by Michael Price, *Science*

A researcher has been tracking “informal journal clubs” dissecting population genetics papers on white nationalist and “alt-right” websites.

▶ [The Racial Spectacle of DNA Test Result Videos](#)

by Amanda Hess, *The New York Times*

As DNA test results are shared publicly on sites like YouTube and Twitter, they transform into a tool for talking about race, often in ways that obscure its realities.

**ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

- News TOP -

▶ [Egg-freezing regrets: Half of women who undergo the procedure have some remorse](#)

by Ariana Eunjung Cha, *The Washington Post*

One of the first studies exploring the patient perspective in elective egg freezing provides a nuanced view, reflecting a complicated mix of positive and negative feeling

▶ [Infertility through the ages – and how IVF changed the way we think about it](#)

by Tracey Loughran, *The Conversation*

Many people assume that infertility is a distinctively modern experience, but the history of infertility goes back much further than IVF treatment. People often did not think of it as a medical condition at all.

▶ [Here's what N.J.'s new surrogacy law means for couples and women willing to give birth to their child](#)

by Susan K. Livio, *NJ.com*

The New Jersey Gestational Carrier Act defines who can be a gestational carrier and sets conditions for surrogacy agreements in the state.

**ASSISTED REPRODUCTION POLICY IN CANADA**

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▶ [Changing the law to allow payment for surrogacy is fraught with complications](#)

by Alana Cattapan, *CBC News*

Paying for certain reproductive services in Canada — including egg donation, sperm donation and surrogacy — is currently illegal. Arguments for allowing payment mischaracterize current law and ignore the potential that it could encourage donors to take on bigger health risks.

▶ [Argument of paying for surrogacy, sperm and eggs based on misinformation](#)

by Alana Cattapan and Françoise Baylis, *The Star*

Arguments in support of amending Canadian law to allow payment for gamete donation and surrogacy perpetuate misinformation about the prevalence of surrogacy in Canada and its legal status in other countries.

▶ [Should Egg Donors Globally Be Compensated? It's Complicated.](#)

by Sian Ferguson, *Rewire.News*

Laws around egg donor compensation differ greatly all over the world. It's clear that we need to have more candid and informed discussions about compensation than we're having now.

**DNA FORENSICS**

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► [Police are using DNA testing to track down a fetus's mother](#)

by Russell Brandom, *The Verge*

If successful, the effort could identify the mother and reveal new details about why her pregnancy failed, a novel use of DNA analysis that could have a significant impact on how police investigate abortion cases nationwide.

► [DNA Data From 100 Crime Scenes Has Been Uploaded To A Genealogy Website — Just Like The Golden State Killer](#)

by Peter Aldhous, *Buzzfeed*

Parabon NanoLabs has already loaded DNA data from about 100 crime scenes into a public genealogy database. The company says it has found matches in about 20 cases with people estimated to be the suspect's third cousins or even closer relatives.

**GENETIC SELECTION / EUGENICS**

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► [Let's compensate victims of California's forced sterilization program — quickly, before they die](#)

by The Times Editorial Board, *Los Angeles Times*

Passing SB 1190 would make California the third state to compensate survivors of sterilization under the eugenics programs. This is the least that the state of California should do.

► [How Down Syndrome Is Redefining the Abortion Debate](#)

by Ruth Graham, *Slate*

Developments in prenatal testing have had profound consequences for the debate over abortion, making Down Syndrome a flashpoint in anti-abortion legislation and activism.

**GENE EDITING**

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► [Genes, synecdoche and the possibility of editing ourselves](#)

by Kurt Cobb, *Resilience*

The reductionist narrative of gene editing mistakes a part, our genetic code, for the whole human being within his or her total environment. But humans are not just their genes.

► [As D.I.Y. Gene Editing Gains Popularity, 'Someone Is Going to Get Hurt'](#)

by Emily Baumgaertner, *The New York Times*

In the past few years, biohackers across the country have taken gene editing into their own hands. What are the risks as the equipment becomes cheaper and the expertise in gene-editing techniques more widely shared?

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