

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTHEASTERN EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY SOCIETY: ABSTRACTS

Testosterone and Financial Risk Preferences

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Many behaviors, from mating to food acquisition, entail some degree of risk. Testosterone has been implicated in a wide range of such behaviors in men. However, little is known about the relationship between testosterone and risk preferences. In this paper we explore the effects of prenatal, pubertal and current testosterone in men making financial decisions related to risk. Using a sample of ninety-eight men, we find that risk-taking with real monetary payoffs correlates positively with circulating testosterone levels and facial masculinity, the latter being a proxy of pubertal testosterone exposure. 2D:4D, a proxy for prenatal hormone exposure, was not related to risk. (Poster Presentation).

Proportional Skeletal Sexual Dimorphisms in Homo sapiens

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The skeletal dimensions of more than 350 participants were recorded using a detailed anthropometric measurement design. Fitness salient demographics (E.G. SOI) and pictures of participants' faces were recorded. Faces were ranked on a number of scales by 3rd party raters. The anthropometric database was analyzed to look for proportional skeletal sexual dimorphisms (PSSD). Examples of newly discovered PSSD include hand, humerus and ulna length, brachial index (humerus/ulna) and chest to hip ratio. The magnitude of the PSSD within subjects was analyzed to determine if "fitter" (more attractive faces, more sexual experience) participants exhibited a greater dimorphism. These novel PSSD were also tested for attractiveness using silhouettes and wire frame figures constructed using the bodies of the most and least feminine/masculine figures and rated by 3rd parties. The ultimate evolutionary significance of these proportionate sexual dimorphisms will be discussed in relation to the phylogenetic origins of Homo sapiens. (Paper Presentation)

Selection in the City: The Cognitive Niches of Civilization

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Between the Environment of Evolutionary Adaptation and present day lays a period of many thousands of years when agriculture, domesticated animals, high population densities and large scale meta-ethnic warfare exerted strong and novel selection pressures upon humanity. In response to these Selective Forces of Civilization (SFC), a host of adaptations at the individual and group level recently and rapidly spread throughout the world. Some of these adaptations were designed to exploit cognitive niches, or multi-generational mental task domains within a civilization. Examples of these niches include professions which have been endured for millennia such as farming, herding, trading and banking. There is evidence that many populations, archaic, historic and modern have developed genetic Mental Morphs (MM), or novel cognitive profiles, in response to the

SFC. This paper will present evidence that there are multiple examples of genetically determined MM in current human populations, both within indigenous and modern populations. (Poster Presentation).

Punishing Free-riders to Signal Toughness and Deter Transgressions

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Group cooperation is susceptible to invasion by free-riders who do not cooperate, but punishment of free-riders can prevent this and is thought to be a major force in the evolution of altruism. Such punishment benefits all other group members, but is individual costly, such that it has been termed “altruistic punishment” and its existence requires an evolutionary explanation itself. Theory suggests that punishment can be a signal of unwillingness to tolerate personal exploitation, such that people exploit punishers less often than non-punishers. In an experimental taking game, participants took less money from those who punished free-riders and from those who retaliated against punishment than from those who did not do so. Evidence from a second experiment with a negotiation game (Ultimatum Game) suggests that those who punish free-riders receive fairer offers, especially from cooperators. These results are consistent with game theoretical models and demonstrate individual-level benefits for so-called “altruistic punishment.” (Paper Presentation)

The Components of Mate Value: How Individuals Assess Their Worth

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Past research has defined mate value in terms of attractiveness or resource ownership, based on a reductionistic interpretation of the mate preference literature. For example, since the mate preference literature reveals that men prefer attractive women, women's mate value is thought to be simply their attractiveness. However, research on mate preferences reveals a wide assortment of characteristics is sought. Since one's mate value is intimately linked to how preferred they would be as a mate, mate value must therefore be more complex than has been previously documented. Here we explore the various components of mate value using a sample of 165 individuals, and found that it is primarily composed of four factors: social popularity and physical attractiveness, parenting, wealth and concerns about being unpopular, and general attitudes about one's desirability. Our findings show that one's judgments of their own mate value are more multifaceted than previously believed. (Paper Presentation)

Paternal Assurance Tactics in College Couples

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We examined the paternal assurance tactics outlined in Gallup and Burch (2006), in two samples of undergraduate students. These tactics include: Insemination Prevention Strategies, Counter Insemination Strategies, Pregnancy Termination Strategies, and Postpartum Investment Strategies. Although pregnancy termination and post partum investment are difficult to study in these samples (because of age), there is ample data to support the first three. In both samples, totaling over 1200 participants (but examined

separately), males reported greater levels of jealousy and accusations of infidelity. Arguments, as reported by both men and women, were most often caused by jealousy, discussion of ex-partners, and commitment to the relationship. Suspicions of infidelity in men increased mateguarding (Insemination Prevention Strategies) and counter insemination strategies but little violence. When these suspicions grew into accusations, physical and sexual violence emerged (Pregnancy Termination Strategies). These data correspond to the same pattern seen in males convicted of spouse abuse (unpublished data). (Paper Presentation)

Aggressive Behavior and Change in Salivary Testosterone Concentrations Predict Willingness to Engage in a Competitive Task

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The current study investigated relationships among aggressive behavior, change in salivary testosterone (T) concentrations, and willingness to engage in a competitive task. Thirty-eight male participants provided saliva samples before and after performing a laboratory task that provides opportunity for aggressive and defensive behaviour while working for reward (Point Subtraction Aggression Paradigm, Cherek, 1981). Baseline T concentrations were not related to aggressive responding. However, aggressive responding (but not point reward or point protection responding) predicted the laboratory-induced change in T: Those with the highest aggressive responding had the largest percent increase in T concentrations. Together, aggressive responding and change in T accounted for a significant proportion of the variance in willingness to choose a competitive versus a non-competitive task following the completion of the PSAP ($R^2 = 0.20$, $p = 0.02$). These results indicate that situation-specific aggressive behaviour and T responsiveness are functionally relevant predictors of future social behaviour. (Poster Presentation).

Reactions to Nipple Erection across the Menstrual Cycle

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It has been found that men and women react differently when viewing photos of women with and without nipple erection. Men find women (and mannequins) in pictures with nipple erection to be sexier, happier, friendlier, more confident and excited. Women only view the women as less sleepy and more excited. We examined whether female reactions to these photos shifted across the menstrual cycle. Just as all women were not significantly affected by nipple erection, ratings or altruistic behavior by nipple erection, did not shift across the menstrual cycle. However, women's reactions to the photos, regardless of nipple erection, shifted across the cycle. The most drastic changes were seen in the shift from the menstrual to follicular phases. Levels of altruism precipitously dropped in the follicular phase in all categories. Self ratings of attractiveness and mood in reaction to the photos also shifted, particularly in the follicular phase. (Poster Presentation).

Snake in the Grass Revisited: Moderating Effects of Stimulus Features and Task on Attentional Bias for Threatening Stimuli

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In four experiments, we tested the ability of evolutionary relevant fear stimuli (e.g., snakes), non-evolutionary relevant fear stimuli (e.g., knives), and neutral stimuli (e.g., leaves) to capture the attention of participants. We expected fear stimuli to have a perceptual advantage, however, the advantage should be even greater for evolutionary relevant threats. In Experiments 1-3, participants searched for a threatening stimulus in a grid-pattern display among four or eight neutral stimuli and the reverse. All three experiments revealed a significant detection advantage for evolutionary relevant fear stimuli. We also found detection advantages for non-evolutionary relevant fear stimuli and evidence of parallel processing depending on image size and presence of color in the stimuli. In experiment 4, we assessed the ability of these same threatening stimuli to create a perceptual advantage in an alternative task. In contrast to Experiments 1-3, we found evidence for “attentional adhesion” to only non-evolutionary relevant fear stimuli. (Paper Presentation)

Modeling Intrasexual Competition

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Intrasexual competition occurs among rivals during activities for which there exists no desire to equally distribute a valued objective or resource. High valued mates are such a resource and thus cause intrasexual competition. When participant’s mate values are considered, competition can either attempt to lower someone’s value, or to increase someone’s value – activities referred to as derogation and promotion, respectively. This paper presents a model for intrasexual competition, based on mate values, that identifies several elements of competition that have been previously ignored in the literature. For example, though competitor derogation is well known, existing literature does not clearly separate the target (i.e., person being derogated) from the audience (i.e., people witnessing) the derogatory act. When one applies principles of assortative mating, the model shows that promotion can be used to elevate a competitor to be out of a potential mate’s range, thus exposing new applications for promotion. (Paper Presentation)

Your Picture Tells Me What You Want: Photograph Properties of Online Dating Service Users

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Online dating services permit subscribers to post a photograph to accompany their textual information. These advertisements are grouped, based on the subscriber’s selection, according to the type of relationship they seek (e.g., intimate, casual, or long term). We propose that subscriber photographs will vary in multiple dimensions (e.g., background, facial expression, amount of skin showing) with respect to the sex of the advertiser and the desired relationship duration. We collected 600 photographs of heterosexual Canadians who were 25 to 34 years old for each of 6 conditions (100 of each sex in 3 relationship categories) and found several significant differences that are congruent with the existing mate preference literature. For example, the amount of skin shown by women is inversely proportional to the length of the sought relationship. Furthermore,

those seeking longer relationships smile more, while men are more likely to pose with their automobiles – a key resource indicator. (Poster Presentation).

Strap On Your Helmet and Wipe Off Your Smile

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Much research shows that smiling varies according to context and that different kinds of individuals (e.g. men and women) differ in their tendency to smile. Such variability is not surprising given the smile's function in signaling prosociality. Nevertheless, an evolutionary perspective predicts that the effect of context on smiling will vary according to the kind of individual. Here we test this interactive hypothesis by examining the faces of male intercollegiate athletes participating in sports requiring physical contact (e.g. football) or not (e.g. golf) and coded them for smiling and the presence of athletic attire. As predicted, there were main effects for kind of sport and athletic attire. Moreover, there was a significant interaction, as athletic attire was only associated with decreased smiling in contact sports. We conclude that different sports attract different kinds of people and that cues associated with competition only inhibit prosociality in men attracted to aggressive sports. (Poster Presentation).

You Wanna Step Outside? Testosterone, Risk-aversion, Sex, and the Decision to Compete

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The “challenge hypothesis” holds that changes in testosterone (T) affect the decision to compete, but little research has addressed this prediction. We addressed it by exposing participants to competitive or non-competitive movie scenes in order to manipulate T. Participants then earned money by solving mazes. Crucially, prior to beginning, they decided whether they wished to be paid piece-rate or preferred that their performance be entered into a tournament against an opponent, in which case their earnings would be more variable. This decision served as our measure of competitiveness. We found that T had negligible effects on competitiveness, whereas risk aversion, predicted outcome, and sex showed substantial effects. Multivariate models showed similar relationships in men and women, but men exhibited greater competitiveness even when controlling for these variables. These results imply that much variability in competitiveness is due to non-hormonal factors (i.e. valuation of winning) that differ in men and women. (Paper Presentation)

Investment by Mothers and Fathers in Sons and Daughters and the Influence of Birth Order

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The paternity uncertainty principle predicts that mothers should invest more in their children than fathers. The Trivers-Willard hypothesis argues that sons should receive more investment from their parents than daughters when family resources are plentiful. Related principles predict that first born and last born children should receive more favoritism from their parents than middle born (Sulloway, 2007). Participants (115) completed two questionnaires, one pertaining to their mother, one for their father, about various types of investment and criticism by each parent in each offspring in the family.

Participants were asked to budget the amount of investment in self and each sibling so that it added to 100. Results failed to support expectations based on either the paternity uncertainty principle or the Trivers-Willard hypothesis. However, birth order did matter. Unexpectedly, last-born children reported more favoritism from both parents than middle born children who reported more than first born children. (Poster Presentation).

Sex Differences in Spying on Your Mate: Female Ovulation Status and Other Factors

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Two studies examined sex differences in spying on your mate. Both studies measured the likelihood of engaging in 11 different spying tactics, and the likelihood of spying for 16 different jealousy-inducing reasons. In Study 1, the IVs included sex, past experience with infidelity, and the length of a relationship they were asked to imagine. The results showed that females were more likely to spy on their mate than males, while length of the hypothetical relationship and past experience with a mate's infidelity had no impact on likelihood of spying. In the second study, sex of participants and female fertility status were examined (i.e., males, ovulating females, non-ovulating females, and females on the birth control pill). The expected length of their current relationship (an indicator of commitment), and relationship satisfaction were also analyzed. Like Study 1, males were least likely to spy; while ovulating females were the most likely to resort to spying. The other variables had no impact on the likelihood of spying. (Paper Presentation)

Psychological Aspects of the Systemizing Personality

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Baron-Cohen proposed that male brains have been selected largely for systemizing while female brains were selected for empathizing. Systemizing would have been adaptive for ancestral men as they hunted, pursued status, exercised leadership, etc., while empathizing would have been adaptive for ancestral women as they made friends, mothered children, and investigated potential partners. Baron-Cohen sees empathizing/systemizing as two ends of a continuum. Further, he portrays extreme systemizing as corresponding to autism. We tested Baron-Cohen's model by examining whether indices of empathy and systemizing correlate with autism outcomes. Specifically, we hypothesized that literality and television watching would be negatively correlated with empathy while levels of pretend play would be positively correlated with empathy. 351 college students completed a questionnaire to measure correlates of autism and empathy. Several predicted correlations emerged (such as a negative correlation between television watching and empathy). These results support Baron-Cohen's model of male versus female brains. (Poster Presentation).

Using Facial Masculinity and Voice Pitch as Cues to the Same Underlying Quality
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For evolution to sustain multiple ornaments of the same underlying quality, each ornament must (a) express the quality to similar degrees; and (b) be used by perceivers in similar fashion. Research has demonstrated that men with attractive voices tend to have attractive faces supporting (a). Here we provide evidence that both men and women who prefer masculine faces also prefer masculine voices in support of (b). These effects were found to be related to use of hormonal contraceptives such that correlations between preferences for voice and face masculinity were not present in users of hormonal contraceptives, and vocal masculinity preferences of these women are greatly reduced in comparison to naturally cycling women. These results suggest that indeed voice pitch and facial masculinity are not only expressed to similar degrees, but that they are used in a fashion similar enough that they may qualify as multiple ornaments of the same underlying quality. (Paper Presentation)

The Impact of Male Physical Attractiveness on Women's Receptivity
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In their frequently cited article, Clark and Hatfield (1989) reported zero receptivity of women approached by an unknown male and asked for sex. This finding contradicts anecdotal reports and existing literature that shows women have higher standards for the physical attractiveness of "one-night stands." Ninety-five women rated the attractiveness of 30 male faces, and then indicated whether they would consider these men for a one-night, short-term, or long-term relationship. Over 10% said they would consider 5 of the 30 men for a one-night stand, and these same men were chosen by over 10% for long-term relationships. These men were considered by over 30% for a short-term relationship, along with 3 more men, suggesting women might use short-term relationships to determine if a mate is worthy of long-term consideration. Furthermore, the most physically attractive men were considered for all relationships, even just "one-night stands." (Paper Presentation)

Asymmetrical Growth Doesn't Stop at Birth: Further Evidence for a Relationship between Postnatal Growth Rate and Fluctuating Asymmetry

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Fluctuating asymmetry (FA) refers to slight deviations from bilateral symmetry. It is thought that these asymmetries result from incomplete buffering by an individual against environmental and/or genetic stressors during development. It was initially assumed that FA resulted from inadequate buffering during embryological growth. However, a recent study reported that FA in males at age 9 was positively related to postnatal, but not prenatal growth, suggesting a trade-off between growth after birth and symmetry. We tested this relationship in an adult sample of 45 undergraduates who provided their birth weight and birth length and had their adult measurements recorded. FA was computed from finger digit lengths. Consistent with the findings in 9-year-olds, FA among college students was positively related to weight gain after birth, but not birth weight.

Additionally, hand grip strength was positively correlated with size, both at birth and during adulthood. (Poster Presentation).

Understanding Patterns of Molar Dentition in Primates: How a Model of Tooth Development Derived from an ‘evo-devo’ Study in Rodents can Help Explain Phenotypic Variation and Similarity in the Teeth of Primates and Other Mammals
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Recent work in evolutionary developmental biology has shed light on patterns of growth in the molar teeth of mammals. Specifically, work conducted using mouse embryos has led to a model in which molars develop according to an inhibitory cascade model. The regression from this model was then used to predict the relative sizes of molar teeth in adults from other rodent species. The observations fit the model remarkably well and showed that the size of proximal molars influence the sizes of more distal molars. We tested whether this model would also hold true for the molars of 50 species of primates. The observed regression was strikingly similar to that reported in the rodent study, suggesting that a similar type of constraint is at work in many types of mammals. Furthermore, the results showed that more closely related species of primates tended to be clustered together, suggesting a phylogenetic effect. (Paper Presentation)

Social Dominance as a Peer Fitness Deterrent: Inverse Outcomes in Reproductive Opportunities between Sexes

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Recently bullying behavior among schoolchildren has been viewed from an evolutionary perspective as a natural expression of social dominance and hierarchy formation. In support of this hypothesis, male and female bullies have been shown to have more reproductive opportunities than their peers. Here we test the corollary hypothesis that male and female victims of bullying are reproductively suppressed. We investigated victimization from bullying during middle and high school, as well as sexual history in 43 female and 65 male college students. Pearson correlations show a differentiation between the sexes in terms of reproductive opportunities and victimization. Males who were victims of aggression while growing up report having fewer reproductive opportunities (i.e. fewer sexual partners per year, and an increased incidence of being a virgin in adulthood), while females who were victimized report just the opposite. Future studies should focus on bullies, non-bullies, and victims of bullying as three separate categories. (Poster Presentation).

An Evolutionary Approach to Hook-up Behavior

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Hook-up behavior consists of unrestricted sexual activity among strangers or acquaintances. “Hooking up” has become pervasive among today’s young adults, particularly on college campuses in the U.S., despite inherent risks. One possible explanation may be the increasing amount of time available between when one is physiologically capable of reproduction and when one actually reproduces. Secular

trends in opposing directions of a decreasing average age of menarche and increasing age of mother at first birth has created a gap of time between biological age of reproductive receptivity and both desired and actual age of reproduction. Further supported by notions of sexual socialization, hook-up behavior may result from this time gap. Hook-ups may be adaptively manipulated to desires after the fact. This evolutionary approach to hook-up behavior may challenge established notions of unrestricted sexual activity as a behavioral strategy. (Paper Presentation)

Subcortical Processing of Threatening Stimuli: The Role of Disgust and Fear in the Process of Counterfactual Thinking

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Two studies were conducted to explore the motivations underlying two beliefs that seem to run counter to a folk psychology expectation that “seeing is believing.” Both confidence in the concrete existence of an entity (God) who, by definition, cannot be verified, and rejection of biological evolution by means of natural selection, described as the strongest theory in the history of science were correlated with higher levels of fear and disgust. It is hypothesized that these positions are generated, at least in part, by the mismatch of evolutionarily adaptive mechanisms selected to avoid threatening situations and exposure to disease to the modern exaptive cognitive processes which result in religious beliefs. (Paper Presentation)

Perceptions of Current and Former Romantic Partners Conceptualized as Adaptive Mating-Relevant Biases

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Fletcher and Simpson (2000) propose that systematic adaptive biases that help foster intimate relationships should typify perceptions of intimates in long-term mateships. Two studies tested the nature of such adaptive mating-relevant biases within relationships. In Study 1, 161 male and female college students completed measures of attachment style and the Big Five personality traits to describe their current and former romantic partners. A tendency to idealize current partners and devalue former partners emerged. Study 2 (N = 65) examined the motivational underpinnings of this pattern by having participants engage in behavior that was inconsistent with this perceptual discrepancy – some participants wrote essays about the positive aspects of their former partners. Participants in this condition showed strong autonomic arousal and they modified their perceptions of each partner subsequently - suggesting that a strong motivational component underlies these mating-relevant perceptions. Findings are discussed in terms of the adaptive nature of these biases. (Paper Presentation)

Individual Differences in Susceptibility to Internal and External Stressors and Belief in God.

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This study explores psychological mechanisms associated with belief in God and religiosity. Specifically individual differences in need for comfort and perception of stress were looked at as possible mediators and predictors of religiosity in a sample of college students. Results showed that individuals scoring higher in religiosity were not only more likely to perceive a variety of situations as more stressful than individuals scoring lower in religiously, they were also more likely to deal with stress indirectly, that

is, feeling stress over having “too many tests/exams” in a class or “having too little money” was likely to result in coping strategies such as “spending time with friends”, “just thinking about family” or “using food to find comfort” as opposed to a more direct means such as “work or study extra hard”. (Poster Presentation).

An Exploration of Sex Differences in Depression: Is Depression an Expression of the Extreme Female Brain?

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Depression affects at least twice the number of women than men. This difference appears to be relatively consistent across a wide range of cultures, with an average female to male ratio of 2:1 (Immerman & Mackey, 2003). Using Baron-Cohen’s approach to autism as the extreme male syndrome, this study was designed to test whether depression is a candidate for traits that may be considered an extreme female syndrome. This study examined sex differences in depression as a function of several variables that characterize depression and that show average sex differences. Results showed limited support for the mediation hypothesis. Limitations and future directions are discussed. (Poster Presentation).

Biocultural Perspectives and the Importance of the Literary: William Faulkner’s Absalom, Absalom as a Case Study

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While literary scholarship in the last three decades has, in deference to the cultural constructivist bias predominant in the humanities, focused almost exclusively on the social and cultural systems that constitute the politics of identity and citizenship and the operation of power within a given literary text, more recent bio-cultural perspectives bring a new set of questions to an examination of the literary text and what, in an age dominated by “the visual,” the continued importance of literature might be. William Faulkner’s arguably most important novel, *Absalom, Absalom*, serves as an exemplary case study for the exploration of these questions. I will use the novel as a test case to try to bridge what is currently a gap between work in the humanities, particularly on literature, and the sciences, incorporating work from Brian Boyd, Ellen Dissanayake, and others who have begun to create that bridge. (Paper Presentation)

Why Narrative Psychology Can’t Afford To Ignore the Body

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The narrative perspective emerging in psychology since the mid-1980s is threatened by a lingering Cartesianism in how theorists and clinicians approach human beings as storied selves. This presentation argues that a deliberate effort to engage the narrative perspective in closer dialogue with biological understandings of human activities may challenge continuing Cartesian influences and offers advantageous points of departure for both stances. Areas of intersection may include: (a) biological constraints represented by working memory, speed of processing, etc. as they served to shape various cultural adaptations including narrative; (b) the interaction of physical gesture with narrative emplotment which underlies what Sarbin has termed “embodied emotion”; (c) the role of genetics in offering a possible set of epigenetic rules guiding humans so early to proto-narrative and narrative production; and (d) physical and social worlds approached as

ecological or environmental challenges which are met by the tactical and strategic use of narrative. (Paper Presentation)

Karl Marx vs. Charles Darwin: Towards a Darwinian Labor History

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Although evolutionary theory is fundamentally a historical explanation of how humanity has developed, historians remain almost perfectly indifferent to evolution in favor of the Standard Social Science Model (SSSM). This talk summarizes the dominant assumptions of history (through one of its key sub-disciplines, labor history) and reframes that history within the framework of evolutionary psychology. Scholars such as Laura Betzig have begun to develop a Darwinian history, although mostly in terms of sex and the family structure, rather than contextualizing modern forms of social organizations such as unions. This is a modest step towards what EO Wilson termed the consilience of human knowledge, a process that he argued would prove both exciting and challenging for the humanities and the social sciences. (Paper Presentation)

Self Assessment of Vocal Mate Value

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This study examined whether individuals could accurately assess their own mate value based on voice by seeing if participants rate the attractiveness of their own voices similarly to that of independent raters. Previous research has shown that voice attractiveness is related to certain morphological markers of genetic quality and is an important factor in mate selection (Hughes, et al., 2004). Therefore, vocal attractiveness may be an important cue to mate value, and humans would need to accurately assess their own mate value before seeking a mate. Ninety-three participants rated the attractiveness of voice recordings of persons counting from one to ten without being given any information about the voice they were rating. Participants' rated their own voices, unbeknownst to them, as significantly more attractive than independent raters. These findings demonstrate that humans may not be able to rely on the perception of their own voices as an assessment of their own mate value. (Poster Presentation).

Sex Differences in Romantic Kissing: An Evolutionary Perspective

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Kissing between sexual and/or romantic partners occurs in over 90 percent of human cultures (Eibl-Eibesfeldt, 1970) and many non-human animals appear to engage in kissing-like behaviors, as well (Geer, et al., 1984). Although kissing is a widespread practice among humans, few investigators have attempted to assess the adaptive significance of kissing behavior. Some theorists suggest that kissing can be an investigatory process that places individuals in close proximity to each other in order to smell, taste, and assess other features that may contribute to making mate assessments. Others contend that kissing may be a mechanism by which pheromones and sebum are exchanged to induce bonding. Kissing can also be viewed as an activity that increases sexual arousal and receptivity. My own research provides a descriptive account of kissing behavior among a large sample of college students by measuring attitudes, preferences, and sex differences in kissing, and considers kissing within the context of both short-term and long-term mating situations. (Paper Presentation)

Sex Differences in the Assessment of Pain Versus Sexual Pleasure Facial Expressions

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Although very distinct emotions, facial expressions of those who are experiencing pain/agonies appear surprisingly similar to those who are experiencing heightened sexual pleasure. We investigated whether sex differences exist between distinguishing facial photos of males and females expressing either pain or sexual pleasure. Photographs obtained from the internet of individuals with facial expressions of either pain or sexual pleasure were shown to ninety-one participants in a slideshow, and participants identified their emotion. Overall, participants were better able to correctly identify an expression of pain as opposed to sexual pleasure. Female participants showed the highest degree of accuracy when it came to identifying other females showing expressions of pain, but were also the worst at correctly identifying other females that showed expressions of sexual pleasure. Participants also took longer to respond to male pictures than to female pictures. These findings shed further insight as to how the perception of facial expressions may be adaptive. (Poster Presentation).

Male Mate Retention Mediates the Relationship between Female Sexual Infidelity and Female-directed Violence

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Previous research has documented relationships between (1) female sexual infidelity and men's non-violent mate retention behaviors, and (2) men's non-violent mate retention behaviors and partner-directed violence. In two studies, we examined two additional relationships: (1) the relationship between accusations of female sexual infidelity and men's partner-directed violence and (2) whether men's direct guarding mate retention behaviors mediates the relationship between accusations of female sexual infidelity and men's partner-directed violence. The results indicate that (1) accusations of female sexual infidelity predict men's partner-directed violence, (2) men's reports of direct guarding mediates the relationship between accusations of partner sexual infidelity and partner-directed violence (Study 1, N = 165) and (3) women's reports of men's direct guarding partially mediates the same relationship (Study 2, N = 306). The discussion addresses sex differences identified in the mediation analyses, notes limitations of the research, and highlights directions for future research. (Paper Presentation)

Intelligence, Reasoning, and the Cognitive Unconscious: An Individual Differences Approach.

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An accumulating body of evidence in the cognitive science literature suggests that humans possess two minds—the cognitive unconscious which is evolutionarily old, and the intellectual mind which is slower, and more constrained by a limited capacity system. The current study investigated individual differences in the functioning of both minds and

looked at their independent predictions on deductive reasoning. Individual differences in various functions of the intellectual mind (e.g., general fluid intelligence, working memory capacity, processing speed, rational thinking) were significantly correlated with all forms of reasoning—abstract, precautionary, and social. Additionally, individual differences in implicit learning and experiential thinking were significantly correlated with reasoning above and beyond the effects of general intelligence. The results suggest the viability of the investigation of individual differences in evolved domain general learning mechanisms—both conscious and unconscious—in addition to evolutionary psychologists' traditional focus on massive modularity and cognitive universals. (Paper Presentation)

Financial Risk Taking and Male Mating Success

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Cross-culturally, male economic power is directly related to reproductive success. Male life history strategies may be related to their degree of their financial risk taking. Males who are relatively higher in mating effort may maximize their display of economic power, saving little and even spending beyond their capacity through the use of credit. These men may seek and possibly obtain a greater number of sexual partners. This hypothesis was tested in a randomly selected community sample of men included in a telephone health interview. The degree of financially risky behavior reported by participants was related to mating intentions and mating success, even when controlling for years of education completed and marital status. (Poster Presentation).

Human Life History and Sex Differences in Mortality Rates

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Sex differences in mortality rates arise from multiple causes which are best understood with an evolutionary life history framework. We investigated the relationship of sex differences in mortality rates across nations to indicators of the life history characteristics of populations. Controlling for gross national income per capita, the overall sex difference in mortality rates was directly related to the adolescent fertility rate, the percentage of newborns with low birth weight, and was inversely related to the average mother's age at birth of first child. Sex differences for behavioral (external) causes of mortality were also directly related to the difference between the average age of males and females at first marriage. These findings indicate that the sex difference in mortality rates is an important life history indicator, and is related to reproductive patterns. Greater sex differences in mortality may reflect greater degrees of male competition for resources, social status, and mates. (Paper Presentation)

When Men are Scarce, Good Men are Even Harder to Find: Life History, the Sex Ratio, and Marital Rates

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Models of romantic relationships which ignore evolutionary patterns of human reproductive success may expect that if there is an overabundance of unmarried persons of one sex, the other sex will have a high marriage rate because of the availability of partners. However, the population sex ratio of men to women is directly related to the proportion of men who are married. When men are less numerous than women, males may increase mating effort and decrease relationship commitment. We used a life history

framework to further understanding in this area. Across age groups from 15 to 64, men were increasingly likely to be married as age increased. The relationship between the sex ratio and proportion of men who were married was dependent on age. The likelihood of women being married was related to their reproductive value. Results were consistent with our life history model and a population pattern of serial polygyny. (Poster Presentation).

Cavemen Didn't Wear Digital Watches: Spatial Dynamics and Temporal Perception

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Prevailing theories of time perception are based on variations of the “clock in the head” metaphor. Basic models include: the Biochemical Clock (Hoagland, 1933, 1935), the Cognitive Timer (Glicksohn, 1996), the Internal Clock (Treisman, 1963), and the Pacemaker and Accumulator (Allan & Gibbon, 1991). The standard models hypothesize that time perception works something like a digital watch, pulsing to mark the passage of time. An alternative theory of time perception is proposed. The theory is based on the evolutionary perspective and the assumption that humans possess innate spatial faculties. The theory is in direct opposition to the dominant theories and makes specific predictions about the accuracy of duration judgments under various conditions. Several experiments designed to directly test the predictions were conducted. The findings support the notion that time perception is based on attending to dynamic spatial relationships within a given environment and not on a hypothetical subconscious neural meter. (Paper Presentation)

The Role of Stimulus-Specificity on Infidelity Reactions: Seeing is Disturbing

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Past research has found that males are more distressed by imagined scenarios of sexual infidelity compared with females, while females are more distressed by imagined scenarios of emotional infidelity. Expanding on the methodology originally employed by Buss, Larsen, Westen, and Semmelroth (1992), we examined sex differences in reactions to imagined infidelity by addressing the effects of visual images of potential interlopers. Additionally, this research measured affective responses in a continuous format by examining psychological discomfort. Participants in high-visual imagery and control conditions imagined infidelity (both emotional and sexual) and then reported levels of discomfort. Further, two indices autonomic nervous system responding were assessed. Ninety three (fifty three females, forty males) college student participated. Visual stimuli produced greater psychological distress than thought-produces stimuli for all participants, especially males. Sex differences in reactions to infidelity consistent with past research were obtained for the categorical and continuous psychological indices. (Poster Presentation).

Digit Ratio Predicts Depression Scores for Females but not Males

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Digit ratio (2D-4D index to ring finger) is a well-established sexually dimorphic trait in humans, with females having a higher ratio than males (Manning, 2002). This trait, stable across one's lifetime, has been correlated with many other sexually dimorphic traits (Austin, Manning, McInroy, & Matthews, 2001). Depression is one such sexually dimorphic trait, with twice as many females as males being affected. Previous research has shown contradictory results on whether depression is associated with a more masculine digit ratio or a more feminine digit ratio. This study sought to further examine whether digit ratio is predictive of severity of depression. Results indicated that higher digit ratio is correlated with higher depression scores in females, but not males. Study limitations and future directions are considered. (Poster Presentation).

Self-deceptive Self-enhancement and Reproductive Fitness: Testing the Trivers Model

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This is a pilot study to determine if self-deceptive self-enhancement influences reproductive success. Robert Trivers proposed that self-deception is selected for because it enables individuals to deceptively portray themselves in a better light without knowing that they're doing it. This self-deception hides signals of deception others might detect. In courtship behavior, reproductive fitness may be enhanced through positive self-promotion. This seems particularly true of males, who may benefit by capitalizing on as many reproductive opportunities as possible. Females might display an opposite pattern, as they benefit more from sexual selectivity. This study correlates several measures of self-deceptive self-enhancement (including the Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responsivity, Self-Consciousness Scale, and an index of self-reported attractiveness and desirability minus independent ratings of facial photos) to a reproductive success proxy (number of opposite-sex partners). Preliminary data suggests that female sexual self-awareness is associated with reproductive success, which, at least in part, supports Trivers's hypothesis. (Poster Presentation).

Gender Differences in Romantic Punishment

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We examined levels of violence and attempts to punish romantic partners in a college sample. Males were more likely to argue over sex, ex-partners and family members than females. The most common reason given for arguments by both sexes was jealousy. Females were more likely to evoke jealousy in their partners regardless of source of the argument. Males respond by attempting to control what the women wear and where they go. Males were more physically and sexually aggressive during arguments in a number of ways, including being sexually coercive (oral sex, rough sex) and forcing their partners to have sex. Women who suspected their partners of cheating were also more likely to evoke jealousy in their partners. Suspicious males accused their partners of cheating more often and reported more jealous behavior. Females who cheated corroborated these

responses. Females who cheated reported increases in a number of physically violent acts from males. (Poster Presentation).

Gene-Toxin Interactions: Psychology Beyond The 'Nature-Nurture' Dichotomy

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Two new perspectives on human behavior are likely to reinforce the growing importance of Evolutionary Psychology. On the one hand, advances in nucleotide screening make it possible to identify inherited differences in neurotransmitter function and their behavioral consequences. As a result, "genomics" is rapidly emerging as a new area that will be of growing importance in Evolutionary Psychology. On the other hand, the twin fields of cognitive neuroscience and neurotoxicology reveal pathways by which environmental toxins as well as developmental changes modify brain chemistry and behavior. Data showing resulting gene-toxin-development interactions illustrate complex developments that make the traditional "nature-nurture dichotomy" obsolete. Current changes in our understanding of widespread dysfunctions like ADHD and autism will be used to illustrate the growing importance of interactive processes in Evolutionary Psychology. (Paper Presentation)

Self-Recognition Across Different Sensory Domains

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Many researchers have investigated the processing of self-recognition and its role in non-verbal communication across different sensory domains, including vision and olfaction (Kircher et al., 2001; Platek et al., 2006). However, research concerning auditory self-recognition is limited. Since humans rely heavily upon the production and recognition of both visual as well as auditory cues (i.e. speech) in normal communication, both forms of self-recognition are essential for understanding several aspects of human behavior including social interaction and mate selection. This presentation will discuss previous research in self-recognition through the various sensory modalities, as well as introduce new empirical research in auditory self recognition and its relationship to brain lateralization, measured by tasks utilizing both the right and left hands. Our new findings demonstrate that visual self-recognition may be a dominant to auditory self-recognition despite the fact that we were often confronted with hearing our own voices yet not seeing our own faces in our ancestral environment. (Paper Presentation)

Self-Recognition in the Visual and Auditory Domains

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Many researchers have studied visual processing of self-recognition and its role in non-verbal communication (Kircher et al., 2001; Platek et al., 2006) however, research concerning auditory self-recognition is limited. Ninety-one participants completed several tasks which evaluated self-recognition in both the visual and auditory senses, and both reaction time and errors were recorded for responses made using the right and left hands to determine possible brain lateralization for these tasks. Participants displayed a right-hemisphere dominance when responding to the combined visual and auditory condition. However, in the separate conditions, performance was best for facial other-recognition using the left hand, while performance was worst for voice self-recognition

using the right hand. Overall, men displayed faster reaction times than women in the combined task. These findings demonstrate that visual self-recognition may be a dominant to auditory self-recognition despite the fact that we were often confronted with hearing our own voices yet not seeing our own faces in our ancestral environment. (Poster Presentation).

Non-Random Acts of Kindness: The Behavioral Ecology of Altruism

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Other-oriented behavior, or prosociality, can be costly or beneficial to the individual, depending on the social environment. Thus, prosociality should be observed primarily when an individual has positive perceptions of his or her social surroundings. In this case, raising prosocial children would require giving them a sense of social support. Extension of this theory to individual actions would predict the need of an inviting social atmosphere for prosocial behavior. Both levels of this theory were tested using the city of Binghamton, NY. The individual level was investigated through self-report surveys administered to adolescents. These questionnaires asked both about the behaviors of the individuals and their perception of the social surroundings. The effect of environment on a one-time action was done by dropping stamped, addressed envelopes anonymously throughout the city. Both studies found environments featuring positive social networks to produce more prosocial behavior. (Paper Presentation)

Carving Out a Niche: Selfish Punishment as a Self-Limiting Strategy in Humans

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Cooperation is famously difficult to maintain because of potential exploitation by cheaters. Punishment, by imposing costs on selfish behavior, curtails selfishness. Here we explore a strategy called selfish punishment that behaves selfishly—exploiting cooperation—yet punishes other selfish individuals, functionally transforming selfishness into a self-limiting strategy and promoting cooperation by the majority. Altruistic/moralistic punishers, in contrast, cooperate and punish, therefore these two distinct punishing strategies should differ in their motivation and application of punishment. We used two forms of the sequential prisoner's dilemma, with and without punishment, to test for the existence of such behavior. We discovered that selfish individuals who punished were more severe in their use of punishment, completely removing other cheaters from the game, and were more likely to be male, the dispersing sex. These two details support the idea that selfish punishment exists in humans as a self-limiting strategy. (Poster Presentation).

Sexual Expectations Associated with Nipple Erection

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It has been found that males rate themselves as more excited, affectionate and sexy and rate images with nipple erection as being more excited, sexy and friendly than females. This implies that nipple erection serves as a sexual signal, but it has not been determined if women with nipple erection are viewed as being more willing to engage in sexual

behaviors. We paired photos of women (with nipple erection and without) with hypothetical sexual behavior profiles. Men and women rated the photos on how likely the woman depicted would be to engage in a number of sexual behaviors. Women with nipple erection were rated as more likely to engage in a number of promiscuous sexual behaviors (one night stands, threesomes, group sex). Women with nipple erection were also rated as more likely to flirt with strangers, cheat on partners, use sex to get gifts and have a sexually transmitted disease. (Poster Presentation).

Oxytocin and Cooperation: Cooperation with Non-kin Associated with Mechanisms for Affiliation

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Animal models have shown oxytocin to be causally associated with parental and alloparental investment, and effects of administered oxytocin in humans suggest it is also associated with cooperative behaviors directed at adult non-kin. Oxytocin appears to mediate cooperative behaviors by acting on the HPA axis to reduce anxiety, allowing for the expression of approach and helping behaviors. An observational study of 44 young adult males in St. Petersburg, Russia, found no association between circulating basal endocrine measures (oxytocin, cortisol, and testosterone) and prosocial behaviors measured by self-report altruism and empathy scales. Frequency of helping behavior and emotional empathy scores were significantly correlated ($\rho=0.44$, $p=0.0027$). Emotional empathy was significantly associated with fatherhood, and helping behavior was significantly associated with marital status, suggesting that affiliative and helping behaviors are expressed through similar pathways. Testosterone varied significantly between ethnic and non-ethnic Russians, but did not vary by marital status or presence of children. (Paper Presentation)

Rehabilitating Introspection: A Procedure for a First Person Psychological Science

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In this paper I argue that the lack of progress in developing a science of the mind is not because a mind can not be objectively observed, but rather because human minds are highly individualized. I then propose a procedure for circumventing this individualization problem and offer a number of insights based on what are presumed to be intersubjectively reproducible features of my own mind. (Poster Presentation).

War and Self-Deception: How Dehumanizing Others Helps us Kill Them

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Homo sapiens have a penchant for mass violence. Although chimpanzees engage in a form of raiding behavior, we are the only mammals that regularly engage in lethal group-on-group violence. We also have powerful, biologically rooted inhibitions against killing members of our own species. In order to go to war, human beings must override their inhibitions against killing. One way of overcoming these inhibitions is by dehumanizing the enemy. Combatants often imagine that, although human in form, their enemy has a non-human essence. Conceiving of the enemy as a predator, as prey, or as a vector of infection both releases inhibitions against killing and arouses the disposition to kill. (Paper Presentation)

Women's Acquisition of Sexual Information

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Due to paternity uncertainty, men desire sexually inexperienced women as mates, yet they presumably seek partners who will satisfy their sexual expectations. It has been well-established that men seek variety in their sexual activity, but such variety demands that their partners be experienced. We predict that women want to appear virginal in order to attract a mate, so they use literary sources, such as Cosmopolitan magazine, to gain sex-based knowledge without having to increase their number of sexual partners. Therefore, this form of information gathering allows women to attract potential partners with their inexperience, and to retain them with their vicariously acquired skills. We explore different sources of sexual information that are aimed at women. We then investigate various methods to empirically test this hypothesis from both women's and men's perspectives. (Poster Presentation).

Am I Hot or Not? The Effect of Comparisons on Self-Perception of Mate Value

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The current research project investigates the effect of viewing photos of same sex attractive and unattractive models on mate choice. We hypothesize that participants who view attractive same sex models will be more likely to settle for a less appealing imaginary mate because they view their competition as having a higher mate value than themselves. Participants who view unattractive photos will be more likely to choose a more appealing imaginary mate because they view their competition as having a lower mate value than themselves. (Poster Presentation).

Measuring Self-Perceived Mate Value

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The nature and quantity of mating opportunities available to an individual are affected by his or her value as a potential mate. Therefore, self-perceived mate value may guide an individual's reproductive strategy. In a study of men, self-perceived mate value predicted mating effort (Apicella & Marlowe, 2007). Another study of women showed that mate preferences changed based on self-perceived attractiveness (Little et. al., 2001). Also, self-perceived mate value predicted aggression in sexual competition context (Kirkpatrick et. al., 2002). However, scales used in past studies have consisted of few questions and may only elicit one aspect of mate value, such as physical attractiveness. We have developed a two-factor scale to measure self-perceived mate value. Using this scale, we examined the relationship (Poster Presentation).

Evolve Already: A Comparative Meta-analysis Across Time Concerning the Systems of the Lunatics Liberation Movement and its Generations to Follow

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In a time before the existence of the light bulb, indoor plumbing, or adequate heating and ventilation, Lunatics held in Asylums and freed wrote of their experiences as people who are psychiatrically labeled do today. Regardless of the historical moment, and despite modern conveniences, in these works I have found people who discuss their subjugation to the horrors of being bled, drugged, steamed, restrained; secluded, shocked, and locked away. A theoretical framework for this project could be summed in this way: Wittgenstein would probably find the Language Games employed by Goffman's many different actors in Foucault's Panopticon interesting. This historical and qualitative research has left me with two pressing questions. First, knowing all of this, why are tax funded "mental health" services allowed to continue to go against all evidence of a more effective and efficient design? Second, how does one convince the power structures to listen to the users and survivors of these places and prompt a system to evolve already? (Poster Presentation).

Child Death and the Evolution of the Human Mind

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Child death has played an important role in the evolution of humans. Of all stages of development, and at all historical times beyond Modern history, childhood has been associated with the highest levels of mortality. Compared to other evolutionary pressures such as surviving as an adult or finding a mate and having children, the odds of genetic failure (i.e., termination of one's own genetic line) are greatest in childhood. The enormous potential evolutionary pressure exerted by child death may have significantly influenced human psychological adaptations. The focus of this talk will be on discussing the historical rates of child mortality, the relative odds associated with passing on one's genes, adult mental adaptations to child mortality, and child mental adaptations to child mortality. Thus, while it is by no means the sole influence, child death may be one of the strongest, but least studied, influences on human evolutionary psychology. (Paper Presentation)

Suspicion of Infidelity and Intrapair Copulation

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Male and female undergraduates were asked to report instances of double mating, extra pair copulations, intrapair copulations that followed EPCs, and suspicions of their partner's infidelity. If double mating is defined as within 72 hours, 38% of males and 24% of females have done so. If the window is shortened to 24 hours, 18% of males and 9% of females have done so. Females wanted to wait longer to have IPCS after cheating and succeeded in doing so. Females reported significantly less desire to have IPCs and reported their partner's desire to be significantly higher. Females were more likely to report engaging IPCs to remove suspicion and because their partner insisted. Males who suspected their partners of cheating wanted to have sex and DID have sex with their partners significantly more quickly than females, even though both sexes did not find their partner attractive or want to continue seeing them. (Poster Presentation).

The Binghamton Neighborhood Project: A Model for Community-based Research from an Evolutionary Perspective

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The Binghamton Neighborhood Project (BNP) is an extension of EvoS, Binghamton University's campus-wide evolutionary studies program. EvoS creates a network of faculty and students for studying all human-related and biological subjects from an evolutionary perspective. The BNP provides an infrastructure for conducting research in our own community on issues that are fundamental in terms of basic science and highly relevant to issues such as enhancing the quality of our neighborhoods, the academic performance of K-12 students, and the problem of obesity. Both EvoS and the BNP can serve as models for other colleges and universities. (Paper Presentation)

The Significance of Red Sox Nation: An Evolutionary Perspective on Vicarious Identification with Sports Teams

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Many individuals show strong emotional attachments to particular sports teams despite not being members of those teams, a phenomenon we refer to as VISTing (Vicarious Identification with Sports Teams). We hypothesize that VISTing is the byproduct of an evolved disposition to form coalitions with others, especially men, in the context of small-scale wars. If this hypothesis holds, VISTing should correlate positively with masculinity, concerns about ingroup loyalty, correlates of prenatal brain masculinization and testosterone, and negatively with empathy. Furthermore, for any level of VISTing, men should report greater team loyalty and greater knowledge about the rules of team sports relative to knowledge about their outcomes. Here we test these predictions in undergraduates using surveys and morphological measurements. (Poster Presentation).