

# GENETIC ENGINEERING AND SOCIETY CENTER



NC STATE



The GES Center is located in the NC State University James B. Hunt Library on Centennial Campus

## An Interdisciplinary Approach to a Complex Field

Researchers and scientists have made tremendous progress in recent years in genetic engineering, now at the forefront of medical, agricultural, environmental and industrial technologies.

The Genetic Engineering and Society Center (GES) serves as a regional, national and international hub of **interdisciplinary research and analysis** and **inclusive dialogue** around genetic engineering and synthetic biology.

The GES Center is unique example of **engaged scholarship** that blends approaches from biological and social sciences to study the intersection of genetic engineering and society.

The GES Center provides **rigorous, trustworthy analyses** and **mechanisms for discussion** about how products of genetic engineering and synthetic biology may impact society.

**Genetic Engineering and Society Center** | Integrating scientific knowledge & public values in shaping the futures of biotechnology

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## What We Do

GES is positioned at the nexus of science and technology, the social sciences and humanities. We bring scholarship, dialogue and engagement to bear on contentious issues associated with the development, use and deployment of genetically engineered organisms in society.

Using this approach, GES has taken a national and international lead in examining the technical, ethical and societal dimensions of genetic engineering and synthetic biology.

# Our Work | Research Projects & Workshops

GES supports numerous research projects, including those conducted by our Faculty affiliates and students:

- ✱ NSF A Roadmap for Gene Drives: A Deliberative Workshop to Develop Frameworks for Research and Governance [↗](#)
- ✱ Synthetic Biology and Governance Sloan Foundation Grant [↗](#)
- ✱ RWJF Democratization of Health Innovation Research: How do we enable an ecosystem of makers in biology? [↗](#)
- ✱ NC Science Festival Workshop - Art's Work in the Age of Biotechnology: Shaping Our Genetic Futures [↗](#)
- ✱ OECD/NCBC Environmental Release of Engineered Pests: Building an International Governance Framework [↗](#)
- ✱ NSF Restoring Biotechnology's Moral Fiber? Investigating the Case of the Genetically Modified American Chestnut [↗](#)

## The History Project: Archive of Agricultural Genetic Engineering & Society (AAGES)

Together with the NC State Libraries Special Collections and Department of History, GES is creating a video archive of oral histories to document for posterity the memories and papers of the pioneers of genetic engineering. In this process we are interviewing individuals from the first generation of researchers and regulators, many of whom are still actively working in their fields. [↗](#)

## NSF Comparing Meanings of Responsible Innovation in Bioengineering Communities: Cultivating Cultures of Ethics (CCE-STEM)

Issues surrounding genetic engineering, biotechnology, and synthetic biology are contentious, especially when applied to food, the environment, and industrial applications for which direct human consent and medical benefits are not present. How researchers, developers and policy-makers communicate about and reflect upon their work is of utmost importance to the fields of bioengineering. This research fills an important niche by encouraging those involved in biotechnology innovation systems to reflect on the ethical dimensions of their work and what it means to innovate responsibly. [↗](#)

## NSF IGERT: The Case of Transgenic Pests

Recent scientific developments are rapidly outpacing the regulatory infrastructure currently in place to handle them. These new technologies demand a new kind of academician to properly contextualize not only their scientific implications but also their social and ethical impacts. The NC State IGERT program is uniquely geared toward offering potential graduate students the opportunity to be among the first of these newly integrated Ph.D. professionals. [↗](#)

## About Us

Our team at NC State represents faculty, students and staff with diverse perspectives. GES is part of the [Chancellor's Faculty Excellence Cluster Program](#) and is supported by the Provost, CHASS, CALS, CNR, COS and ORIED. GES collaborates broadly with many local and national programs, organizations and universities.

**Our core team includes:** Co-Directors Dr. Jennifer Kuzma and Dr. Fred Gould; Sr. Research Scholar Dr. Todd Kuiken; Faculty and Executive Committee members Dr. Jason Delborne and Dr. Zachary Brown; Communications Director Patti Mulligan and Program Specialist Sharon Stauffer. [↗](#)