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# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

## BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

October 11, 2018

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Human Rights and Human Gene Editing Webinar](#)

Thank you to those who were able to join us on October 4 for our Human Gene Editing and Human Rights webinar, co-sponsored with [OpenGlobalRights](#). If you missed it—or would like to revisit our conversation with Alicia Ely Yamin, Roberto Andorno, and David Petrasek—a video recording and transcript are available [on our website](#).



### [Welcome to CGS' New Fall Intern!](#)

[Katie Raya](#) is a fourth year undergraduate at University of California, Berkeley where she is pursuing a degree in Public Health. Her academic interests lie in the broad field of health policy, and she is passionate about addressing the systemic issues that prevent health equity. In the past, she has conducted research in two health policy labs analyzing the effects of the soda excise tax and consumer warning labels on sugar sweetened beverage consumption and has interned for a cardiac surgeon. Katie also works in the Community Health Sciences department of UC Berkeley's School of Public Health and captained the Cal Equestrian team.

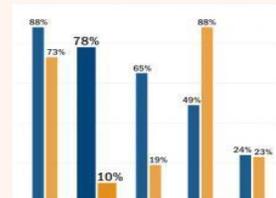


## CGS COMMENTARY

### [The Arts of Polling](#)

By Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times* | 10.10.2018

CGS has updated its archive of polling results about inheritable genetic modification and reproductive cloning. Opinion is largely stable, although it seems to be sensitive to how questions are phrased.



### [Students Create Online Resources about the US Eugenics Movement](#)

By Audrey Kalman, Guest Contributor, *Biopolitical Times* | 10.03.2018

High school students produced an online textbook and museum exhibit to inform people about the history of the eugenics movement in America, and particularly in California's recent past.



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## CGS in the NEWS

### [14 years after stem cell research bond measure passed, is California getting a return on investment?](#)

[features Marcy Darnovsky]

by Larry Mantle, *KPCC AirTalk* | 9.12.2018

"What they said was that stem cell research funded by California voters would bring cures for millions, it would bring tens of billions of dollars in healthcare savings and it would bring over a billion dollars in royalties from CIRM backed discoveries. None of that has come to pass."

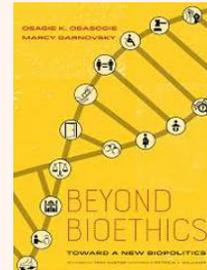


### [Review of \*Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics\*](#)

[Review of the book edited by CGS' Osagie K. Obasogie and Marcy Darnovsky]

by Jordan Liz, *Metapsychology Online Reviews* | 9.4.2018

*Beyond Bioethics* manages to give both a name and a direction to a more socially conscious ethical and political framework to the controversial issues posed by developments in genomics.



### [Review of Osagie Obasogie and Marcy Darnovsky's \*Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics\*](#)

[cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Travis Chi Wing Lau, *Somatosphere* | 9.13.2018

The contributors to this volume make clear that triumphalist cultural narratives of scientific innovation and progress have obfuscated and even impeded necessary ethical conversations about the development and application of biotechnologies too often touted as the future of biomedicine.



### [DNA test kits reveal the brother a Camarillo woman always wanted](#)

[cites CGS' Katie Hasson]

by Tom Kiskan, *Ventura County Star* | 10.8.2018

"People should take the information they're getting from these tests with a grain of salt ... many grains," said Katie Hasson of the Center for Genetics and Society.



## NEWS

Animal Technologies

Assisted Reproduction

CRISPR

DNA Forensics

Genetic Determinism

Gene Drive

Genetic Testing

Precision Medicine

Race and Genetics

Various

## CRISPR

### ▶ [CRISPR cures inherited disorder in mice, paving way for genetic therapy before birth](#)

by Sharon Begley, *STAT* | 10.8.2018

Scientists used the genome editing technique CRISPR to alter the DNA of laboratory mice in the womb, eliminating an often-fatal liver disease before birth.

### ▶ [CRISPR's Epic Patent Fight Changed the Course of Biology](#)

by Megan Molteni, *Wired* | 09.11.2018

The patent fight for Crispr-Cas9—which divided the research community and triggered an uncomfortable discussion about science for personal profit versus public good—has dramatically shaped how biology research turns into real-world products.

## ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

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### ▶ [The Wild World of IVF, Explained](#)

by Pamela Tsigidinos, *Marie Claire* | 10.01.2018

Fertility experts, doctors, and more than 20 women who underwent IVF explain what you need to know about this much-discussed yet entirely confusing procedure.

### ▶ [Ukraine's 'baby factories': The human cost of surrogacy](#)

by Madeline Roache, *Al Jazeera News* | 09.13.2018

After India, Nepal and Thailand banned surrogacy, many have turned to Ukraine. But there have also been reports of exploitation.

### ▶ [Do IVF And Other Infertility Tech Lead To Health Risks For The Baby? Maybe](#)

by Mara Gordon, *National Public Radio* | 09.19.2018

There is a small but growing body of research suggesting that children conceived through in vitro fertilization may have an elevated risk of hypertension and other health complications.

### ▶ [44 Siblings and Counting](#)

by Ariana Eunjung Cha, *The Washington Post* | 09.12.2018

A lack of fertility industry regulation has created enormous genetic families. Now they are searching for one other.

### ▶ [The secret shame of having no sperm](#)

by Adam Eley, *BBC* | 09.10.2018

A decline in male fertility has led to the unnecessary reliance on expensive and invasive IVF procedures for female partners.

## GENETIC DETERMINISM

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### ▶ [Genetic determinism rides again - Review of \*Blueprint: How DNA Makes Us Who We Are\*, By Robert Plomin](#)

by Nathaniel Comfort, *Nature* | 09.25.2018

Although Plomin frequently uses more civil, progressive language than did his predecessors, the book's message is vintage genetic determinism: "DNA isn't all that matters but it matters more than everything else put together."

### ▶ [Do Genes Really Determine Your Hobbies, Relationships, and Voting Habits?](#)

by Catherine Bliss, *Zocalo Public Square* | 09.25.2018

Science and pop culture make DNA seem all-important, but nurture still matters as much as nature.

### ▶ [Your DNA Is Not Your Culture](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic* | 09.25.2018

A Spotify playlist tailored to your DNA is the latest example of brands cashing in on people's search for identity.

## RACE AND GENETICS

- News TOP -

### ▶ [Should 'Race' Be Taught in High School Biology?](#)

by Michael Schulson, *Undark* | 09.12.2018

Biology textbooks of yore were replete with ignorant classifications of race purporting to be scientific. But is avoiding the issue altogether the answer?

► [What Role Should Race Play in Medicine?](#)

by Jennifer Tsai, *Scientific American* | 09.12.2018

Rather than a risk factor that predicts disease or disability because of genetic susceptibility, race is better conceptualized as a risk marker—of vulnerability, bias or systemic disadvantage.

► [A Man Says His DNA Test Proves He's Black, and He's Suing](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic* | 09.19.2018

With the advent of genetic ancestry tests, people are once again asking if and how the latest science should be incorporated into an understanding of race.

**GENETIC TESTING**

- News TOP -

► [Genetic-testing technology is progressing rapidly. The rules need to keep up.](#)

by Editorial Board, *The Washington Post* | 09.04.2018

How and when should genetic testing companies share data with third parties such as researchers, websites or law enforcement officials? And do companies have an obligation to inform users that their information has been shared? Currently, state and federal regulations that govern genetic testing are scant.

► [23andMe Said He Would Lose His Mind. Ancestry Said the Opposite. Which Was Right?](#)

by Laura Hercher, *The New York Times* | 09.15.2018

Tens of thousands of people are now using direct-to-consumer genetic testing services, but the results are not always accurate and regulations for these services are limited.

► [You Discovered Your Genetic History. Is It Worth the Privacy Risk?](#)

by Monica Rodriguez, *Fortune* | 09.10.2018

In this era of dwindling privacy, human DNA is perhaps the last frontier. And the burgeoning group of companies that sequence, store and interpret that DNA operate in a largely uncharted territory, somewhere between the realm of lightly regulated consumer goods and highly regulated medical services.

► [Watchdog calls for warnings on DNA testing sites](#)

by Matthew Weaver, *The Guardian* | 09.18.2018

The UK's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority has called for DNA testing websites to warn customers about the risks of uncovering traumatic family secrets and underlying health traits.

**DNA FORENSICS**

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► [Victory! Gov. Brown Signs Bill Adding Sensible Requirements for DNA Collection From Minors](#)

by Jamie Williams and Hayley Tsukayama, *Electronic Frontier Foundation* | 09.28.2018

California's kids now have common-sense protections against unwarranted DNA collection. Gov. Jerry Brown this week signed a new law requiring law enforcement to get either judicial approval or permission from both the minor and a parent, legal guardian, or attorney before collecting a DNA sample from the minor.

► [The Dangers of DNA Testing](#)

by Greg Hampikian, *The New York Times* | 09.21.2018

Results from a new study show that forensics labs analyzing the same DNA evidence calculated vastly different statistics. Among the 108 crime labs in the study, the match statistics varied over 100 trillion-fold.

**PRECISION MEDICINE**

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► [Are We Being Misled About Precision Medicine?](#)

by Liz Szabo, *The New York Times* | 09.11.2018

The phrase "precision medicine" suggests a high rate of success. While its successes should be celebrated, its failures must be acknowledged, reminding us how much is left to learn.

► [Solving the genome puzzle](#)

by Linda Geddes, *The Guardian* | 09.21.2018

With advances in gene technology helping to diagnose very rare diseases, has the new era of personalised medicine finally arrived?

▶ [Genetics research 'biased towards studying white Europeans'](#)

by Hannah Devlin, *The Guardian* | 10.08.2018  
People from minority ethnic backgrounds are set to lose out on medical benefits of genetics research due to an overwhelming bias towards studying white European populations, a leading scientist has warned.

**VARIOUS**

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▶ [Editorial: California's \\$3 billion bet on stem cells slow to produce results](#)

by Chronicle Editorial Board, *San Francisco Chronicle* | 09.11.2018  
Fourteen years after California's pioneering decision on Proposition 71, the \$3 billion spent on stem cell research has not produced cures.

▶ [Scientists Create Immature Human Eggs From Stem Cell](#)

by Rob Stein, *National Public Radio* | 09.20.2018  
A team of Japanese scientists turned human blood cells into stem cells, which they then transformed into very immature human eggs.

**GENE DRIVE**

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▶ [Mosquitoes Genetically Modified To Crash Species That Spreads Malaria](#)

by Rob Stein, *National Public Radio* | 09.24.2018  
For the first time, scientists have demonstrated that a controversial new kind of genetic engineering can rapidly spread a self-destructive genetic modification through a complex species.

▶ [Gene editing could eliminate mosquitoes, but is it a good idea?](#)

by Michael Nedelman, *CNN* | 09.25.2018  
Researchers used a gene editing tool, CRISPR, to wipe out a population of malaria-carrying mosquitoes in the lab. Questions remain about how releasing this technology into the wild would impact the environment.

**ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIES**

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▶ [Pet Genetic Testing Companies Are Making Promises They Can't Keep](#)

by Jessica Hekman, *Undark* | 09.13.2018  
Encouraged by the unrealistic claims of genetic testing companies, pet owners fall prey to the myth of the "magic genome," hoping that genetic testing will keep their animal companions alive and healthy for longer than ever before.

▶ [Viruses Spread by Insects to Crops Sound Scary. The Military Calls It Food Security.](#)

by Emily Baumgaertner, *The New York Times* | 10.04.2018  
Critics warn that a Defense Department-funded food security project that is still in the lab could set off a "biological arms race."

