

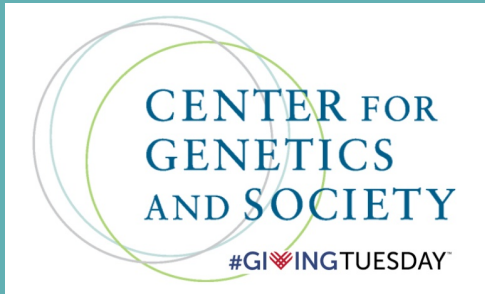


BioPolitical

News&Views

November 25, 2020

SPOTLIGHT



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COMMENTARY



On the Status of Women, Chimeras, and Eugenics in Today’s World

Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times* | 11.24.2020

The last couple of weeks have given us some remarkable stories – ludicrous, thought-provoking or both – from around the world. Some of these takes are so scorching hot that they self-combust.

CGS IN THE NEWS

The Bioeconomics of Covid-19

Judith Levine, *n+1* | 11.17.2020

How, exactly, do we value a human life? During the pandemic, the elderly and workers not deemed “essential” are treated as sacrificial, while libertarians scheme to generate herd immunity at fancifully low percentages and market logic is called upon to triage the infected as the neoliberal state dismantles the concept of public good. Quotes CGS' Marcy Darnovsky and Pete Shanks.

WHAT WE'RE READING

EUGENICS | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION | STEM CELLS |
DATA & PRIVACY | CANCEL CULTURE

EUGENICS

ICE is deporting women at Irwin amid criminal investigation into Georgia doctor

Molly O'Toole, *Los Angeles Times* | 11.18.2020

The women, as well as lawyers, advocates and members of Congress, allege that ICE is retaliating against the group for speaking out against their treatment in the agency's custody, and attempting to obstruct the investigation by withholding medical records and physically removing the evidence: the women themselves.

Abortion provider changes name over Marie Stopes eugenics link

BBC | 11.17.2020

Marie Stopes International, which provides contraception and abortions to women and girls in 37 countries, is now known as MSI Reproductive Choices. The charity said Stopes' views on eugenics were in "stark contrast" to its values. It added that the events of 2020 reaffirmed a name change was the right decision.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

The Last Children of Down Syndrome

Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic* | 11.18.2020

Prenatal testing is changing who gets born and who doesn't, and this is just the beginning. Few people speak publicly about wanting to “eliminate” Down syndrome. Yet individual choices are adding up to something very close to that, despite better healthcare and education that have expanded opportunities for people with Down syndrome.

False Labor

Lena Dunham, *Harper's* | 11.18.2020

The author reflects on the painful medical, social, and psychological aspects of her experience with infertility.

STEM CELLS

California's vote to revive controversial stem-cell institute sparks debate

Nidhi Subbaraman, *Nature* | 11.16.2020

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine will receive billions in state funding — but some

scientists oppose the plan.

DATA & PRIVACY

Prince George's will use DNA registries to solve cold cases through new DOJ grant

[Katie Mettler](#), *The Washington Post* | 11.19.2020

The funding could help investigators reopen as many as 60 cold cases using forensic genetic genealogy — an investigative technique that draws on privately curated DNA databases from popular genealogy websites to compare with samples collected from crimes.

Resisting the rise of facial recognition

[Antoaneta Roussi](#), *Nature* | 11.18.2020

Growing use of surveillance technology has prompted calls for bans and stricter regulation.

CANCEL CULTURE

What if Instead of Calling People Out, We Called Them In?

[Jessica Bennett](#), *The New York Times* | 11.19.2020

Professor Loretta J. Ross is combating cancel culture with a popular class at Smith College. She suggests “calling in,” which involves conversation, compassion and context. “Some people you can work with and some people you can work around. But the thing that I want to emphasize is that the calling-in practice means you always keep a seat at the table for them if they come back.”

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