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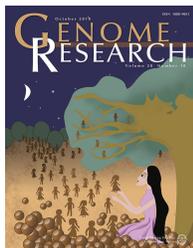
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<sup>OA</sup>Open Access paper



**Cover** In Chinese mythology, the goddess Nüwa hand-crafted all people from mud. In this issue, Liu et al. explore pluripotency dynamics in primates using RNA-seq in single cells from rhesus monkey early embryos. They find that naive pluripotency in epiblast cells (represented by the clay balls in Nüwa's hands) is transient in monkey pre-implantation embryos, which may have implications for the derivation of embryonic stem cells from humans and other primates. (Cover artwork by Chunli Sun. [For details, see Liu et al., pp. 1481–1493.]