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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

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[Talking Biopolitics with Dorothy Roberts and Jonathan Marks](#)

Wednesday, November 12, 11am PT / 2pm ET / 19:00 GMT

Please join us for this exciting live conversation. [Dorothy Roberts](#) and [Jonathan Marks](#) will assess the reception of Nicholas Wade's controversial book [A Troublesome Inheritance](#), and consider how we can contest scientific racism as we move forward.



[Charis Thompson Interviewed by David Winickoff: Online Now](#)

In case you missed today's intellectually and politically stimulating conversation about Charis Thompson's new book [Good Science: The Ethical Choreography of Stem Cell Research](#), it's now online [here](#).



[The Collapse of a Dangerous Analogy: Or, why mitochondria are much more than batteries](#)

by Jessica Cussins

Amid a flood of new evidence that mitochondria impact an individual's traits, the editors at *New Scientist* have made a "U-turn" on "three-parent babies." Their new conclusion: "It's more messy than we thought."



[Synthetic Biology Is What, Exactly?](#)

by Pete Shanks

The European Commission is the latest body to struggle with defining the term synthetic biology, and has produced a 65-page report.



[An End to Sterilization Abuses in California Prisons](#)

by Jessica Cussins

The signing of SB 1135 into California law by Gov. Jerry Brown is an important victory in the fight for the remembrance of our state's eugenic history and its ongoing implications.



[Hwang Woo-suk Reaches the Silver Screen](#)

by Pete Shanks

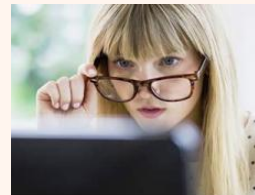
A new movie opening in Korea is explicitly about how the cloning and stem-cell fraud was revealed, though the names of the principals have been changed.



[The Stupidity of the 'Smart Gene'](#)

by Jessica Cussins, *Huffington Post*

Now that “one of the largest, most rigorous genetic studies of human cognition” has effectively turned up “nothing,” can we finally put the notion of “smart genes” behind us?



NEWS

▶ [The Role of International Law for Surrogacy Must Be Expanded](#)

by Lisa Ikemoto, *The New York Times*, *Room for Debate*

The absence of law creates a “race to the bottom,” which serves agencies and clinics well, but leaves surrogates, intended parents, and children unprotected.

▶ [Richard Dawkins Gets it all Wrong, Yet Again](#)

by George Estreich, *Salon*

As a social media event, the Dawkins kerfuffle was fleeting, but as a conversation, it offers a glimpse of a larger question: How do “we” — that is, the non-disabled — think about people with intellectual disabilities?

▶ [California Bans Coerced Sterilization of Female Inmates](#)

by Corey G. Johnson, *Center for Investigative Reporting*

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed a bill that protects prisoners in county jails, state prisons and other detention centers, after many abuses were uncovered.

▶ [State to Send Out About 200 Eugenics Payments](#)

by Meghann Evans, *Winston-Salem Journal*

The first eugenics compensation payments are to be sent out by Oct. 31, and a second payment will be sent to victims next year.

▶ [Should You Freeze Your Eggs?](#)

by Robin Marantz Henig, *Slate*

An egg freezing party is not a great place to find answers to this or other questions.

▶ [Surrogacy Boom in Mexico Brings Tales of Missing Money and Stolen Eggs](#)

by Jo Tuckman, *The Guardian*

Gestational mothers and new parents tell about the dark side of an industry that operates in a legal grey area.

▶ [Lawsuit: Wrong Sperm Delivered to Lesbian Couple](#)

by Meredith Rodriguez, *Chicago Tribune*

An Ohio woman is suing her sperm bank, alleging that the company mistakenly gave her vials from an African-American donor, a fact that she said has made it difficult to raise her daughter in an all-white community.

▶ [South African Egg Donor Sent to India, Realizes Agency is Scamming Recipients](#)

by Miranda Ward, *We Are Egg Donors*

Martene is an active egg donor who has traveled internationally for her egg donations. While the recent cycles have been smooth and positive, her first cycle was a different story.

▶ [Interview: The Global Trade in Reproduction](#)

by Carmel Shalev, *BioEdge*

There have been too many cases of harm to children, and to women who agree to take part in reproductive collaborations for the benefit of others.

▶ [Fertility Clinics: What the Law Says](#)

by Laignee Barron, *The Phnom Penh Post*

Cambodia has its first IVF clinic, as well as several private and public fertility counselors, but no corresponding laws.

▶ [The Story of 10 Couples Who Fought Costa Rica's Ban on in Vitro Fertilization](#)

by Johanna Torres, *The Costarican Times [Costa Rica]*

A new documentary tells the story of ten couples in Costa Rica who sued their government after it banned IVF.

▶ [US Doctors Update Gamete Donation Guidelines](#)

by Michael Cook, *BioEdge*

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine has updated its guidelines for gamete donation in the light of the growing recognition that offspring may have a right to know their genetic parents.

▶ ['You Can Even Tailor Your Baby's Sex': Inside an Illicit Beijing Surrogacy Firm](#)

by Nectar Gan, *South China Morning Post*

One surrogacy agency in Beijing offers the option of choosing the sex of your child if you add a few thousand yuan.

▶ [Vietnam Still Plagued by Sex-Selective Abortions](#)

by Thao Vi - An Dien, *Thanh Nien News*
Vietnam must crack down on its misogynistic mindset to stem sex-selective abortions and its gross gender imbalance.

▶ [Genetic Testing for All Women? Not a Solution to the Breast Cancer Epidemic](#)

by Karuna Jaggar, *Huffington Post*
The recommendation that all women over age 30 be screened for BRCA mutations fails to recognize the significant limitations and harms of mass genetic testing in the current health care environment.

▶ [Women Better Informed About Prenatal Genetic Testing Choose Fewer Tests](#)

News Medical
A clinical trial led by UC San Francisco has found that when pregnant women are educated about their choices on prenatal genetic testing, the number of tests actually drops.

▶ [Finding Risks, Not Answers, in Gene Tests](#)

by Denise Grady and Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*
The FBI is preparing to accelerate the collection of DNA profiles for the government's massive new biometric identification database.

▶ [With Consumer Genetic Testing, Buyer Beware](#)

by Editorial, *The Boston Globe*
The flood of data that comes with direct-to-consumer genetic testing raises a host of ethical questions that neither testing firms nor their customers may anticipate.

▶ [Experts Provide Much-Needed Policy Analysis for Clinical Integration of Next Generation Sequencing](#)

by Glenna Picton, *Baylor College of Medicine News*
As genetic sequencing becomes part of clinical care, there is a critical need to establish appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks to address potential challenges.

▶ [Nobel Laureate: Big Data and Full-Genome Analysis not all they're Cracked up to be](#)

by Mohit Kumar Jolly, *The Conversation*
Walter Gilbert explains why whole genome sequencing is not accurate for medical diagnosis.

▶ [Can a DNA Test Reveal if You're an Indigenous Australian?](#)

by David Weisbrot, *The Age*
An Australian Senator recently created controversy by claiming in her first speech to Parliament that going back six generations, she was related to a renowned Tasmanian Aboriginal leader.

▶ [Kaiser Permanente's Genetic Database Is Boon to Medical Research](#)

by Emily Anthes, *Bloomberg Businessweek*
The health network has accumulated genetic data on more than 210,000 members.

▶ [FBI Plans Rapid DNA Dragnet](#)

by Aliya Sternstein, *Nextgov*
The FBI is preparing to accelerate the collection of DNA profiles for the government's massive new biometric identification database.

▶ [**Criminals Could Appeal After Home Office Admits Potentially Misleading DNA Evidence Presented to Juries**](#)

by Keith Perryk, *The Telegraph [UK]*

A leading forensic expert warns that subjective interpretations of DNA evidence are potentially biased and unscientific.

▶ [**DNA Samples Stir Doubts but Police Detectives Find Them Invaluable**](#)

by Natasha Robinson, *The Australian*

Genes on the thin blue line: despite doubts about aspects of DNA capture, police see it as invaluable.

▶ [**If Synthetic Biology Lets us Play God, we Need Rules**](#)

Zócalo Public Square

Soon we could be able to program DNA with the same ease we program computers. What new responsibilities will be imposed on us?

▶ [**A New Generation of GMOs**](#)

by Josie Garthwaite, *Ensisia*

Is synthetic biology on its way to our farms, markets and tables?

▶ [**White House Issues New Regulations for Dangerous Biological Research**](#)

by Donald G. McNeil, *The New York Times*

The Obama administration issued new guidelines intended to strengthen the oversight of federally funded biology research that could inadvertently produce bioweapons.

▶ [**Is Modern Technology Killing Us?**](#)

by Erica Etelson, *Truthout*

"Science now makes all things possible...but it does not thereby make all possible things desirable." - Lewis Mumford, *The Myth of the Machine*.

▶ [**Setting the Record Straight**](#)

by Daniel Cossins, *The Scientist*

Scientists are taking to social media to challenge weak research, share replication attempts in real time, and counteract hype. Will this online discourse enrich the scientific process?

▶ [**The Troubling Persistence of Eugenicist Thought in Modern America**](#)

by Michael Brendan Dougherty, *The Week*

We no longer talk of "unfit" children, but we'll still destroy them in the name of quality of life.

▶ [**Database Shows \\$3.5 Billion in Industry Ties to Doctors, Hospitals**](#)

by Chad Terhune, Noam N. Levey, Sandra Poindexter, *Los Angeles Times*

Advocates have long been concerned that this corporate largess — from speaking and consulting fees to luxury trips and meals — can lead to patients getting the wrong drugs or medical procedures.

▶ [**A Closed Loop**](#)

by Jamie Davies, *Aeon*

The DNA helix gave 20th-century biology its symbol. But the more we learn, the more life circles back to an older image.

▶ [Australian Appeals Court Upholds Patents on Isolated BRCA1 DNA](#)

by Robert Cook-Deegan, *Genomics Law Report*

The Australian court seems not to have dismissed the U.S. Supreme Court's concern, but rather to have entirely missed it.

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