

MARCY DARNOVSKY

Should We Genetically Modify Our Children?



Thursday, March 3 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
1104 Harold Frank Hall, UCSB

Powerful new “gene editing” techniques have put the prospect of genetically modified human beings on the foreseeable horizon. Should we use these tools to improve the human species? Are they needed to prevent the transmission of genetic diseases? Would manipulating the genes of future children and generations open the door to new kinds of discrimination, inequality, and eugenics? Some forty countries, including most of Europe, have adopted laws prohibiting human heritable genetic modification, but the United States has not. Marcy Darnovsky unpacks the controversies that have erupted in recent months about how we should — and should not — use gene editing tools, and explores the technical, social, and ethical stakes of these imminent decisions.

Marcy Darnovsky, PhD, is Executive Director and co-founder of the Center for Genetics and Society, a public affairs organization based in Berkeley, California. She speaks and writes widely on human genetic and assisted reproductive technologies, focusing on their social justice, human rights, and public interest implications. Her commentaries have appeared recently in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Nature*, and other publications. She has appeared on national television news shows, been cited in hundreds of news and magazine articles, and was an invited speaker at the “International Summit on Human Gene Editing” that convened some 500 participants in Washington, DC in December 2015.



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