



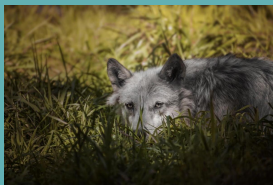
CENTER FOR
GENETICS
AND SOCIETY

BioPolitical

News&Views

April 24, 2025

SPOTLIGHT



A Deeper Dive Into the Colossal Furor

Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times* | 04.23.2025

Is the dire wolf “de-extinction” effort a colossal waste of time? Billionaire biotech backers seem intent on funding a gene-editing revolution that threatens animals and humans alike.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Appreciations for support for CGS' planned series of virtual convenings

The Center for Genetics and Society is gratified to acknowledge contributions from two funders to support our planned series of virtual convenings that will position assisted reproduction and genetic technologies within larger fights for reproductive justice, disability inclusion, and LGBTQ+ rights. The series will aim to build toward an intersectional, multi-sector coalition. We are grateful to the RWJF Special Contributions Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation and to Borealis Philanthropy for their generous support.

COMMENTARY

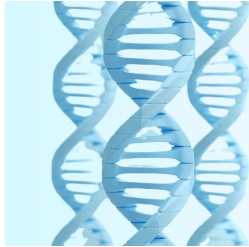
How Much Do (Human) Eggs Really Cost?

Emma McDonald Kennedy, *Biopolitical Times* | 04.24.2025

Diane Tober's new book *Eggonomics: The Global Market in Human Eggs and the Donors Who Supply Them* makes it clear how a lack of transparency and oversight in the egg donation industry leaves egg donors vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and health complications.



CGS IN THE NEWS



Forensic DNA breaks new ground for MMIP cold cases

[Mary Annette Pember](#), *ICT News* | 04.17.2025

23andMe's bankruptcy has created uncertainties for consumers' genetic privacy, as CGS' Katie Hasson describes. In response to misuses of genomic data, some indigenous scientists are creating their own DNA databases and using DNA forensic techniques to benefit their communities.



Pronatalism - the argument for lots of babies

Radio New Zealand | 04.04.2025

In an interview with Radio New Zealand, CGS' Katie Hasson explains how the current rise in pronatalism echoes elements of the early 20th century eugenics movement: "Pronatalism does share this eugenic idea that the 'best' people should have more babies, and that those babies will then be superior in some ways."



23andMe's DNA data is going up for sale. Here's why companies might want it

[Lisa Eadicicco](#), *CNN* | 03.30.2025

The possible sale of 23andMe raises concerns about consumers' genetic privacy. Because genetic data is "permanent and unique," CGS' Katie Hasson comments, companies could use it well into the future, even if it's not being used now.

WHAT WE'RE READING

GENE EDITING | PRONATALISM | EUGENICS
SURROGACY 360 | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

GENE EDITING

A disgraced gene editing scientist wants back in the lab

[Katrina Northrop](#), *The Washington Post* | 04.06.2025

He Jiankui's public pronouncements about his attempts to return to gene editing research may be a facade, but the fact that he is comfortably speaking publicly about his plans indicates some level of tolerance by the Chinese government.

At meeting on guardrails for gene editing of human embryos, some call for a dead end

Megan Molteni, *Stat* | 03.28.2025

At a recent meeting discussing guardrails to prevent heritable genome editing of human embryos, scientists emphasized the uncertainties and unknowns of CRISPR that make it dangerous as a tool to edit germline DNA.

Experts Discuss Guardrails for Heritable Human Genome Editing

Kevin Davies, *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News* | 03.27.2025

A small group of scientists, policy experts, religious leaders, and patient advocates recently met to review the current state of guidelines and policies on heritable human genome editing. One concluded, “There aren’t any legitimate uses [for HHGE], only rogue uses.”

PRONATALISM

“NatalCon” and the Contradictions of the Pronatalist Right

Daniel Colligan, *Jacobin* | 04.18.2025

The second pronatalist conference “NatalCon” showed how the movement—currently made up of conservative religionists, ideologically predisposed technologists, and flamboyant far-right personalities—will likely struggle to appeal to people who are not white, male, and conservative.

Pronatalism Isn’t a Solution, It’s a Problem

Sarah Jones, *Intelligencer* | 04.17.2025

In the post-Dobbs, pronatalist social order, conservatives are promoting reproduction—and the race and gender hierarchies that come along with it. A reproductive justice framework, by contrast, makes room for reproductive choice while addressing social injustices that affect reproductive freedom.

‘Make Motherhood Great Again’: Pronatalism Finds a Comfortable Home in the Trump Administration

Shoshanna Ehrlich, *Ms. Magazine* | 04.15.2025

Pronatalism has moved beyond the niche “NatalCon” conference and into the White House. Elon Musk and JD Vance are ardent supporters of the pro-childbearing movement that relies on eugenic ideas and misogynistic assumptions about women’s “essential maternal nature” and obligations.

The Tactics Elon Musk Uses to Manage His ‘Legion’ of Babies—and Their Mothers

Dana Mattioli, *The Wall Street Journal* | 04.15.2025

The extent of Elon Musk’s pronatalist “baby mission” is just beginning to be publicly revealed. Via X, Musk has asked women if they would like to have his child. His team has crafted deals to offer the four mothers of his children financial support in exchange for their silence.

EUGENICS

DREDF Denounces RFK Jr.’s Comments on Autism as Hateful, Harmful and Uninformed

DREDF | 04.17.2025

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s recent statements on autism not only lack scientific merit, but also dehumanize autistic people and are infused with eugenic thinking.

What Is Elon Musk’s I.Q.?

Amanda Hess, *The New York Times* | 04.05.2025

Speculations about Elon Musk’s high IQ have been used to justify his reckless behavior. The questionable measure of intelligence, which emerged from the eugenics movement, is being used to lend a scientific sheen to the consolidation of a new conservative political elite.

How Nazi Race Science Conquered the White House, and is Coming for Your Democracy

Nafeez Ahmed, *Byline Times* | 04.04.2025

The White House's open support for racist and eugenicist ideas is the culmination of decades of subversion by scientific racists, who have tried to move Nazi beliefs into the mainstream by repackaging them as "scientific."

The US right is coming for disabled people. Here's why that threatens everyone

Sara Nović, *The Guardian* | 03.27.2025

The Trump administration's dismantling of disability rights and education reflects ableist biases that fueled state sterilizations and other eugenic policies of the early 20th century. Then and now, attacks on disability rights signal broader threats to civil liberties.

SURROGACY 360



The Take: Why is Ukraine's surrogacy industry booming under bombs?

Al Jazeera | 04.09.2025

Initially, Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted Ukraine's low-regulation, low-cost surrogacy industry. Now, years into the conflict, Ukrainian surrogacy providers have adapted to continue to services, but some are paying surrogates less or denying surrogates support.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

'Medical calamity': dozens of Dutch sperm donors fathered at least 25 children

Jon Henley, *The Guardian* | 04.14.2025

A new fertility registry in the Netherlands revealed that fertility clinics have been breaking existing rules on sperm donation for decades. At least 85 sperm donors in the Netherlands have each fathered 25+ children, which means that donor-conceived people may have many unknown half-siblings in the country.

Australian woman unknowingly gives birth to a stranger's baby after IVF clinic error

Charlotte Graham-McClay, *Associated Press* | 04.11.2025

A woman in Brisbane unknowingly gave birth to a stranger's baby after she received another patient's IVF embryo due to what the clinic called "human error."

Are Embryos Property? Human Life? Neither?

Anna Louie Sussman, *The New York Times* | 04.08.2025

"Without dialogue and debate, transparency and understanding, we risk a future in which embryo governance—or lack thereof—will be decided by religious critics of I.V.F. ruling from the bench or enthusiastic techno-optimists developing products and services with an eye toward profits."

CDC's IVF team gutted even as Trump calls himself the 'fertilization president'

Berkeley Lovelace Jr. and Abigail Brooks, *NBC News* | 04.02.2025

Despite Trump dubbing himself the "fertilization President," his administration's sweeping HHS cuts include the team that tracked fertility clinics' success rates and metrics associated with safety of IVF procedures in the US.

Should Human Life Be Optimized?

Anna Louie Sussman, *The New York Times* | 04.01.2025

Researchers question the accuracy and efficacy of polygenic risk scores used in the screening and

selection of embryos, but the tests are still growing in popularity. Critics see PGT-P as offering high net worth parents the “illusion of control” while overselling the importance of genetics in life outcomes.

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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