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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL
VIEWS & NEWS

April 8, 2016

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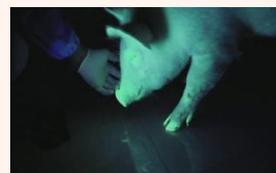
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Join us in Berkeley – Screening and Discussion of *DNA Dreams*, Tuesday, April 12](#)

The final event in this season's [Being Human in a Biotech Age](#) film series is set for Tuesday, April 12 at 4pm in 470 Stephens Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. [DNA Dreams](#) is a haunting documentary about the Chinese company that styles itself "the world's largest genomics organization," and its hunt for the genetic basis of intelligence. A panel discussion with [Troy Duster](#) and [Terry Johnson](#) will follow the screening.



[Join us in San Francisco – Synthetic Biology: DIY Tinkering Meets Big Capital, Wednesday, April 13](#)

At this [Shaping San Francisco](#) event, CGS's Elliot Hosman and Pete Shanks, along with Tito Jankowski, will tackle pressing questions about new forms of genetic engineering: What's going on with the push for synthetic biology? What are the implications for politics, manufacturing, medicine? Will the boundary between life and artifice persist? How do embedded paradigms reflect deeper assumptions about the structure of modern life? This event will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30-9:30pm at the [Eric Quezada Center for Culture and Politics](#), 518 Valencia, near the 16th Street BART, San Francisco. [RSVP](#)



[Webcast – GMOs 2.0: Reengineering life, from plants to people, Thursday, April 14](#)

Join us on Thursday, April 14 at 10am PT / 1pm ET for an online event focusing on the use of synthetic biology and gene editing being to redesign nature, from seeds to insects to people. We will look at what all this means for people and the planet – and what we can do about it. Comments by Jaydee Hanson, Dana Perls, Pete Shanks, and Ricarda Steinbrecher, followed by Q&A. Click [here](#) to register!



[Internship Opportunity at CGS](#)

The Center for Genetics and Society is accepting applications for summer internships. Please click [here](#) for the complete intern announcement.



CGS COMMENTARY

[Will California Expand the Market for Women's Eggs?](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky

A bill sponsored by the fertility industry seeks yet again to overturn existing policies that allow reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for women who provide eggs for research, but not inducements of thousands of dollars beyond that.



[An Open Letter in Opposition to California AB 2531](#)

The Center for Genetics and Society urges the California Assembly Committee on Health to oppose a proposed bill that would expand payments to women to provide their eggs for research.



[Ma Na Sapna – A Mother's Dream](#)

by Gabriele Werner-Felmayer & Carmel Shalev, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributors

A 2013 film on transnational surrogacy in India brings a sensitive view of the surrogate mothers who are otherwise largely invisible, and allows them to speak for themselves.



[Whose Body, Whose Property, What Choice?](#)

by Alison Irvine & Katayoun Chamany, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributors
A recent panel at The New School brought together speakers on health psychology, queer studies, law, life sciences, and more to discuss bodies purchased for labor and care in assisted reproduction.

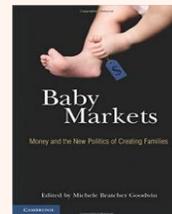


[Dinosaurs are Extinct, but Normalization is Alive and Well](#)

by Emily Beitiks, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor
While the disability movement is pushing us away from the reductive concept of "normal", dinosaur education for our kids lags behind.

[10th Anniversary Baby Markets Congress](#)

by Elliot Hosman
Legal scholars, social scientists, advocates, and filmmakers grapple with assisted reproduction.



[Canadian Eugenics Survivor and Activist Leilani Muir Dies at Age 71](#)

by Natalie Oveyssi
Leilani Muir was an author, speaker, and activist for survivors of eugenic sterilization.



CGS in the NEWS

▶ [Is there a racial "care gap" in medical treatment? \[Video\]](#)

[With CGS Advisory Board Member Dorothy Roberts]

by Gwen Ifill, *PBS NewsHour*

A new study finds African-American patients are often treated differently. Among its findings: Medical students believe that African-Americans feel less pain than white patients, and that their skin is thicker.

▶ [Jordan Schnitzer Gets a Son – and a Court Battle](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Nigel Jaquiss, *Willamette Week*

A Portland real estate mogul used science and the law to select the sex of his child born via surrogate. The baby's parentage is now in dispute.

NEWS

▶ [Are We Ready For Designer Babies?](#)

by Claire Maldarelli, *Popular Science*

The CRISPR gene editing debate can't just occur within the walls of a conference center. As its power comes into focus, public discussion should proceed in tandem.

▶ [Jennifer Doudna: The Promise and Peril of Gene Editing](#)

by Alexandra Wolfe, *Wall Street Journal*

Some scientists have called for a moratorium on using gene-editing techniques to bring about heritable genetic changes in humans.

▶ [You can't retract a designer baby: #CRISPR, social justice, & risks](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *The Niche*

If human modification were done in the germline, how would you effectively

reverse an unexpectedly deleterious hard-wired change in all of those cells? The reality is that it would be impossible.

▶ [CRISPR dispute raises bigger patent issues that we're not talking about](#)

by Shobita Parthasarathy, *The Conversation*

CRISPR patents will confer enormous control over how the controversial technology develops, and what kinds of human genetic engineering might become commercially available.

▶ [HIV overcomes CRISPR gene-editing attack](#)

▶ Virus can quickly develop mutations that resist attack by DNA-shearing enzymes.

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature*

The problem may be surmountable. But is a CRISPR therapy suited for tackling HIV, since most infections can be managed with cocktails of antiretroviral drugs?

▶ [Op-ed: Minding our makeup](#)

by Anna Foster & Parmida Jafari, *The Varsity [University of Toronto]*

Students have an obligation to understand the pros and cons of CRISPR. Its implications will directly affect our generation.

▶ [Inside the garage labs of DIY gene hackers, whose hobby may terrify you](#)

by Kristen V. Brown, *Fusion*

At the 2015 Gene Editing Summit in D.C., David Baltimore lamented that CRISPR had been overhyped. "It's not something you can do in a garage," he said. He was wrong.

▶ ['Minimal' cell raises stakes in race to harness synthetic life](#)

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature News*

Craig Venter's latest creation comes as CRISPR gene-editing methods provide alternative ways to tinker with life's building blocks.

▶ [CRISPR Pioneer Feng Zhang Talks About What's Next for Gene Editing](#)

by Kate Lunau, *VICE Motherboard*

"The field is still very young," but Zhang hopes CRISPR is a way to address conditions that he characterizes as psychiatric, including depression, schizophrenia, autism and Alzheimer's.

▶ [Eugenics Revisited: Author Asks if We're Ready for Genetically Modified Humans](#)

by Howard Lov, *Foreword Reviews*

In an interview about his book *GMO Sapiens: The Life-Changing Science of Designer Babies*, Paul Knoepfler describes the intensifying debates over the creation of genetically modified human beings.

▶ [The Return of Eugenics](#)

by Fraser Nelson, *The Spectator [UK]*

Emerging prenatal genetic screening technologies are creating a "new" eugenics not so ideologically different from that of the past.

▶ [If we're not careful, epigenetics may bring back eugenic thinking](#)

by Maurizio Meloni, *The Conversation [UK]*

In focusing on the environment as a cause for many unwanted conditions, epigenetics has the potential to advance social justice, but its problematic implications have arisen before.

▶ [The disturbing reason some African American patients may be undertreated for pain](#)

by Sandhya Somashekhar, *The Washington Post*

A recent study shows that many white medical students and residents believe inaccurate and at times "fantastical" differences based on race.

▶ [Race, Reparations and the Search for Our Molecular Soul](#)

by Michael Schulson, *Religion Dispatches (USC Annenberg)*

In a recent book, Alondra Nelson maps the rise of genetic testing among African Americans, investigating the ways that genetic technology is crossing over into social and political worlds.

▶ [I Can't Breathe](#)

by Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Boston Review*

The belief in racial essentialism means that the medical curriculum pays scant attention to the means by which the social experience of race produces disease.

▶ [The Surrogacy Cycle](#)

by Abby Rabinowitz, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*

Promising an escape from poverty, transnational surrogacy has left many Indian women with little to show for their efforts. What went wrong?

▶ ['Baby Carmen' surrogacy custody trial opens](#)

by AP, *Bangkok Post*

An American-Spanish couple open a high-profile custody battle for a baby girl born to a Thai surrogate mother, who wanted to keep the child when she found out they were gay.

▶ [Surrogate mother who sold same babies twice sentenced for fraud](#)

by Agence France-Presse, *The Guardian*

A French woman was given a suspended sentence for defrauding two gay couples who hired her, and four couples were fined for making commercial surrogacy arrangements with her.

▶ [Chinese parents hiring surrogate moms in Japan through underground brokerage](#)

The Mainichi

74 wealthy Chinese couples have gone to Japan to have children via women paid as surrogates, the majority of whom are also from China.

▶ [Why Surrogacy Laws Must Be Established — the Story of the Ott-](#)

Dahls

by Keston Ott-Dahl, *HuffPost*

When my partner Andrea became a surrogate for another lesbian couple we had no idea we would end up starting over as new parents.

▶ [A look inside the Czech Republic's booming fertility holiday industry](#)

by Amy Speier, *The Conversation*

An estimated 20,000 IVF cycles were completed in the Czech Republic in 2006, a quarter for foreign couples. By 2014, that number had grown to 30,000, a third for foreign couples.

▶ [A Call For Protecting The Health Of Women Who Donate Their Eggs](#)

by Judy Norsigian and Timothy R.B. Johnson, *WBUR's Common Health*

The growing market for eggs highlights the need for long-term study into the health effects of egg retrieval.

▶ [IVF Ban lifted in Costa Rica: a success for reproductive rights?](#)

by Lynn M. Morgan, *PLOS Blogs*

After years of political gridlock in the only western hemisphere country to ban IVF, Costa Ricans will finally have access to assisted reproduction.

▶ [Number of British women freezing their eggs soars](#)

by Press Association, *The Guardian*

According to an HFEA report, the success rate of using frozen eggs was 14%, compared with an average 26% success rate of IVF using fresh eggs.

▶ [When Gene Tests for Breast Cancer Reveal Grim Data but No Guidance](#)

by Gina Kolata, *The New York Times*

Despite the push for precision medicine, doctors are confronted with ballooning genetic data and limited treatment options.

▶ [Jeremy Kyle DNA testing firm sees its £4.99 paternity testing kits flying off the shelves](#)

by Tony McDonough, *Liverpool Echo*

A company in the UK has begun selling paternity testing kits in discount chain stores -- and they are flying off the shelves.

▶ [Of evil mice and men: Can we blame crime on our genes?](#)

by Alan Martin, *Alphr*

Various studies are finding genetic and mental indicators for criminal behaviour - in lab mice.

▶ [Placenta test for autism risk sparks serious concern](#)

by Ann Griswold, *Spectrum News*

"There are no published data to support the new test as a screening tool."

▶ [The Paradox of Precision Medicine](#)

by Jeneen Interlandi, *Scientific American*

Early attempts to tailor disease treatment to individuals based on their DNA have met with equivocal success, raising concerns about a push to scale up such efforts.

▶ [If we don't own our genes, what protects study subjects in genetic research?](#)

by Leslie E. Wolf, Erin Fuse Brown, and Laura Beskow, *The Conversation*

Genetic research studies like the Precision Medicine Initiative require corresponding inquiry into the protection of participants and their genetic information.

▶ [Texas Woman Is the First Person to Undergo Optogenetic Therapy](#)

by Katherine Bourzac, *MIT Technology Review*

Beyond the implications for treating blind people, this gene therapy trial is also being watched by the neuroscience community.

▶ [The Limits of Personalized Medicine](#)

by Timothy Caulfield, *The Atlantic*

A new study suggests that knowing their genetic risk of disease doesn't motivate people to change their behavior.

▶ [MIT research suggests possibility of gene therapy to treat ADHD](#)

by Lindsay Kalter, *Boston Herald*

Controversial research in mice, seeking a genetic link to ADHD, may eventually lead to clinical attempts to "introduce genetic material that might be missing from the human."

▶ [Scientists develop new human stem cells with half a genome](#)

by Bill Berkrot, *Reuters*

Stem cells derived from a human egg are the first human cells known to be capable of division with just one copy of the parent cell's genome.

▶ [Google's biotech venture hit by ethical concerns over deal with luxury clinic](#)

by Charles Piller, *STAT*

Contract awarded is of unclear relevance to Baseline project, which aims to collect genetic, clinical data on 10,000 patients.

▶ [REGROW Act is Attack on Science-Based Stem Cell Trial Oversight](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *The Niche*

Paul Knoepfler challenges the REGROW Act, which would allow stem cell researchers to bypass some of the FDA's typical regulatory mechanisms.

▶ [People Are Going To Prison Thanks To DNA Software — But How It Works Is Secret](#)

by Stephanie M. Lee, *BuzzFeed*

Private companies are developing cutting-edge DNA analysis software used to convict people, but source codes are protected from independent validation because they are "trade secrets."

▶ [The Government seem more interested in our genes than our voices](#)

by Edward Hockings & Lewis Coyne, *The Guardian*

Policymakers in the UK are moving forward with plans to turn genetic information into potentially lucrative data. Can we trust our institutions with our genomes?

▶ [Apple Wants The iPhone To Record Every Aspect Of Your Health](#)

by Stephanie M. Lee, *BuzzFeed*

By letting iPhone users share their DNA with researchers and update their doctors, Apple is diving deeper into its vision of a complete ecosystem of your health and medical information

▶ [Like air and water, DNA should not be patentable](#)

by Andre Picard, *The Globe and Mail [Canada]*

Publicly funded hospitals in Canada are no longer bound by five gene patents that stood in the way of testing and notifying children with potentially deadly heart conditions.

▶ [Should Parents of Children With Severe Disabilities Be Allowed to Stop Their Growth?](#)

by Genevieve Field, *The New York Times Magazine*

Caring for people with severe mental and physical limitations becomes harder as they get older. Some parents believe medically stunting them is the answer — but is it ethical?

▶ [Report Shows Theranos Testing Plagued by Problems](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

The company used unqualified personnel, stored samples at improper temperatures, and failed to ensure that the quality control for an important blood-clotting test was acceptable before reporting results for patients.

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