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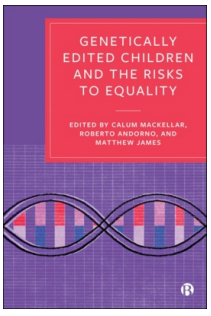
October 29, 2026

SPOTLIGHT

CGS Celebrates 25 Years – with your help!

As CGS celebrates 25 years, we're reflecting on a remarkable journey and looking ahead to our next chapter. Read Executive Director Katie Hasson's **letter** marking this moment. As we reflect on this history and look ahead, we'd love to hear from you. Hit **'reply'** and let us know: what CGS milestones and wins are you celebrating? What are your hopes for what comes next?

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New edited volume on heritable genome editing and equality

Genetically Edited Children and the Risks to Equality brings together scholarly perspectives examining the implications of heritable genome editing through the lens of equality. CGS Executive Director Katie Hasson's contribution, "Heritable Genome Editing, the Future of Equality, and the Need for Social Justice and Human Rights Perspectives," makes the case for more civil society engagement and the inclusion of social justice perspectives in public conversations about heritable genome editing.

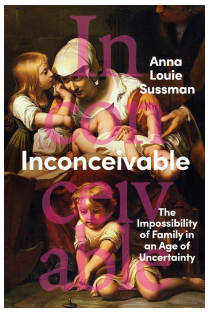


Demographic Fears and Far-Right Fantasies

Alexandra Minna Stern, *LA Review of Books* | 09.26.2026

In this 17th installment of the CGS-supported **Legacies of Eugenics** series, CGS Advisory Board member Alexandra Minna Stern dissects the vivid metaphors of the French ethnonationalist novel *The Camp of the Saints*. She shows how its author relies on eugenic language to conjure a nightmare dystopia, and how the book continues, a half century after its publication, to incite and shape the contours of contemporary xenophobia.

COMMENTARY



How a Deeply Inhumane World Makes Having Children Difficult

Jennifer Denbow, Guest Contributor, *Biopolitical Times* | 10.29.2026
Anna Louie Sussman's new book *Inconceivable* paints a complex picture of falling fertility rates by looking at the many barriers to childbearing in the U.S. and across the globe, from high childcare costs and environmental toxins to fertility industry pressures to optimize childbearing. She ultimately argues that there is something deeply inhumane about a world that has made the fundamental human experience of procreation so challenging.



Can You Really See Everything? Hype and Fraud in Silicon Valley

Emma McDonald Kennedy, *Biopolitical Times* | 10.29.2026
Nathan Fielder's film *You Can See Everything* reminds audiences to question Silicon Valley hype and founders' hollow gestures to transparency and oversight. It also shows why we need each other to make real progress toward these core values.

CGS IN THE NEWS



This startup wants to prove gene-editing embryos is safe for making healthy babies

Rob Stein, *NPR* | 09.30.2026
The backers of heritable human gene editing ventures like Origin Genomics "are very open about their vision for the future," CGS' Katie Hasson warns. And their hoped-for future doesn't look good: "It's a vision of mass-produced, genetically engineered humans that's horrifying."

WHAT WE'RE READING

GENE EDITING AND GENE THERAPY | EUGENICS
SURROGACY360 | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION | SURROGACY | VARIOUS

GENE EDITING AND GENE THERAPY

A New Hope for Gene Editing

Gary Sernovitz, *Bloomberg* | 10.21.2026
Companies developing gene therapies are pursuing new avenues of treatment, including base editing and prime editing techniques, that they hope will attract investment and prove beneficial to patients. However, investors are cautious about funding experimental gene therapies because there are few examples of financial success in the still-growing field.

Gene editing is coming for common diseases. Are we ready?

Noah Fromson, *HealthLab* | 10.19.2026

Gene therapies are being developed for common conditions like heart disease and high cholesterol, which means that physicians need to think about when such treatments might be worth pursuing for their patients. A new paper proposes questions related to long-term safety, risk, and alternative treatment options to help determine whether a gene therapy is appropriate for a particular patient.

What Three Gene-Therapy Deaths Have in Common

Roxanne Khamsi, *The Atlantic* | 10.16.2026

Three deaths occurred in different gene therapy trials that all use the same viral vector to deliver the therapy. The deaths have prompted researchers to scrutinize the risks introduced by the use of modified adeno-associated viruses in experimental gene therapies.

New Push to Make Editing Human Embryos Legal Comes Under Scrutiny

Rebecca Roberts, *The Scientist* | 10.12.2026

While venture capitalists and reckless entrepreneur Cathy Tie aim to make heritable genome editing seem ethically appropriate, many scientists and ethicists "fundamentally disagree with germline editing efforts, citing a range of concerns from basic safety to eugenics and 'designer babies.'"

Gene Editing: Ending Disease or Coding Inequality?

Han Yeong-bin, *The Postech Times* | 10.07.2026

To evaluate gene editing, we must consider broader sociostructural values and implications. The problems with heritable genome editing include not only issues of safety, but also of social inequalities and cultural judgments about enhancement and desirable traits.

Engineering Animals to Grow Human Organs — But Not Human Minds

Charles Schmidt, *Undark* | 09.25.2026

Researchers who created "human-animal chimeras" think the approach will offer insights into human diseases, but this research brings ethical concerns related to animal rights as well as scientific risks. Human pluripotent stem cells in animals could develop into reproductive cells or be incorporated into the brain, which could lead to human-like features, morphology, or capacities.

EUGENICS

Would you pay to have the 'best baby'? Liberal eugenics and the troubling quest for human perfection

Jan Grue, *The Guardian* | 10.27.2026

"We are all constantly living under the relentless imperative to strive for human perfection, in our own generation and the next. And although it has taken on a new, consumerist form, centred on the individual self, that imperative has a familiar name: eugenics."

Why the ugly history of IQ testing matters for AI and education

Jay Timothy Dolmage, *The Conversation* | 10.18.2026

Historical attempts to quantify intelligence were based on the eugenic idea that intelligence is a fixed and heritable trait. IQ tests contributed to the development of a "pseudo-scientific racialized genetic hierarchy." This history has important implications for current debates about education, AI, and the resurgence of eugenic ideas.

The dark side of optimizing fertility

Jonquilyn Hill, *Vox* | 10.18.2026

In an interview, the journalist Kristen V. Brown explains how people are using polygenic risk scores in the IVF process to try to "optimize" reproduction. These approaches neglect the unknowns and uncertainties in genetics and reproduction, and they risk advancing a value system that attaches negative stereotypes to disability.

SURROGACY 360



Georgia's surrogacy industry is booming, but at what cost?

Asja Lokina, *DW* | 10.11.2026

As the ongoing conflict with Russia has upended Ukraine's surrogacy industry, nearby Georgia has become a surrogacy hub. Many women from nearby countries – including Kazakhstan and Russia – have been recruited to work as surrogates. Experts caution that surrogates lack essential rights in Georgia, including bodily autonomy during pregnancy and guarantees related to contracts, medical care reimbursement, and compensation. When agencies prioritize their financial interests over surrogates' well being, regulation is all the more necessary.



Ghana has a surrogacy law, but… – Supreme Court Justice

Francis Ameyibor, *Modern Ghana* | 10.10.2026

Ghana currently has statutory recognition of surrogacy, but it does not yet fully regulate the practice, according to a Supreme Court justice in the country. The judge called for a comprehensive regulatory act, noting that the government still has not established eligibility criteria for surrogacy, allowable compensation, donor registration protocols, or regulations for agencies and clinics.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

Meet Michelle: Leading the Way for Egg Donation Reform in Belgium

We Are Egg Donors | 10.21.2026

A former egg donor and founder of a nonprofit that advocates for egg donors in Belgium has proposed a legal procedure to recognize egg donors as legal subjects with enforceable rights. She advocates for research into the long-term health outcomes of the procedure as well as changes that would improve treatment of egg donors and ensure their welfare.

Women's Access to Fertility Care

Usha Ranji et al., *KFF* | 10.08.2026

A survey conducted by the health policy organization KFF in early 2026 shows that cost is a major barrier to accessing fertility services for women in the U.S.

Age limits for fertility patients – a medical or societal matter?

Andrea Martani, *BioNews* | 10.05.2026

Age limits for fertility treatments remain a challenging issue for policymakers, requiring consideration of a complex mix of medical and sociocultural factors. Broader public discussion could help clarify how to set boundaries on who has access to fertility treatments.

SURROGACY

Surrogacy and Big Tech Collide in *Fallow*

Anna Louie Sussman, *The New Republic* | 10.26.2026

Sarah Anderson's new novel shows how the ethics of surrogacy are entangled with issues of gender and labor. *Fallow* explores how the complexities of surrogacy shift when it is understood through the lens of capitalism, with a specific focus on companies' exploitation of workers under late-stage capitalism.

The problem with the US surrogacy system

Ariana Aspuru and Noel King, *Vox* | 10.14.2026

Surrogacy is subject to so few regulations in the U.S. that it's easier to start a surrogacy agency than it is to start a hot dog stand or a nail salon. Without regulation, surrogates and intended

parents have little recourse if their agreed-upon arrangements go awry.

When does surrogacy become human trafficking? An Argentine Court draws a difficult line

Paula Siverino Bavio, *BioNews* | 10.12.2026

Recent court cases in Argentina show the difficulty of drawing the line between reproductive autonomy and exploitation of surrogates, particularly when no legal framework exists. Safeguards would help avoid potentially exploitative arrangements, rather than relying on determinations being made after the fact by a single judge.

When abortion and surrogacy law collide, contracts can't answer the hardest questions

Sonia Suter and Naomi Cahn, *The Conversation* | 10.09.2026

The McKenna West surrogacy case shows how surrogacy has become more complex in the post-Dobbs reproductive landscape: "rapidly changing abortion laws, reproductive technology and family law can create conflicts that surrogacy contracts cannot necessarily anticipate."

VARIOUS

Start-Up Claims to Use A.I.-Created Viruses to Treat a Patient

Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times* | 10.20.2026

A startup announced that they used an AI-designed virus called a phage to treat a patient who had a deadly bacterial infection. The research has yet to be peer-reviewed or published, which other researchers say is crucial to determining the validity of the results and the viability of the experimental treatment for future use.

Big Tech Oligarchs Have Terrible Plans for Humanity

Bernie Sanders, *The Atlantic* | 10.16.2026

"The future of humanity cannot be left in the hands of a few Big Tech oligarchs who are obsessed with money and power. The American people and people throughout the world must determine that future. Human beings, not machines, must come first."

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

Will you support CGS by making a donation today?

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