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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL
VIEWS & NEWS

September 7, 2017

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CGS Bids Fond Farewell to Jonathan Chernoguz

We sadly note the departure of Jonathan Chernoguz. A recent graduate of UC Berkeley who majored in political economy and minored in public policy, Jonathan came to CGS as an intern in 2014 and has worked with us since. We are thankful for his invaluable contributions over the years, and wish him the best for his future endeavors.



Video of "Talking Biopolitics with Ben Hurlbut and Patricia Williams" Now Available

On August 23, CGS kicked off the 2017-2018 season of *Talking Biopolitics*, a series serving as a platform for cutting-edge thinkers to discuss the meanings of emerging human biotechnologies. This year's first conversation featured Ben Hurlbut and Patricia Williams discussing Ben's recent book *Experiments in Democracy: Human Embryo Research and the Politics of Bioethics*. Video is currently available on [YouTube](#), along with a [transcript](#).



CGS Launches New Column: Pop ART

This month, CGS will be launching a new monthly column for [Biopolitical Times](#), "Pop A.R.T.," discussing "what happens when pop culture and assisted reproductive technologies meet, by the experts who know both best." The goal of the column is to amplify the perspectives of reproductive health, rights, and justice advocates and scholars on A.R.T. issues. Watch for our first column by medical anthropologist and playwright [Ugo Edu](#), who is currently a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Davis.



[Work with CGS as a Fall Intern](#)

CGS is pleased to announce that we are currently accepting internship applications for Fall 2017. Applicants should demonstrate familiarity with or strong interest in the politics and social implications of human genetic and assisted reproductive technologies. Internships for 2-4 months are available, with stipend negotiable depending on skills and experience, or arranging course credit in cooperation with your institution. Find more information [here](#).



CGS COMMENTARY

[7 Questionable Claims in Reporting on Gene Editing Human Embryos](#)

by Katie Hasson

It's worth taking a moment to evaluate oft-repeated questions claims made made journalists when reporting on the latest gene editing "breakthrough."



[Researchers Condemn Fertility Doctor's Rogue Science](#)

by Leah Lowthorp

New York-based fertility doctor John Zhang is finally facing criticism from his peers for proceeding with the unapproved, controversial mitochondrial replacement technique in US and Mexico fertility clinics last year.



[How the Planet Hospital Case Offers a Nuanced Glimpse into Transnational Surrogacy](#)

by Kayla Tolentino

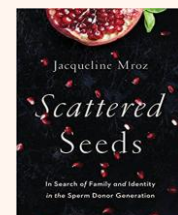
Anthropologist Daisy Deomampo discusses how a controversial surrogacy agency facing fraud charges sheds light on many of the overlooked aspects of transnational surrogacy.



["Scattered Seeds" Makes the Case for Disclosure of Sperm Donors](#)

by Gina Maranto, *Biopolitical Times* Guest Contributor

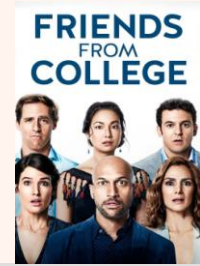
Journalist Jacqueline Mroz's *Scattered Seeds* offers a compelling, if at times painful, set of narratives suggesting sperm-donor information shouldn't necessarily be denied to offspring.



[What “Friends from College” Gets Right About IVF](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

The latest Netflix series, *Friends from College*, takes on the reality of using in vitro fertilization — with surprising accuracy.



- TOP -

CGS in the NEWS

[How egg-freezing is keeping more women in the tech industry: The](#)

[insider story](#)

[citing CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Alison DeNisco, *Tech Republic*

“There has not been additional evidence produced, or studies done on the safety and efficacy of egg freezing. We have a lot of anecdotal evidence that there are problems, and we don’t have the kind of studies you would expect for a procedure that so many women are undergoing.”



[CRISPR and the Ethics of Human Embryo Research](#)

[\[citing CGS\]](#)

by Brendan P. Foht, *Foreign Affairs*

"In a press release responding to the news, the Center for Genetics and Society, an advocacy group broadly opposed to genetic modification of human embryos, made a similar argument, noting that ‘preventing the transmission of serious inherited diseases does not require gene editing, since that can be avoided safely and in nearly every case with existing embryo screening techniques, where appropriate’."



[Exclusive: Inside The Lab Where Scientists Are Editing DNA In](#)

[Human Embryos](#)

[citing CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

“I think it’s extraordinarily disturbing. We’ll see fertility clinics advertising gene editing for enhancement purposes. We’ll see children being born who are said to be biologically superior.”



NEWS

Bioethics

Genomics

Human Genetic Modification

HUMAN GENETIC MODIFICATION

▶ [A New Way to Reproduce](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

As control over the fundamental units of reproduction advances, creation of artificial gametes is drawing the attention of entrepreneurs, legal experts, bioethicists, and specialists in in vitro fertilization.

▶ [Two-thirds of Americans approve of editing human DNA to treat disease](#)

by Alessandra Potenza, *The Verge*

Across the board, people want to be involved in a public discussion about editing the human genome — even if their opinions vary based on religious beliefs.

GENOMICS

- News TOP -

▶ [White nationalists are flocking to genetic ancestry tests. Some don't like what they find](#)

by Eric Boodman, *STAT*

White nationalists are continually trying to use DNA to prove their "pure" whiteness — only for DNA results to show otherwise.

▶ [Sessions' New Forensic Science Adviser Has a History of Opposing Pro-Science Reforms](#)

by Pema Levy, *Mother Jones*

The appointment of Missouri Prosecutor Ted Hunt shows little effort on behalf of Department of Justice to improve forensic science.

▶ [Proove Biosciences, which sold dubious DNA tests to predict addiction risk, sells off assets as CEO departs amid criminal probe](#)

by Charles Piller, *STAT*

Controversial genetic-testing firm, Proove Biosciences, has been placed into court-ordered receivership for "restructuring and asset sale" after selling tests predicting opioid addiction.

▶ [Study finds new way genome privacy can be breached](#)

by Bradley J. Fikes, *San Diego Union Tribune*

As big data and genomics increasingly intersect, a new study shows people can be identified with anonymized DNA samples when tagged to other individual characteristics, putting privacy in jeopardy.

BIOETHICS

- News TOP -

▶ [The ethics of creating GMO humans](#)

by Editorial Board, *Los Angeles Times*

A recent gene-editing study is emblematic of a key problem: Public policy and the field of bioethics have not caught up with the science of genetic intervention.

▶ [Will CRISPR fears fade with familiarity?](#)

by Patricia Stapleton, *The Conversation*

Americans' acceptance of these technologies has evolved alongside their increased usage, as we've gotten used to the idea of physicians manipulating embryos. But the ethical challenges posed by these procedures remain – and in fact are increasing along with our capabilities.

► [We're Failing Our Test Run for the Age of CRISPR](#)

by David M. Perry, *The Nation*

Preventing this potentially dystopian future where altered genes separates the haves from the have-nots starts by shifting discourse.



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