

BioPolitical

News&Views

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SPOTLIGHT



Legacies of Eugenics Conference

Join the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley on **April 10-11** for discussions that will explore the persistence of eugenic logics and practices in science, medicine, and technology and how we can build a better future. Panelists include CGS Executive Director **Katie Hasson**, former ED **Marcy Darnovsky**, Advisory Board members, and several CGS colleagues. Find out more and register [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome, Kaycee!

Kaycee Marie Daez joins CGS this semester through the Cal Health Service Internship Program. Kaycee is a second-year student at UC Berkeley pursuing a degree in Molecular and Cell Biology and Public Health, with a Disability Studies minor. Through her work at CGS, she hopes to integrate her academic training with her commitment to community-centered health equity.



Medical Education and the Harm of 'Goodly Heritage'

Daniel Martinez HoSang, Marco Antonio Ramos, and Alana Slavin, *Los Angeles Review of Books* | 02.08.2026

Medical care in the early 20th century U.S. was entangled with the eugenics movement. Its biases linger in health care, hospital structures, and medical education. The latest essay in the CGS-supported Legacies of Eugenics series suggests that grappling with this history and its implications for today can help prevent continued harms.



Public Health, Vaccines and Modern Eugenics

[Pete Shanks](#), *Biopolitical Times* | 02.27.2026

Unethical research and efforts to undermine vaccine recommendations are part of a darker turn toward "soft eugenics" under the leadership of US Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

WHAT WE'RE READING

GENE EDITING | GENOMICS | EUGENICS
SURROGACY 360 | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION | VARIOUS

GENE EDITING

FDA unveils long-awaited guidance on new pathway for individualized therapies

[Zachary Brennan](#), *Endpoints News* | 02.23.2026

The FDA is spelling out the details of a new "plausible mechanism" pathway to help speed personalized cell and gene therapies to market for rare diseases. The guidance details a path to market for therapies where a randomized trial is not feasible and where there's a specific genetic, cellular or molecular abnormality that can be altered or corrected. It would significantly alter the approval process, but FDA officials said approval standards would not change.

Gene Editing Has Struggled To Go Commercial. This Nobel Laureate Has A \$1 Billion Plan To Fix That.

[Amy Feldman](#), *Forbes* | 02.17.2026

Jennifer Doudna plans to raise \$1 billion for her Innovative Genomics Institute to support the next generation of scientists and fund research on personalized gene editing treatments, Crispr-based therapies for common diseases like cancer, and gene-editing applications for agriculture and the environment.

Will Life on Mars Require a Genetic Rewrite?

[Scott Solomon](#), *MIT Press Reader* | 02.12.2026

Microgravity, radiation, and extreme climates pose ethical and biological challenges for travel to other planets. One scientist proposes genetically enhancing humans with traits from other species, essentially directing evolution to produce humans adapted to life on Mars and beyond.

A California Question: How to Turn Billions of Dollars into Revolutionary Gene and Stem Cell Therapies?

[David Jensen](#), *California Stem Cell Report* | 02.10.2026

Some scientific researchers are concerned that the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's new funding priorities, preferences, and review processes are ignoring research that could help patients. The dispute will be front and center at a public meeting in late March.

GENOMICS

He Built a Server to Protect Indigenous Health Data

Katrina Miller, *The New York Times* | 02.05.2026

Grant funding from the NIH was supporting the Native BioData Consortium's efforts toward indigenous health data sovereignty and information-sharing. Joseph Yracheta shares how the funding for a server network project was abruptly cut – part of a broad effort by the Trump administration to rescind NIH grants.

It's Time to Safeguard Genomic Data

Lauren Hammer Breslow and Vanessa Smith, *Bill of Health* | 01.28.2026

Increasing collection and storage of genetic data has also brought increased risk of said data being misused. A recent scandal in which children's brain scans were studied to support racist pseudoscience makes clear that vigilant governance and safeguards are needed.

EUGENICS

Why Team Trump Talking About 'Lethalitymaxxing' Should Alarm You

Ilyse Hogue, *The Bulwark* | 02.20.2026

RFK Jr.'s embrace of fitness culture showed his recognition of the pipeline that drives young men from fitness content to political radicalization, where terms like "looksmaxxing" reflect eugenic assumptions that human value depends on a narrow ideal of physical appearance. White nationalists further entrench this insidious idea by linking physical optimization with racial hierarchies.

Jeffrey Epstein Couldn't Stop Emailing People About Eugenics

Julia Métraux, *Mother Jones* | 02.10.2026

Newly released emails from Jeffrey Epstein not only reveal the extent of his obsession with eugenics, but also show how the public intellectuals and scientists he emailed tolerated or endorsed his pseudoscientific ideas.

At the Super Bowl, Bad Bunny's Defiant Joy Beat Trump's Knockoff Eugenics

Emese Ilyés, *Common Dreams* | 02.10.2026

The Trump administration's embrace of eugenics has resulted in the targeting of migrants, disabled people, and people of color. Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime performance demonstrates how art and music can joyfully resist damaging and dehumanizing eugenic narratives.

Project Eugenics: The Rollback of Disability Rights

Kiana Jackson and Shannon Stubblefield, *New Disabled South* | 02.09.2026

This report details the current US government's deliberate pattern of attacks on disabled people through mutually reinforcing strategies of dismantling, punishment, and dehumanization. It documents how the resurgence of eugenic logics, rhetoric, and narratives in the Trump administration is harming disabled people and communities.

NM memorial calling for study of forced sterilization against women of color advances

Leah Romero, *SourceNM* | 02.06.2026

A New Mexico state legislative committee is advancing a proposal to comprehensively study the scope and impact of forced sterilization of Indigenous women and women of color in the state.

SURROGACY 360



Kazakhstan to ban surrogacy for foreigners

Kristina Kolossovskaya, *Kursiv Media* | 02.03.2026

In response to disputes related to surrogacy arrangements involving foreign clients, proposed legislation in Kazakhstan would make surrogacy

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

The Babies Kept in a Mysterious Los Angeles Mansion

[Ava Kofman](#), *The New Yorker* | 02.09.2026

A recent high-profile surrogacy case demonstrates how the lack of regulation of surrogacy in the U.S. leaves surrogates without recourse in response to misleading information or mistreatment. It highlights a small subset of wealthy intended parents, including some from places with laws against surrogacy, who legally pursue “dynasty-making” surrogacy arrangements in the U.S.

Want a tall, smart child? How IVF tests are selling a dream

[Alex Polyakov](#), *The Conversation* | 02.09.2026

Marketing for new genetic tests claims that polygenic risk scores can predict which IVF embryo will grow into the tallest, smartest or healthiest child. The tests not only fail to deliver on their promises, but also promote dehumanizing eugenic ideas about whose lives have value.

Subsidising Birth: Pronatalist Policy and the Rise of Assisted Reproductive Technologies

[Pei-Chieh Hsu](#), *Taiwan Insight* | 02.02.2026

Taiwan’s state subsidies of assisted reproductive technologies have contributed to an increasing percentage of ART-conceived babies. The shift demonstrates that government embrace (or rejection) of pronatalist policies helps shape technology use in reproduction.

VARIOUS

What Does an Imperial Hegemon Mean for Research Ethics?

[Jonathan D. Moreno](#), *Hastings Center Bioethics Forum* | 02.09.2026

None of the elements of modern bioethics are written in stone; they are the products of human decisions. Not all flowed simply from the post-World War II system; their roots are far deeper and have become vastly more formalized and globalized since then. It turns out that what matters for bioethics in a diminished or radically revised global order also happens to matter a lot for the world.

Oz Offers Forceful Call for Vaccination as Measles Becomes More Dire

[Teddy Rosenbluth](#), *The New York Times* | 02.09.2026

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services director, Mehmet Oz, urged people to get vaccinated against measles. The endorsement comes amid RFK Jr.’s repeated undermining of the vaccine’s safety and efficacy.

TrumpRx claims to offer the lowest prices. But many drugs have cheaper generics

[John Wilkerson](#), [J. Emory Parker](#), [Chelsea Cirruzzo](#), [Elaine Chen](#), and [Daniel Payne](#), *Stat* | 02.06.2026

Trump claims that the new “TrumpRx” site will reduce drug prices for 43 name-brand drugs, but analysis by *Stat* found that half of them are already available as generics for much less.

The EPA just erased a century of public health progress

[Michelle A. Williams](#), *Stat* | 02.02.2026

The EPA will no longer calculate the economic benefits of lives saved when setting limits on fine particulate matter and ozone, arguably two of the deadliest air pollutants. It will continue counting costs to industry.

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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