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# BioPolitical

## News&Views

May 26, 2022

### SPOTLIGHT

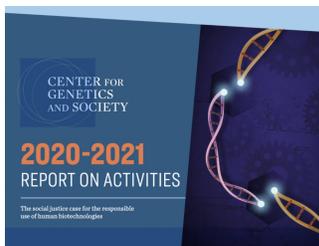


#### Terrorist Cites Genetic Research to Promote White Supremacy

Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times* | 05.26.2022

The Buffalo shooter's manifesto cites behavioral genetics research to promote his white supremacist ideology. Some scientists are grappling with the implications; others appear reluctant to do so.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### CGS 2020–2021 Report on Activities

In the midst of navigating a global pandemic, CGS deepened our intersectional analysis of human genetics and assisted reproduction, learning from domestic and global racial justice uprisings. We gained traction in challenging resurgent eugenic beliefs and policies. Through it all, the CGS team worked to ensure a just, equitable, and sustainable future where human genetic and reproductive technologies benefit the common good.

### CGS IN THE NEWS

**It's Too Late to Protect Your Genetic Privacy.**



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## UK fertility watchdog could recommend scrapping donor anonymity law

[Hannah Devlin](#), *The Guardian* | 05.20.2022

The rapid rise of consumer genetic testing websites could soon make it impossible to guarantee donor anonymity – and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority is considering bringing the law in line with this new reality.

## How the End of Roe Would Change Prenatal Care

[Sarah Zhang](#), *The Atlantic* | 05.20.2022

Genetic testing is now a routine part of pregnancy. Abortion restrictions are already shifting how doctors talk about the results.

## LGBTQ Couples' IVF Hopes Hinge on New Infertility Definition

[Shira Stein](#), *Bloomberg Law* | 05.17.2022

The Biden Administration could update the Affordable Care Act to address the definition of infertility often used by insurance plans to determine eligibility for IVF—a definition that is impossible for some LGBTQ individuals to meet.

## Overturn of Roe could make IVF more complicated, costly

[Ariana Eunjung Cha and Emily Wax-Thibodeaux](#), *The Washington Post* | 05.11.2022

The potential Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is expected to open the door to state laws that give human embryos legal rights and protections, which might limit choices would-be parents currently have about whether to use, store, or discard genetic material that is part of the in vitro fertilization process.

## Colorado will ensure people conceived through egg or sperm donation can find their donors in the future

[Bente Birkeland](#), *CPR News* | 05.10.2022

Starting in 2025, Colorado will no longer allow anonymous sperm and egg donations, under a bill that sponsors say is the first of its kind in the nation. The bill also requires egg and sperm banks and fertility clinics to keep records ensuring no single donor is used for more than 25 families in and out of state.

## 'Our Father' TV Review: Sins of the Doctor

[John Anderson](#), *The Wall Street Journal* | 05.10.2022

Only briefly acknowledging fertility doctor Donald Cline's ties to an extremist Christian group with a racist agenda, the documentary leaves the possible eugenic and religious motivations of fertility fraud unexamined.

## EUGENICS

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## 'Why Biology Is Not Destiny': An Exchange

[Kathryn Paige Harden](#), [Nick Patterson](#), [Victor I. Reus](#), and [Henry D. Schlinger Jr.](#), reply by [M.W. Feldman](#) and [Jessica Riskin](#), *The New York Review of Books* | 05.25.2022

"Overall, Harden's letter confirms what we said in our review: while disavowing essentialist, racist, and eugenic notions she affirms a new version of the old illogic that has long supported them."

## Buffalo shooting ignites a debate over the role of genetics researchers in white supremacist ideology

[Megan Molteni](#), *STAT* | 05.23.2022

When sociogenomics researchers oversell genetics' influence on social outcomes, they echo a long tradition of hereditarian social science with foundations in the American eugenics movement. The Buffalo shooter's manifesto, which misappropriated genetics research, shows how these exaggerations can have dire consequences.

## The “Great Replacement” Theory Is the American Way

Marjua Estevez, Raquel Reichard, *Refinery29* | 05.19.2022

False claims that white people in the U.S. are intentionally being replaced are not new motivators for violence targeting Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous populations, as evidenced by the popularity of the early 20th century eugenics movement and its policies to control reproduction and rewire the country’s racial composition.

## The “Great Replacement Theory” Was Never “Fringe”

Tanvi Misra, *Harper’s Bazaar* | 05.18.2022

The racist ideology that white Americans are being replaced by immigrants—and the deadly violence that idea has led to—was promoted by powerful bureaucrats, senators, presidents, and journalists, including leaders of the early 20th century eugenics movement.

## GENOMICS

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### What Genetics Can—and Cannot—Reveal about an Individual’s COVID Risk

Joanna Thompson, *Scientific American* | 05.18.2022

Genome-wide association studies are becoming an increasingly common avenue to assess COVID risk, but experts warn that genomic analysis may be difficult to disentangle from social risk factors and could lead to increased discrimination in health systems.

### Targeting the Uneven Burden of Kidney Disease on Black Americans

Gina Kolata, *The New York Times* | 05.17.2022

New treatments aim for a gene variant causing the illness in people of sub-Saharan African descent. But a focus on variants may let policymakers ignore the social and economic disparities underlying the disease.

### What a Gene and Its Risks Could Mean for Kidney Transplants

Gina Kolata, *The New York Times* | 05.17.2022

Kidneys from Black donors are automatically downgraded in transplant assessments. Some are asking if genetic screening rather than race can be used to assess the risk of failure.

### Full-genome screening for newborn babies is now on the cards

*The Economist* | 05.13.2022

To diagnose and treat genetic diseases, doctors in many places want to sequence and screen babies’ entire genomes at birth. But these efforts raise questions of privacy.

## SURROGACY360

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### Wartime labour: How Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has exposed the reality of the surrogacy industry

Anna Feigenbaum, *The Globe and Mail* | 05.20.2022

The war in Ukraine not only illuminates the complexities inherent in international surrogacy, but also requires us to confront broader issues: how to prevent exploitation of women while simultaneously ensuring women have bodily autonomy, and how to think about parenthood, genetic connection, and race and reproduction.

## Salary, Integrity and Selection of a New Chair for California's \$12 Billion Cell and Gene Therapy Enterprise

David Jensen, *The California Stem Cell Report* | 05.20.2022

The directors of the \$12 billion California stem cell agency are looking for a new chair. According to a survey of the 35 board members, the new chair should be both decisive and collaborative, passionate and inclusive, a pillar of integrity – and have a talent for herding cats.

## Playing God with Pork

Jonathan Grinstead, *Neo.Life* | 05.19.2022

Recent developments in xenotransplantation raise a host of ethical questions, including cost, patient autonomy and privacy, and animal welfare.

## A quick guide to the most important AI law you've never heard of

Melissa Heikkilä, *MIT Technology Review* | 05.13.2022

The European Union is planning new legislation, the AI Act, aimed at curbing the worst harms associated with artificial intelligence. If the EU succeeds, it could set a new global standard for AI oversight.

If you've read this far, you clearly care about the fight to reclaim human biotechnologies for the common good. Thank you!

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