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# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

## BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

October 31, 2014

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### [Talking Biopolitics with Dorothy Roberts and Jonathan Marks](#)

Wednesday, November 12, 11am PT / 2pm ET / 19:00 GMT

Please join us for this exciting live conversation. [Dorothy Roberts](#) and [Jonathan Marks](#) will assess the reception of Nicholas Wade's controversial book [A Troublesome Inheritance](#), and consider how we can contest scientific racism as we move forward.



### [Conversations with Cutting-Edge Thinkers: View all Talking Biopolitics events](#)

Talking Biopolitics is a series of live web-based conversations with cutting-edge thinkers about the social meanings of human biotechnologies. Twelve of these fascinating past discussions are available [here](#). Feel free to share them with interested colleagues and friends.



### [Silicon Valley's Egg-Freezing Perk Is Bad for People Across the Board](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky, *RH Reality Check*

Egg freezing is an individualized, questionably effective technical fix for a fundamentally social problem.



### [Open-Source DNA](#)

by Jessica Cussins

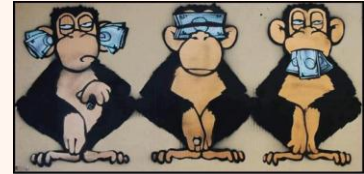
Who are the players to watch in the growing trend to "free" our genetic data, and what does it mean to participate?



## [What Good is a Scientific Meeting If You Dismiss the Science?](#)

by Jessica Cussins

The Science and Technology Committee of the UK Parliament held an evidence hearing last week to examine the science and proposed regulation of so-called “mitochondrial donation,” or “3-person IVF,” but huge swaths of evidence were widely dismissed.



## [Why We Should Teach the History of Eugenics](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

Two prominent universities have launched initiatives to focus on the history of eugenics.



## NEWS

### [Silicon Valley Companies Add New Benefit For Women: Egg-Freezing](#)

[Quotes CGS and Marcy Darnovsky]

by Laura Sydell, *NPR*

The addition of the benefit comes as tech companies face mounting pressure to hire more women, but some warn it may increase pressure those employees feel to put off having kids.

### [Why Corporate Promotion of Egg Freezing isn't a "Benefit" to All Women](#)

[Quotes CGS and Marcy Darnovsky]

by Rachel Walden, *Our Bodies, Our Blog*

Despite the financial generosity, this might not be a good deal for healthy employees of these companies — or for women in the workplace in general.

### [The Sobering Facts About Egg Freezing That Nobody's Talking About](#)

by Pamela Mahoney Tsigdinos, *Wired*

Women must be fully informed about reproductive medicine before setting their hopes on it. Egg freezing and IVF are high-risk processes with life changing consequences.

### [Yes, I Froze My Eggs, But am I a Victim of a New Fertility Racket?](#)

by Jemma Kennedy, *The Guardian*

Last week, Apple joined ranks with Facebook in offering free egg-freezing to staff who want to delay having children. Is this a step towards equality in the workplace or a machiavellian form of social engineering?

### [Minister Sparks Backlash for Suggesting Foreigners Could Undergo 'Three-Parent Babies' IVF Treatment in Britain](#)

by Ben Riley-Smith, *Telegraph*

MPs and peers from across the political divide raised fears the move could create a new front of health tourism, with foreigners coming to the UK to circumvent bans in their home countries.

### [Twins Born Through IVF 'More Likely to Suffer Problems'](#)

by Sarah Knapton, *Telegraph*

Giving birth to twins, as opposed to singletons, through fertility treatment substantially increases the risk to both mother and children, new research finds.

▶ [Technology and Inequality](#)

by David Rotman, *MIT Technology Review*

Profound wealth disparities in Silicon Valley highlight the "new world order" in which technological development exacerbates inequality instead of diminishing it.

▶ [Cambrian Genomics CEO: We're Going to Design Every Human on a Computer and Make Your Poop Smell Like Bananas](#)

by Chris O'Brien, *Venture Beat*

Austen Heinz: His vision for the future will either thrill you or leave you fearing for the future of humanity. There's not really any room in the middle.

▶ [Cloning Whistleblower: Little Changed in S. Korea](#)

by Youkyung Lee, *Associated Press*

The whistle-blower who exposed breakthrough cloning research as a devastating fake says South Korea is still dominated by the values that allowed science fraudster Hwang Woo-suk to become an almost untouchable national hero.

▶ [For \\$100,000, You Can Clone Your Dog](#)

by Josh Dean, *Bloomberg Businessweek*

Dr. Hwang Woo Suk, infamous for fabricating claims about cloning a human embryo, now uses somatic cell nuclear transfer to clone people's dogs.

▶ [The Betatrophin Blues](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

A 2013 paper from a Harvard lab raised expectations about diabetes breakthroughs, but it's now clear that its central argument is incorrect.

▶ [Geneticists Tap Human Knockouts](#)

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature News*

Sequenced genomes reveal mutations that disable single genes and can point to new drugs.

▶ [Procedure on Paralyzed Man Stirs Hope and Caution](#)

by Benedict Carey, *The New York Times*

The case of a Polish man who was paralyzed from the chest down until receiving a novel nerve-regeneration treatment has stirred as much excitement on the Internet as it has extreme caution among many experts.

▶ [Human Intestine Grown in Mouse for First Time as Scientists Say There is Hope to Create 'Spare Parts' for People](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*

Whole organs, composed of a complex arrangement of specialized tissues, could one day be made inside a patient's body.

▶ [How a Wiki Is Keeping Direct-to-Consumer Genetics Alive](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

The FDA ordered 23andMe to stop selling its health tests. But for the intrepid, genome knowledge is still available.

▶ [Three Years On, What Have We Learned About Non-Invasive Prenatal Screening?](#)

by Mark Leach, *Down Syndrome Prenatal Testing*

Three years ago, a new prenatal test for Down syndrome entered the market offering earlier, safer, and more accurate results. What have we learned about this new technology since then?

▶ [Regulate Synthetic Biology Now: 194 Countries](#)

*SynBioWatch*

In a unanimous decision of 194 countries, the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity formally urged nation states to regulate synthetic biology.

▶ [Video Animation Explores Risks of Treating Life as a Machine](#)

*ETC Group*

Increasingly, scientists and civil society are sounding the alarm about the risks posed by unregulated commercialization of SynBio's untested, experimental and unprecedented manipulation of life form.

▶ [Synthetic Biologists Create Paper-Based Diagnostic for Ebola](#)

by Karen Weintraub, *MIT Technology Review*

Scientists say they can embed sophisticated genetic tests onto a piece of paper.

▶ [How the Pro-Choice Movement Excludes People With Disabilities](#)

by Lenzi Sheible, *RH Reality Check*

If we in the pro-choice movement don't start paying serious attention to the ways in which our own practices contribute to the dehumanization of people with disabilities, we can't keep claiming to operate under a reproductive justice framework at all.

▶ [Human-Subjects Research: The Ethics Squad](#)

by Elie Dolgin, *Nature*

Bioethicists are setting up consultancies for research — but some scientists question whether they are needed.

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