

Explore More · Collaborative Reproduction

We've organized some further materials by topic, so you can easily follow up on particular issues or events of interest from this unit.

GENERAL

- National Public Radio has [a short series of terrific stories](#) about **collaborative reproduction**, from gamete donors to surrogacy.
- [This site](#), from American Experience—a history show from American public television—has an excellent set of short essays on **IVF (in vitro fertilization)**, including essays on the science, the policy, and the ethics of IVF.
- A [fascinating video](#) from the very early days in the collaborative reproduction industry describes the birth of first-ever “**test tube**” baby, Louise Brown.
- For more on the **philosophical theories** undergirding ethical issues around **parenthood** and **procreation**, including assisted reproductive technologies, read [this excellent article](#) in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* by Elizabeth Brake and Joe Millum.
- Many people in **developing countries** struggle with **infertility**. The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)’s monograph looks at the pros and cons of [affordable assisted reproductive technologies](#) in these countries.
- Listen to philosopher and Oxford professor Julian Savulescu’s opinion about the ethics of selecting characteristics for one’s baby in [this podcast](#) about so-called “**designer babies**.”
- And for a very different look at new ways of creating people... BBC America’s science fiction mystery thriller show, **Orphan Black**, provides a campy look at clones—and the walking dead! [Get swept up in the craze!](#)
- For a more philosophical discussion, read these two opposing philosophical views on whether children born from gamete donation have a **moral right** to know their **genetic origins** from the *Hastings Center Report*: [one against](#), [one for](#). [Access to the full-text of this article from the Hastings Center Report is provided through generous agreement with The Hastings Center and its publisher collaborator, Wiley.]
- An experimental technique called **mitochondrial replacement** or **cytoplasmic transfer** can

help couples avoid passing on some forms of genetic disease to their children—but the children will have **DNA from three different people** and, the mitochondrial change introduced is permanent for future generations. The technique currently isn't permitted anywhere, but the British government proposed [new draft guidelines](#) earlier this year. Journalist [Tabitha M. Powledge](#) and *New York Times* blogger [Karen Weintraub](#) tackle the science and ethics behind the practice.

GAMETES: DOLLARS, RACE, & ANONYMITY

- Watch episodes of [Generation Cryo](#), the MTV show mentioned in this sequence. Breanna Speicher took her **search for her sperm donor** onto MTV and ended up finding at least 15 half siblings and her donor.
 - Hot competition exists for “**premium**” **egg donors** from Ivy League schools. Read about [one such prospective egg donor's experience](#) and how much some of these donors are paid.
 - Worries have been raised about whether the fertility industry is adequately regulating itself to be in line with guidelines issued by major fertility societies. Read [this article](#) by Aaron Levine, which looks at advertising practices for **egg donors on college campuses**. [Access to the full-text of this article from the Hastings Center Report is provided through generous agreement with The Hastings Center and its publisher collaborator, Wiley.]
 - Race often is the primary criterion or prominent feature used by those soliciting sperm or eggs for use in IVF, or purchasing gametes from fertility banks. [This philosophical article](#) by Hawley Fogg-Davis asks: **what role should race play in assisted reproduction?** [Access to the full-text of this article from the Hastings Center Report is provided through generous agreement with The Hastings Center and its publisher collaborator, Wiley.]
 - Why do we invest so much in **selecting the genes** for babies conceived via donor gametes? Reporter Liza Mundy [writes about the mixed message](#) on the importance of genetics that reproductive medicine and the fertility industry send to would-be parents.
 - Founded in 2000, the [Donor Sibling Registry](#) permits persons conceived through sperm, egg, or embryo donation to search for other persons with whom they share a **genetic connection**. The site provides a fascinating glimpse into those who want to connect. Don't miss the **interactive map**.
 - Watch [the trailer for Anonymous Father's Day](#), a documentary by [The Center for Bioethics and Culture](#) that presents the search by some **sperm-donor conceived children** to find their **biological donors**.
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SURROGACY

- Watch [Google Baby](#), the **documentary** mentioned in this week's overview. The entire film is well worth watching; the first 20 minutes will also give you a good flavor of the issues.
- Watch (or read) [CNN's recent report](#) on **surrogacy in India**.
- Read [a sample surrogacy contract](#).
- Read the **abortion section** in [the above surrogacy contract](#). Then read [this description](#) of a **case** in which the abortion clause became particularly contested.
- In [a truly fascinating case](#) in the US state of California, a child born of a surrogacy arrangement was judged to have **no parents**. The appellate court reversed the decision, and established California's unusually strong interpretation that intentional parents—with no genetic links—have **parental standing** while the gestational surrogate has none.