Biological Roots of Human Behavior

- A Sociobiology of human behavior?
- Marriage is a universal human institution
- Different reproductive strategies for men and women
- Men are more prone to violence and risk-taking
- Men and women use different indicators for a mate’s reproductive value
- The waist-to-hip ratio
- Men go to extremes to avoid being cuckolded
- Infanticide of step-children
- The ecological problem of “sociobiologically correct” human behavior
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Subjects were asked to rate their willingness to have sexual intercourse with an attractive member of the opposite sex after being acquainted for different periods of time. Ratings were on a scale from 3 (definitely yes) to -3 (definitely no).
The number of sperm inseminated during intra-pair copulations increases with time elapsed since the last ejaculation. A man also inseminates more sperm if he has spent less time with his woman, which implies a higher risk of sperm competition. Numbers on columns indicate how many ejaculates were analyzed.
Women favor sperm retention from extra-pair copulations (EPC) by timing their copulatory orgasms and by limiting the number of their non-copulatory orgasms.
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Financial prospects of a long-term mate or marriage partner. When asked to rate this variable on a scale from 0 to 3, women attached greater importance to this criterion than men.
Physical attractiveness of a long-term mate or marriage partner. Subjects were asked to rate this variable, in the context of 18 other variables, on a scale from 0 to 3. On average, men attached greater importance to this criterion than women.
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Low waist-to-hip ratio of pregnant women correlates with presence in their blood of fatty acids for neural development, and with cognitive scores of their children.

From Lassek and Gaulin (2008)
Male subjects were asked to rate their preference of marriage partners dependent on body weight category and waist-to-hip ratio.
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According to police statistics from Canada and England, a young child is much more likely to be abused, even killed, by a stepparent than by a genetic parent. Most of the perpetrators are stepfathers.
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In accord with the upsuck hypothesis, the level of sperm retention by the female is greatest if her orgasm occurs a few minutes after ejaculation by the male.
Women not using contraception show a higher proportion of extra-pair copulations (EPCs) during their fertile days.
For women using contraception, the proportion of extra-pair copulations (EPCs) does not differ significantly during the phases of their menstrual cycle.