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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

January 22, 2015

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[Save the Date: Talking Biopolitics with Nathaniel Comfort and Alexandra Minna Stern](#)

Friday, February 27, 11am PT / 2pm ET / 19:00 GMT

Please mark your calendars for a live — and lively — online conversation with Alexandra Minna Stern and Nathaniel Comfort. Both have thought deeply, and written widely, about the history and future of human genetics and eugenics.



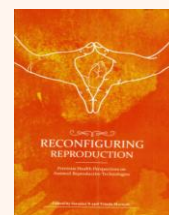
[Just released: Global Surrogacy Practices, a Center for Genetics and Society Report](#)

[Press statement]

The report is based on presentations and discussions at the International Forum on Intercountry Adoption and Global Surrogacy, a landmark conference that brought together nearly 100 scholars, women's health and human rights advocates, and policymakers from 27 countries in The Hague, Netherlands.

[Reconfiguring Reproduction: Feminist Health Perspectives on Assisted Reproductive Technologies](#)

This newly published collection, edited by Sama Resource Group for Women and Health, includes "US Feminists and the Fertility Industry," co-authored by CGS's Marcy Darnovsky and Our Bodies Ourselves' Judy Norsigian.



[UK May Be Poised for "Historic Mistake" on "3-Person IVF"](#)

by Jessica Cussins

A Parliamentary vote is expected as soon as February.



[Perils of Artificial Intelligence](#)

by Pete Shanks

The Future of Life Institute is calling for "research on how to make AI systems robust and beneficial," on the heels of several warnings about potential dire dangers.



[Institute of Medicine to Study the Social Policy and Ethics of “3-Person IVF”](#)

by Jessica Cussins

The FDA held a public meeting last year to assess the safety and efficacy of nuclear genome transfer for the prevention of transmission of mitochondrial diseases. Now it has asked the Institute of Medicine to consider the social and ethical issues.



[Key Questions About the Social and Ethical Implications of Nuclear Genome Transfer or “3-Person IVF” Techniques](#)

by Jessica Cussins

As the Institute of Medicine launches an official assessment over the next year, here are eight questions to consider.



[Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests Should Come With a Health Warning](#)

by Jessica Cussins, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*

Genetic testing is appropriate in certain situations, but for healthy people as a way to predict disease, it is imprecise and comes with a number of risks.



NEWS

▶ [IVF Booster Offered in Canada But Not US](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

Canadian Medical Association Journal

A fertility treatment that purports to help older women get pregnant by using mitochondria from their own ovarian stem cells is now being offered in Toronto, but nowhere else in North America.

▶ [New Three-Parent Baby Law 'is Flawed and Open to Challenge', says Senior Lawyer](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent [UK]*

The UK Government's attempt to legalise so-called "three parent" babies is open to challenge by judicial review, warns international law expert Daniel Brennan.

▶ ['Designer Babies' Debate Should Start, Scientists Say](#)

by James Gallagher, *BBC News*

New gene editing techniques make "designer babies" more feasible, but that does not mean it's inevitably the way we have to go as a society.

▶ [Three-Parent Baby Pioneer Jamie Grifo: 'The Brits Will be Ahead of the World'](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*

A fertility doctor insists his "three-parent embryo" technique is safe, even though the woman who became pregnant with twins using it lost both babies.

▶ [AI Has Arrived, and That Really Worries the World's Brightest Minds](#)

by Robert McMillan, *Wired*

Artificial intelligence experts and other scientists warn that the "intelligence

explosion" could spell doom for the human race.

▶ [Artificial Intelligence Experts Sign Open Letter to Protect Mankind From Machines](#)

by Nick Statt, *CNet*

Artificial intelligence experts are working to stave off the worst when – not if – machines become smarter than people.

▶ [US Precision-Medicine Proposal Sparks Questions](#)

by Sara Reardon, *Nature*

President Obama announced a "Precision Medicine Initiative" in his State of the Union address, but the White House is remaining tight-lipped about the details.

▶ [23andMe Turns Spit Into Dollars in Deal With Pfizer](#)

by Caroline Chen, *Bloomberg*

The genetic-testing company backed by Google is sharing DNA data on about 650,000 individuals with Pfizer, the U.S.'s largest drugmaker.

▶ [After Canada, UK, 23andMe Wants DNA Test Growth Abroad](#)

by Caroline Humer and Christina Farrk, *Reuters*

The company, whose consumer-directed tests were barred by U.S. health regulators in 2013, said Western Europe is one focus for expansion.

▶ [Study: Environment Trumps Genetics in Shaping Immune System](#)

by Laura Neergaar, *Associated Press*

How your immune system does its job seems to depend more on your environment and the germs you encounter than on your genes.

▶ [Privacy is dead, Harvard professors tell Davos forum](#)

Agence France Presse

"We are at the dawn of the age of genetic McCarthyism," said one Harvard researcher.

▶ [Deals For Genetic Data Raise Issues of Privacy, Sharing](#)

by John Lauerman and Makiko Kitamura, *Bloomberg*

Big Pharma is making deals to use the personal genetic data accumulated by direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies and others.

▶ [Error or Terror: Controlling Emerging Technology](#)

by John Drzik, *CNBC*

We need to encourage innovation, but also set a course for rigorous risk governance of emerging technologies. It is much better to confront difficult issues now than endure disastrous consequences later.

▶ [Scientists Develop Technique Aimed at Preventing Spread of Bio-Engineered Organisms](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

Could genetically modified bacteria escape from a laboratory or fermentation tank and cause disease or ecological destruction? Two groups of scientists hope to use synthetic biology to prevent it from happening.

▶ [When Does the Pursuit of Pregnancy Go Too Far?](#)

by Pamela M. Tsigdinos, *Medium*

The unregulated and fast-growing fertility industry is predicated on a tantalizing promise: "We can get you pregnant." But at what cost?

▶ [Trying to Tame the Wild West of Surrogacy in India](#)

by Raksha Kumaro, *AlJazeera America*

Carrying someone else's baby is a \$400 million industry here, but there are still no laws to protect women working as surrogate mothers.

▶ [Surrogate Moms Sue Thai Ministry for Custody of 13 Children](#)

Associated Press

The surrogate mothers of 13 babies fathered by a Japanese businessman are suing Thai authorities and seeking to regain custody of the children.

▶ [Surrogate Mothers Do Fine In Decade Following Birth](#)

by Lisa Rapaport, *Reuters*

A decade after giving birth, surrogate mothers don't appear to suffer lasting mental health difficulties as a result of giving away the babies they delivered, a small study suggests.

▶ [China Says Its Gender Imbalance "Most Serious" in the World](#)

by Reuters staff, *Scientific American*

The National Health and Family Planning Commission said it would step up supervision on fetal sex determination, which is banned in China.

▶ [Riding High, Biotech Firms Remain Wary](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

The biotech business is experiencing an almost unprecedented boom. Money is flowing into the industry as never before. Stock prices are high, and drug approvals are up. Some say it's a bubble that will burst.

▶ [Stem Cell Bill to Thwart False Claims](#)

Bangkok Post

In Thailand, stem cell treatment is allowed only for leukaemia and thalassaemia. But several clinics with unlicensed practitioners promote wild claims to customers.

▶ [Taxpayers Spend \\$140 Billion Funding Science Each Year — But Can't Access Many of the Results](#)

by Julia Belluz, *Vox*

Despite a decades-old "open access" movement to put research findings in the public domain instead of behind paywalls, the status quo is still firmly entrenched, especially when it comes to health research.

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