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# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL  
VIEWS & NEWS

May 3, 2018

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Eugenics Reparations Bill Update](#)

[SB 1190](#), the California bill that would provide reparations for survivors, of state-coerced sterilizations under California's twentieth-century eugenics law passed the Senate's Public Safety Committee on April 17 and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Governor Brown repealed the eugenics law in 1979 during his second term as Governor; if the bill is passed by the full legislature, he will have the opportunity before he leaves office to right an enormous wrong carried out by the state. More background on the bill is available [here](#).



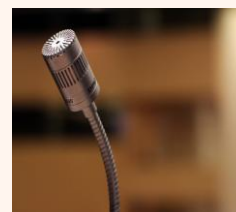
### [Coming Soon: Life of the Law Gattaca Podcast](#)

[Life of the Law](#) has released a podcast episode featuring 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.



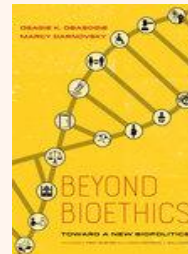
### [CGS Presentations](#)

Leah Lowthorp presented "Geneticizing Identity: Performing the DNA Ancestry Test Reveal on YouTube" at the Western States Folklore Society 2018 annual meeting in Los Angeles. And check out [video](#) of Marcy Darnovsky's February 2018 presentation at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference on the panel, [Gene Editing and Human Identity: Promising Advances and Ethical Challenges](#).



## [Beyond Bioethics Giveaway](#)

Congratulations to the winners of our *Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics* giveaway on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Thanks to all who participated and shared the announcement widely. Be sure to "like" and "follow" our pages for news updates and future giveaways!



## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Forensic DNA and the "Golden State Killer"](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

The use of DNA for forensic purposes is long overdue for reassessment. The alleged identification of the "Golden State Killer" may be sparking a debate that has been needed for decades.



### [3-person IVF and Lesbian Motherhood: A Flawed Argument for Reproductive Equality](#)

By Leah Lowthorp, *Biopolitical Times*

A recent paper arguing that nuclear genome transfer (aka 3-person IVF) should be an option for lesbian reproduction privileges genetic relatedness achieved through unsafe, experimental technologies over social and legal efforts to protect the diverse family formations already in existence.



### [So, CRISPR Doesn't Cause All Those Off-target Effects After All?](#)

By Katie Hasson, *Biopolitical Times*

The retraction of a controversial study about off-target effects underscores how little we know about whether CRISPR can be used safely in humans.



### ["Race" and "IQ" Yet Again](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

An essay by David Reich in the *New York Times* provoked yet another storm of controversy surrounding race and IQ. The essay revived harmful, discredited ideas while bringing little that is new to the conversation.



### [Is 23andMe in Trouble? Should They Be?](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times*

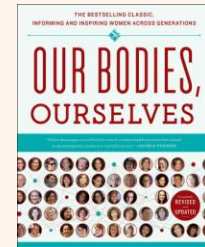
Anne Wojcicki, founder and CEO of 23andMe, wrote a piece for *STAT* arguing that, like pregnancy tests, genetic testing need not be restricted to experts. Unfortunately, both the analogy and the DTC model of genetic testing have a number of flaws.



### [Women's Bodies, Women's Identities, and the Next Chapter for Our Bodies Ourselves](#)

By Gina Maranto, guest contributor, and Marcy Darnovsky, *Biopolitical Times*

Our Bodies Ourselves has announced that it will cease updating its print and online information, but OBOS' founding vision of the close ties between women's health and social, environmental, and political conditions provides a solid foundation for the organization's new era and an inspiration for others.



### [International Calls to Model Problematic UK Mitochondrial Replacement Legislation](#)

By Leah Lowthorp, *Biopolitical Times*

Recent calls in Singapore, Australia, and Canada to legalize "mitochondrial replacement" cite the UK's approval of these techniques as a model, but don't recognize how problematic that process was.



### [French Scientists Call for Stop to "Fake News" about Genetics and Intelligence](#)

By Leah Lowthorp, *Biopolitical Times*

A prestigious group of French researchers recently published a statement in *Le Monde* decrying the current proliferation of pseudoscientific claims linking genetics and intelligence, particularly in relation to social class, ethnicity, and gender.



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## CGS in the NEWS

### [New genetic sleuthing tools helped track down the Golden State](#)

#### ► [Killer suspect](#)

[cites CGS' Katie Hasson]

by Tina Hesman Saey, *Science News*

Police used a public genealogy database to find a genetic link to a suspected serial killer, raising privacy and ethics concerns. As Katie Hasson points out, "People need to think about the ways making their genetic data public also makes their relatives' DNA public."



▶ [Parenting of the future: Many embryos, each with DNA profile](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Malcolm Ritter, *Associated Press*

Both selecting and engineering the genes of future children are fraught prospects. "It's certainly something we have to take seriously and think through now...This is not just a technical or science question," said Marcy Darnovsky.



▶ [Race and Ideology in Science and Medicine](#)

[features Osagie Obasogie]

Against the Grain, KPFA

Long-discredited notions of race as rooted in biology fueled eugenics policies and the Nazi extermination project. And yet, Osagie Obasogie asserts, biological race as an ideology continues to inform and infect key developments in science and medicine.



▶ [We're getting closer to cloning humans. Here's what's stopping us.](#)

[cites Center for Genetics and Society]

by Claudia Geib, *Futurism*

What barriers are in place to prevent a reality where human cloning is acceptable?



## NEWS

Assisted Reproduction

DNA Forensics

Eugenics

Gene Therapy

Genomics

Genetic Selection

Genetic Testing

Stem Cells

Various

## GENE THERAPY

▶ [CRISPR trials are about to begin in people—but we still don't know how well it works in monkeys](#)

by Emily Mullin, *MIT Technology Review*

Human trials of CRISPR are moving forward without clear data on the success of monkey trials.

▶ [When curing a disease with gene therapy is bad business](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

Companies wonder if gene therapy will be a sustainable business model despite sky-high prices for the treatments.

▶ [A Flawed Study Shows How Little We Understand Crispr's Effects](#)

by Megan Molteni, *Wired*

There's so little published data about the potential for Crispr's unintended cuts that a single, flawed paper had an outsized effect. Despite its retraction, the question of whether Crispr is safe to use in humans is still open.

▶ [Gene Therapy For Inherited Blood Disorder Reduced Transfusions](#)

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

Patients with beta-thalassemia who received gene therapy were able to stop or sharply reduce the regular blood transfusions needed to alleviate their life-threatening anemia.

## EUGENICS

- News TOP -

▶ [California lawmakers seek reparations for people sterilized by the state](#)

by Samantha Young, *The Mercury News*

The painful story of how one family was affected by California's eugenic sterilization practices highlights the importance of a proposed state law that would compensate survivors.

▶ [Emma, Carrie, Vivian: How A Family Became A Test Case For Forced Sterilizations](#)

by Jennifer Schmidt and Thomas Lu, *NPR*

"Three generations of imbeciles are enough," wrote Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., in his infamous 1927 opinion. This is how the Buck family's case ended up in the Supreme Court.

▶ [Peru's Fujimori Faces New Charges Over Forced Sterilizations](#)

by Telesur, *Telesur TV*

Over 2,000 lawsuits have been filed against Peru's former president, Alberto Fujimori, over the alleged forced sterilization of mostly poor and indigenous women that took place during his term.

## DNA FORENSICS

- News TOP -

▶ [Framed for Murder By His Own DNA](#)

by Katie Worth, *Frontline*

In 2012, Lukis Anderson was accused of a murder that he did not commit after his DNA was found under the victim's fingernails. Despite having been hospitalized on the night of the murder, he spent more than five months in jail as a suspect.

▶ [The Golden State Killer Is Tracked Through a Thicket of DNA, and Experts Shudder](#)

by Gina Kolata and Heather Murphy, *The New York Times*

The arrest of a suspect has set off alarms among some scientists and ethicists worried that consumers' genetic data may be widely accessed by law enforcement.

▶ [How a Genealogy Website Led to the Alleged Golden State Killer](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic*

Police use of a public genealogy database to find an alleged serial killer brought both the power of genetic genealogy research and its many ethical and privacy issues to public attention.

## ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

- News TOP -

### ▶ [Chinese Sperm Bank Seeks Donors. Only Good Communists Need Apply.](#)

by Javier Hernandez, *The New York Times*

President Xi Jinping's drive to restore the Communist Party's place at the center of everyday life in China has brought an ad for a sperm bank listing support for the Communist Party and Mr. Xi as its top requirements for potential donors.

### ▶ [Vulnerable would-be parents being sold 'false hope' by overseas IVF clinics, regulator warns](#)

by Alex Matthews-King, *The Independent*

People hoping to be parents in the UK are being sold "false hope" by foreign IVF clinics claiming success rates as high as 98 percent based on highly selective data.

### ▶ [Bioethics committee reviewing stand on genetic modification for mitochondrial disorders](#)

by Jalelah Abu Baker, *Channel News Asia*

In Singapore, the Bioethics Advisory Committee is reviewing its current stand against genetic modification with regards to mitochondrial replacement.

### ▶ [Raising Israel's Posthumously Conceived Children](#)

by Nicola Abé, *Spiegel Online*

The parents of an Israeli soldier, who passed away at age 25, are now raising his biological child who was conceived 7 years after his death.

## GENETIC SELECTION

- News TOP -

### ▶ [Too Many Men](#)

by Jasu Hu, *The Washington Post*

In the world's two largest countries, a combination of cultural preferences, government decree and modern medical technology has created a gender imbalance where men outnumber women by 70 million.

### ▶ [The Ethical Case for Having a Baby With Down Syndrome](#)

by Chris Kaposy, *The New York Times*

A father makes the case that community acceptance of people with Down syndrome isn't possible without acceptance into our families.

## GENETIC TESTING

- News TOP -

### ▶ [23andMe Wants You To Share Even More Health Data](#)

by Megan Molteni, *Wired*

23andMe has rolled out a new health hub where users are asked to share information about treatment for common diagnoses.

▶ [Employees Jump at Genetic Testing. Is That a Good Thing?](#)

by Natasha Singer, *The New York Times*

Many companies are starting to offer genetic testing as part of their health benefits package, despite the potential disadvantages of testing healthy populations for genetic predispositions.

▶ [Parents sue over state's newborn blood testing for genetic diseases](#)

by Tracy Samilton, *Michigan Radio*

A Michigan attorney has filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of nine parents whose infants' blood was taken and tested without their consent.

## GENOMICS

- News TOP -

▶ [In human cells, scientists find DNA that looks like a twisted knot instead of a double helix](#)

by Deborah Netburn, *Los Angeles Times*

Scientists found a new DNA structure, called an i-motif, in human cells for the first time, highlighting that there is still much to learn about the human genome.

▶ [How Many Genes Do Cells Need? Maybe Almost All of Them](#)

by Veronique Greenwood, *Quanta Magazine*

Complicating the basic rules of genome biology, a new study reveals that the health of cells depends on the highly intertwined effects of many genes.

## STEM CELLS

- News TOP -

▶ [Miracle cures or modern quackery? Stem cell clinics multiply, with heartbreaking results for some patients.](#)

by Laurie McGinley and William Wan, *The Washington Post*

Cases like that of a woman who was left blind after a stem cell procedure are prompting lawsuits and new efforts by state and federal regulators to rein in potentially dangerous and worthless treatments.

▶ [Patient lawsuits, federal investigations and a 'virtual' PhD: Inside a would-be stem cell empire](#)

by Michael Hiltzik, *Los Angeles Times*

The field of rapidly proliferating stem cell clinics offering unproven therapies strives for a veneer of scientific legitimacy as it fends off lawsuits and increased scrutiny by the FDA.

## VARIOUS

- News TOP -

▶ [Is the World Ready for Synthetic People?](#)

by David Ewing Duncan, *NEO.LIFE*

Stanford bioengineer Drew Endy doesn't mind bringing dragons to life. What really scares him are humans.

▶ [Federal appeals court hears CRISPR patent dispute](#)

by Jon Cohen, *Science*

The battle over the CRISPR patent continues in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

▶ ['A full rescue': Drug injected before birth treats rare genetic disorder](#)

by Eric Boodman, *STAT*

A rare genetic mutation results in the absence of sweat glands when the fetus lacks an essential protein between weeks 20 and 30 of development. Three healthy children were born after doctors tried injecting the missing protein in utero.

▶ [Human Brain Organoids Thrive in Mouse Brains](#)

by Ashley Yeager, *The Scientist*

Researchers found that human brain tissue “organoids” transplanted into the brains of mice formed connections and continued to develop.

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