

ANTH 102: Humans are cultural animals

LECTURE #27: The end of sex & space

The latest example of chimpanzee cultural tool manufacture:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7922120.stm>

Course website: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jmoore/courses>

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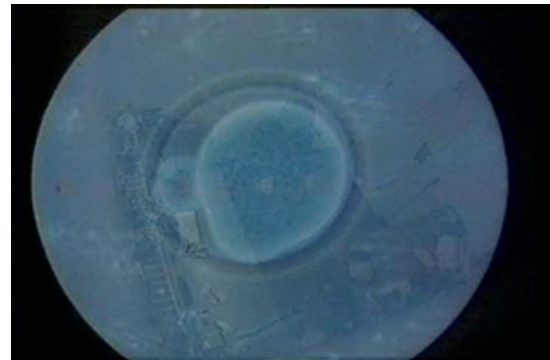
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The hunter-gatherer hypothesis



Make something PERFECTLY CLEAR. Modern foraging people are modern people. These !Kung San are genetically every bit as modern as Moldovans, and their social culture is as complex as ours. It is their way of life, not them, that 'models' our last \approx 100k years.

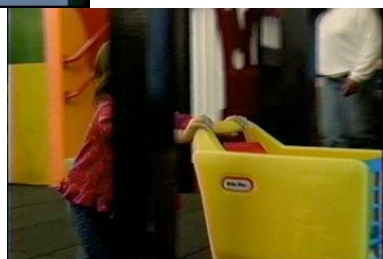
But remember Tinbergen's *other* whys, mechanism and ontogeny
Mechanism [s]



Early differences



Consider developmental experiences, feedback between caregiver and infant when infant just bit more sensitive.



Summary

1. We see statistical difference (in *most* cultures).
2. Has been used to explain relative under-representation of women in math/physics/engineering.
3. It has been claimed that since the difference is 'biological' we don't need to address the myriad of well-known sociocultural factors (ranging from prejudice to logistical difficulties combining career & children).
4. That's stupid.
5. There are approximately analogous nonhuman data (no sociocultural factors involved).

Summary II

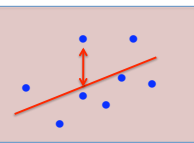
- The nonhuman results readily interpreted in evolutionary terms (function) and on way to understanding mechanisms.
- Humans roughly fit the same explanatory framework.
- Strong inference that observed navigation differences have biological basis (possibly indirectly, e.g. via greater activity levels in boys).
- Weaker inference that these contribute something to average performance differences in math performance (possibly indirectly, e.g. via choices of what's interesting).

Summary III

- Is interesting area for biocultural research.
- Zero, repeat zero, implications for choices made by, or about, individuals.

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We can learn about ourselves from BOTH pattern *and* variation

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12. Women on average outperform men on spatial location tasks. Men average better at navigation over large scales; women average better remembering what's where. Even saying one sex better at "spatial" behaviors is misleading. The subcomponents (so far) tend to fit an evolutionary model that includes human sexual division of labor (hunting v. foraging).

MARRIAGE

What is the 'natural' human mating system?

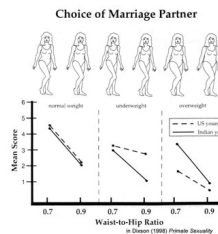
Current hot political debate, concerning the question of what mating system is "normal" for humans.

One would think anthropology, both sociocultural and biological, would be relevant here.

We should know the data before deciding on the policy, shouldn't we?

???????

Note mating system ≠ mate choice

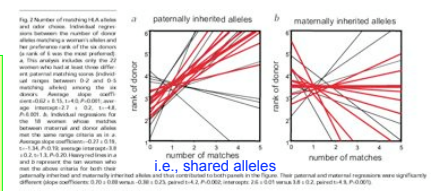
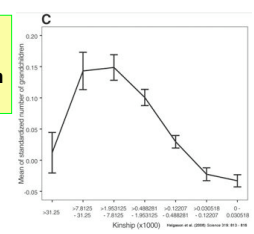


Iceland: 3rd cousin marriages with highest RS

So MANY factors, ? if ever predict exact choices...

Average preference for waist-hip ratio ≈ 0.7

Women prefer male who shares paternally inherited HLA alleles (MHC; highly variable; not familiarity effect - no pref. for non-inherited alleles)



Jacob et al. (2002) Nature Genetics 30: 175-179

Defense of Marriage

As currently framed in US culture, this is about same/different sex unions. However, the definitions being used also apply to # partners.

DOMA Won't Do It: Why the Constitution Must Be Amended to Save Marriage

The Nature of Marriage

The defining features of marriage are a union between a man and a woman that is (a) monogamous; (b) sexually exclusive; (c) the morally legitimate context for raising children; and (d) permanent.

<http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=BC04D03>

Defense of Marriage

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE A state marriage amendment is needed By Glen Lavy (SD Union Tribune, 16 May 2008)

In removing the ban on same-sex marriages,

“...the [California Supreme] court has separated itself from thousands of years of legal and cultural precedent that have consistently delineated the government's primary interest in marriage: to provide an ideal environment for the raising of children. No arrangement ensures that so dependably as the traditional union of one man and one woman.

Lavy argued before the California Supreme Court in defense of Proposition 22. He is a senior vice president and senior counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund (telladf.org).
http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080516/news_lz1e16lavy.html

Mating system options

Monogamy - 1M:1F, relationship

Lifelong

SM

Serial

Polygamy - Multiple partners, relationship

Polygyny - 1M, mult. F

MM

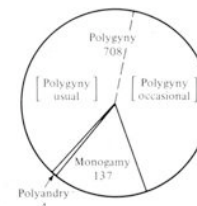
Polyandry - 1F, mult. M

Polygynandry - mult. both

Promiscuous - Multiple partners, sexual only

Human mating system: Cultural evidence

FIGURE 11-1 Incidence of polygynous, monogamous, and polyandrous marriage practices in a sample of 849 human societies



(Data from Murdock, 1967 [452]. Adapted from *Ethnographic Atlas* by George Peter Murdock by permission of the University of Pittsburgh Press. © 1967 by the University of Pittsburgh Press.)

Well, that seems clear...

So how do we interpret statements by DOMA advocates?

Defense of Marriage

<http://www.heritage.org/research/Family/MarriageDebate/TheMarriageDebate.cfm>

Marriage is a fundamental social institution, deeply rooted in all societies, which has been tested and reaffirmed over thousands of years. How deep are thousand-year roots? **BIO**

The Heritage Foundation is committed to defending, promoting and supporting the historical role of the family as the basic unit of every civil society, and marriage as the legal union of one man and one woman.

What is Marriage?

Marriage is a fundamental social institution, providing the foundation of a harmonious and enriching family life and the basic building block of our society. Regardless of religion, culture or constitutional tradition, societies have always agreed on the nature of marriage.

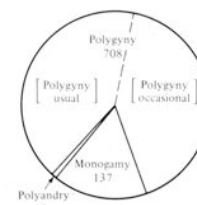
SOCIOCULTURAL

But... but... we just saw the data! Can this statement be true? Yes... sort of ... All societies have A definition ..

Sophistry lives; Bill C'd be proud.

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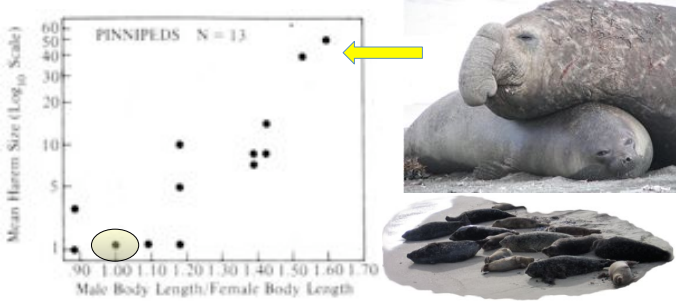
What are we adapted for?

Biological evidence:

Monogamy vs. other single-male systems

Mammalian males tend to compete for females.

Given $\approx 1:1$ birth SR, competition greater when single male monopolizes multiple females (d'oh!)

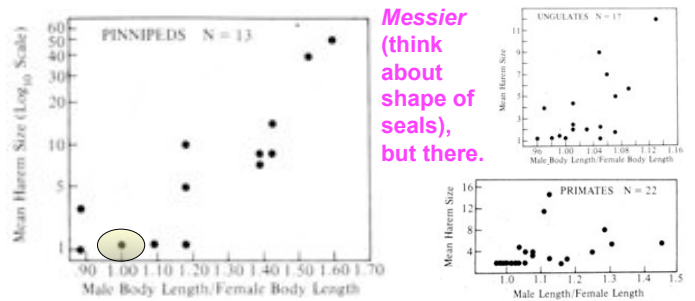


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