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## CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL  
VIEWS & NEWS

February 11, 2016

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Applications Open: CGS Project Director on Race, Genetics and Society](#)

The [American Council of Learned Societies](#) has selected CGS as a host organization for its [Public Fellows Program](#). Applications for CGS Project Director on Race, Genetics, and Society can be made through the ACLS until March 24.



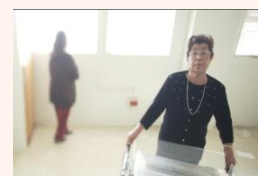
### [Talking Biopolitics on No Más Bebés](#)

Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino, director and producer of the documentary *No Más Bebés*, talk about their film, their research and California's history of sterilization with Alexandra Stern.



### [Join us for a Screening and Discussion of No Más Bebés, February 16](#)

Next up in the [Being Human in the Biotech Age film series](#), on the UC Berkeley campus is a screening of *No Más Bebés*, followed by an in-person discussion with filmmakers Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino. [RSVP on Facebook](#) for updates and more info!



## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Israeli Parents, Indian Surrogates, a Nepali Earthquake, and "Cheap White Eggs](#)

by Diane Beeson, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

A recent Radiolab episode reveals rarely examined layers of complexity in the typically fairy-tale accounts of cross-border surrogacy.



### [Race, Genetics and Society](#)

by Elliot Hosman

We highlight recent research by CGS Advisory Board member Dorothy Roberts, a CGS position opening, and our recent news and resources on race and genetics.

### [California's Stem Cell Agency Considers "Editing" Human Embryos](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky

Three takeaway points from CIRM's recent meeting on human gene editing.



### [Center for Genetics and Society Comments on Just-Released Report on Germline Mitochondrial Manipulations](#)

[Press statement]

The National Academy of Medicine's report conclusion – that no ethical or policy considerations stand in the way of clinical investigations going forward – seems at odds with the many cautions, risks, and concerns that it raises.



### [Center for Genetics and Society Statement on UK Approval of Gene Editing Research Using Human Embryos](#)

[Press statement]

"Is today's decision part of a strategy to overturn the widespread agreement that

puts genetically modified humans off limits?"



### [CGS Website Reboot: We Need Your Feedback!](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

Please fill out a [quick survey](#) to let us know how we can best improve CGS's online presence.



## CGS in the NEWS

### ▶ [We Are This Close to "Designer Babies"](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Nina Liss-Schultz, *Mother Jones*

Issues to consider in light of the UK's approval of using CRISPR gene editing on human embryos for research.

### ▶ [Three-parent DNA treatment for rare defect raises debate \[with video\]](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

*PBS Newshour*

PBS's William Brangham discusses germline mitochondrial manipulations with Jeffrey Kahn and Marcy Darnovsky.

### ▶ [Babies With Genes From 3 People Could Be Ethical, Panel Says](#)

[\[with audio\]](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

"People are talking about going forward not just with this, but with the kind of genetic engineering that will produce outright genetically modified human beings."

▶ [U.K. Scientists Given OK to Use 'Gene Editing' on Human Embryos](#)

[Cites CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by David Mills, *Healthline*

The experiments raise concerns over the possibility that “designer babies” will eventually be produced by using gene editing to alter the DNA of embryos.

▶ [Britain approves controversial gene-editing experiments](#)

[Cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Maria Cheng, *Associated Press*

"This is the first step on a path that scientists have carefully mapped out towards the legalization" of genetically modified babies, said David King of Human Genetics Alert.

▶ [Video Review: Talking Biopolitics – A conversation with Paul Knoepfler and Nathaniel Comfort](#)

by Dr. Rebecca Dimond, *BioNews*

"The discussion was timely, following the passing of legislation on mitochondrial donation in the UK in 2015, and amid current debates about gene-editing technologies, such as CRISPR."

## NEWS

▶ [Britain has jumped the gun on gene editing](#)

by Donna Dickenson, *Telegraph [UK]*

Particularly where the germline of humanity as a whole is concerned, caution and cooperation should prevail.

▶ [STAT-Harvard poll: Americans say no to 'designer babies'](#)

by Sharon Begley, *STAT*

65% think altering “the genes of unborn babies” to reduce the risk of certain serious diseases should be illegal, and 83% said doing so to improve “intelligence or physical characteristics” should be illegal.

▶ [Stem cell agency to begin review of human genetic changes](#)

by David Jensen, *Capitol Weekly*

California's stem cell agency has embarked on what is likely to be an exhaustive review of its rules for research involving genetic alteration of human embryos.

▶ [We Are Not Ready to Edit Human Embryos Yet](#)

by J. Craig Venter, *Time*

Due to our insufficient knowledge, the slippery slope to human enhancement, and the global ban on human experimentation, we need to better understand the software of life before we begin re-writing this code.

▶ [A Cautious Approach to Mitochondrial Replacement](#)

by Françoise Baylis, *Impact Ethics*

While the motivation with mitochondrial replacement (MRT) is distinct from cloning, the transfer technology is the same. MRT can legitimately be seen as a "quiet way station" in which to refine the techniques essential for other genetic interventions (including cloning).

▶ [The Embarrassing, Destructive Fight over Biotech's Big Breakthrough](#)

by Stephen S. Hall, *Scientific American*

The gene-editing technology known as CRISPR has spawned an increasingly unseemly brawl over who will reap the rewards.

▶ [The billion-dollar CRISPR patent battle: A case of big money shaping science](#)

by Michael Hiltzik, *Los Angeles Times*

"The real question is whether the future of the technology will be guided by the need to learn more, or the opportunity to earn more."

▶ [Taking race out of human genetics](#)

by Michael Yudell, Dorothy Roberts, Rob DeSalle & Sarah Tishkoff, *Science*

"We believe the use of biological concepts of race in human genetic research—so disputed and so mired in confusion—is problematic at best and harmful at worst. It is time for biologists to find a better way."

▶ [Is It Time To Stop Using Race In Medical Research?](#)

by Angus Chen, *NPR*

Medical researchers often use race to define health risks. But racial categories don't accurately reflect who people are, and that science has to change.

▶ [How DNA and 'recreational genealogy' is making a case for reparations for slavery](#)

by Steven W. Thrashern, *The Guardian*

Alondra Nelson, academic who was at the forefront of Afrofuturism, has a new book on how DNA can help descendants of slaves seeking compensation.

▶ [Expert: Parents often won't take surrogate kids with defects](#)

by Rod McGuirk, *Associated Press*

Baby Gammy, left by intended parents with his poor surrogate mother in Thailand, was one of several cases of surrogate children abandoned, an expert told a parliamentary inquiry.

▶ [We need to talk about egg freezing](#)

by Eva Wiseman, *The Guardian*

It's expensive, frustrating and can be traumatic. As more and more women make the choice to freeze their eggs, do they know exactly what they're getting into?

▶ [Pentagon to Offer Plan to Store Eggs and Sperm to Retain Young Troops](#)

by Michael S. Schmidt, *The New York Times*

A pilot program will pay for troops to have their gametes frozen, in an effort to make military service more appealing and family friendly.

▶ [IVF treatment: South African agency flies egg donors to Australia](#)

by Marika Dobbin, *Sydney Morning Herald*

Young women are being given an all-expenses paid trip of a lifetime in exchange for their eggs.

▶ [Sure Genomics wants to sell private genetic profiles for \\$2,500, but it's really testing the FDA](#)

by Arielle Duhaime-Ross, *The Verge*

The FDA has warned similar companies about telling people their disease risk or how their bodies might respond to a drug.

▶ [We Need More Proof That Prenatal Gene Screens Are Beneficial](#)

by The Editors, *Scientific American*

Results from screening tests can be misleading. Industry and federal regulators are not doing enough to ensure that people get all the information they need.

▶ [A Conversation With \*No Más Bebés\* Filmmakers Virginia Espino and Renee Tajima-Peña](#)

by Tina Vasquez, *RH Reality Check*

Get a glimpse into the making of *No Más Bebés*, the documentary that looks into the sterilization of Mexican women during the late 1960s and early 1970s in Los Angeles County.

▶ [DNA Got a Kid Kicked Out of School—And It'll Happen Again](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *Wired*

Genetic discrimination. Get used to those two words together. With DNA tests cheap and readily available, the potential for discrimination based on the results has gone way up.

▶ [DNA Study of First Ancient African Genome Flawed, Researchers Report](#)

by Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times*

A head-turning study turned out to have a fundamental flaw that erased some of its most provocative conclusions.

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