

To ensure delivery, please add [info@geneticsandsociety.org](mailto:info@geneticsandsociety.org) to your address book or contacts.



# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

## BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

August 2, 2018

WEBSITE

BLOG

ABOUT US

PRESS ROOM

DONATE

SUBSCRIBE

Please also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Google+](#), [RSS](#) and on our [website](#) and [blog](#).

Announcements

Commentary

CGS in the News

News

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Recent CGS presentations](#)

On July 19, the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco featured Marcy Darnovsky and Osagie Obasogie in a conversation on biotechnology, bioethics, and beyond. The [CIIS Public Programs Podcast](#) will present their discussion in a future episode. At the end of June, Darnovsky and Obasogie participated in the Facing History and Ourselves seminar on [Race and Membership in American History: The Eugenics Movement](#).



### [Gene Editing and Human Rights Webinar - Save the Date!](#)

Save the date for a webinar on Gene Editing and Human Rights, cosponsored by CGS and [Open Global Rights](#). The webinar will take place October 4, 2018 at 9:30 AM PT / 12:30 PM ET / 4:30 PM GMT and will feature [Alicia Ely Yamin](#) (Georgetown University Law Center) and [Roberto Andorno](#) (University of Zurich). More details to come!



## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Genetically modifying future children isn't just wrong. It would harm all of us](#)

By Marcy Darnovsky, *The Guardian*

Sadly, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics has given its blessing to an unneeded and societally dangerous biotechnology, one that could be leveraged by privileged elites seeking purported genetic improvements to ensure that their children are treated as superior to the rest of us.



### [Genes for Success? Not Exactly](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

Two genome-wide association studies encourage the use of genetics to suggest environmental interventions, and are misinterpreted as identifying genes for success.



### [A Short History of Our “Genes of the Week”](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

For about seven years, the Gene of the Week was an irregular but common feature of our blog. Here are a few favorites.



### [Opening the door to new high-tech eugenics is absolute folly](#)

By Richard Hayes, CGS Executive Director Emeritus, *Financial Times*

We can and should draw firm lines between the many benign, beneficent uses of genetic technology and those pernicious uses that would divide humanity.



### [UK's Nuffield Council Releases Report on Human Genome Editing](#)

By Katie Hasson, *Biopolitical Times*

The report, which offered an implicit endorsement of human reproductive germline editing, drew a variety of reactions and interpretations.



- TOP -

## CGS in the NEWS

### [Genetically modified babies given go ahead by UK ethics body](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Ian Sample, *The Guardian*

The report's authors “acknowledge that germline editing may worsen inequality and social division, but don't believe that should stand in the way. In practical terms, they have thrown down a red carpet for unrestricted use of inheritable genetic engineering, and a gilded age in which some are treated as genetic ‘haves’ and the rest of us as ‘have-nots.’”



### [Genetic Testing Kits: Fueling Historical Discrimination?](#)

[cites CGS' Katie Hasson]

by Sarah Russo, *The Technoskeptic*

We now have the ability to edit genes to prevent certain genetic conditions from happening. However, CGS' Katie Hasson cautions, “Where some people see illness or disability that should be edited out, others make a case for maintaining diversity and changing society's inability to accommodate and include diverse embodiments and experiences.”



### [Designer Babies, CRISPR & Genetic Engineering](#)

[Interview with CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by *Project 10 Podcast*

Are designer babies going to become a reality in the near future? CGS' Marcy Darnovsky discusses the ethical implications.



▶ [23andMe and Pharmaceutical Company GlaxoSmithKline](#)

[Interview with CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]  
by As It Happens, *CBC Radio*  
This is not what people expected when they sent in their "spit kits" to 23andMe.



## NEWS

Assisted Reproduction

Genetic Testing

Human Gene Editing

Various

### HUMAN GENE EDITING

▶ [Britain's Dangerous Lapse in Medical Ethics](#)

by Donna Dickenson, *Project Syndicate*  
The Nuffield Council's recommendations do not adequately consider all the ethical or medical risks of manipulating heritable genes, including the crucial question of whether there could ever be safeguards strong enough to prevent the technology's misuse.

▶ [Our Assembly-Line Future?](#)

by Stuart A. Newman, *Counterpunch*  
The GMO human enterprise should be stopped in its tracks.

▶ [Potential DNA damage from CRISPR has been 'seriously underestimated,' study finds](#)

by Sharon Begley, *STAT*  
New research reveals that CRISPR-Cas9 can cause significantly greater genetic havoc than experts thought, perhaps enough to threaten the health of patients who would one day receive CRISPR-based therapy.

▶ [Major CRISPR errors were discovered by chance](#)

by Katherine Lindemann, *ResearchGate*  
Researcher Michael Kosicki explains in an interview how his team found that Crispr-Cas9 can cause significant and unexpected "on-target" damage.

▶ [Public Views of Gene Editing for Babies Depend on How It Would Be Used](#)

by Cary Funk and Meg Hefferon, *Pew Research Center*  
A new Pew Research Center survey finds that Americans' views on the appropriateness of human genetic modification depend in large part on the intended purpose and on whether or not human embryos would be used in testing these techniques.

### GENETIC TESTING

- News TOP -

▶ [Drug giant Glaxo Teams up with DNA testing company 23andMe](#)

by Maggie Fox, *NBC News*  
The partnership grants GlaxoSmithKline access to 23andMe's immense consumer database. But do consumers want to give big pharma access to their most intimate information -- and pay for the privilege?

▶ [Ancestry, 23andMe and others say they will follow these rules when giving DNA data to businesses or police](#)

by Tony Romm and Drew Harwell, *The Washington Post*  
DTC genetic testing companies agree to "best practices" for consumer privacy, but do these voluntary guidelines do enough to protect consumers?

▶ [For Some African-Americans, Genetic Testing Reopens Past Wounds](#)

by Amy Dockser Marcus, *The Wall Street Journal*  
Calls for increasing the diversity of participants in genetics research have been met with skepticism. After all, writes Marcus, science has a dark history of exploiting people of color.

▶ [When a DNA Test Shatters Your Identity](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic*

With consumer genetic testing readily available and increasingly popular, revealing decades-old family secrets has never been easier.

## ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

- News TOP -

### ▶ [As the dark side of IVF slowly comes into focus, even more transparency is needed](#)

by Pamela Mahoney Tsigidinos, *STAT*

Women and their partners can learn more today from a fast food menu than they can from a clinic selling expensive and life-altering assisted reproduction procedures. Better oversight, stronger patient safeguards, and more transparency about the risks and limitations of assisted reproductive technology are needed.

### ▶ [IVF 'grave train' giving couples false hope says senior medic Prof Robert Winston](#)

by Liz Connor, *The Irish News*

The 40-year anniversary of IVF should be a time to re-evaluate its successes and reflect seriously about how misleading statistics and clinic avarice can lead to exploitation and distress.

### ▶ [The Overlooked Emotions of Sperm Donation](#)

by Ashley Fetters, *The Atlantic*

As simple a transaction as sperm donation can seem to be, the social and emotional challenges that can arise between participants are, for many, uncharted.

### ▶ [Woman sues Toronto fertility clinic for loss of her eggs](#)

by Peter Goffin, *The Globe and Mail*

A Toronto woman is suing a fertility clinic that she claims was responsible for the loss of dozens of her eggs. The case has drawn attention to an industry that doctors and medical regulators say lacks accountability and oversight.

### ▶ [Tech firms are giving workers a day off to protest Israel's anti-LGBT law](#)

by David Kaufman, *Quartz*

Single women in Israel can now access state-supported surrogacy, which was previously only available to heterosexual married couples. But by excluding single men, the new law effectively blocks access to surrogacy for gay men.

## VARIOUS

- News TOP -

### ▶ [What Do We Do With the Science of Monstrous Men?](#)

by Daniel Engber, *Slate*

Instead of using a scientist's misbehavior to change the way we see his genius, we often let his genius change the way we see his misbehavior.

### ▶ [Survival of the Richest](#)

by Douglas Rushkoff, *Medium*

For the super-wealthy, the future of technology is really about just one thing: escape.

### ▶ [CRISPR plants now subject to tough GM laws in European Union](#)

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature News*

In a major setback for proponents of gene editing for agriculture, Europe's highest court ruled that gene-edited crops should be subject to the same stringent regulations as conventional genetically modified organisms.

**DONATE NOW**  
SECURE DONATIONS  
BY GROUNDSPRING.org