



MIRANDA R. WAGGONER

PROGRAMMING FUTURES? EPIGENETICS, REPRODUCTION, & INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

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ABSTRACT: Epigenetic science often invokes metaphors of “developmental programming,” “metabolic programming,” or “fetal programming” to refer to how epigenetic gene regulation in early development has enduring effects on the body and health. Scholars of epigenetics have demonstrated how pregnant women are typically depicted as the vectors for such programming. Using perspectives from science and technology studies, bioethics, and social studies of reproduction, this talk extends previous work by closely interrogating the discursive and material relationship between reproduction and technology in maternal-fetal epigenetic programming science, with emphasis on the social, ethical, and gendered implications of the scientific production of the fetus and the future as “programmable.”

BIO: Miranda Waggoner is an assistant professor of sociology at Florida State University and a Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics. Her book, *The Zero Trimester: Pre-Pregnancy Care and the Politics of Reproductive Risk* (University of California Press), was awarded the 2019 Robert K. Merton Book Award from the Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association. Her work has appeared in outlets such as *Signs*, *New Genetics and Society*, and *Gender & Society*, among others. She is currently working on a book project about pregnancy and biomedical research ethics.