



Reproductive inequality in humans and other mammals

Cody T. Ross^{a,b,1,2} , Paul L. Hooper^{a,c,1}, Jennifer E. Smith^{d,1}, Adrian V. Jaeggi^e , Eric Alden Smith^f , Sergey Gavrilets^g , Fatema tuz Zohora^h, John Zikerⁱ , Dimitris Xygalatas^j , Emily E. Wroblewski^k, Brian Wood^{b,l} , Bruce Winterhalder^m , Kai P. Willfährⁿ, Aiyana K. Willard^o, Kara Walker^p, Christopher von Rueden^q , Eckart Voland^r , Claudia Valeggia^s, Bapu Vaitla^t, Samuel Urlacher^{u,v} , Mary Towner^w, Chun-Yi Sum^x , Lawrence S. Sugiyama^y , Karen B. Strier^z , Kathrine Starkweather^{aa} , Daniel Major-Smith^{bb}, Mary Shenk^{cc} , Rebecca Sear^{dd} , Edmond Seabright^c , Ryan Schacht^{ee} , Brooke Scelza^l, Shane Scaggs^{ff} , Jonathan Salerno^{gg} , Caissa Revilla-Minaya^b, Daniel Redhead^b, Anne Pusey^{hh} , Benjamin Grant Purzycki^{b,ii} , Eleanor A. Power^{a,jj} , Anne Pisar^{b,kk}, Jenni Pettay^{ll} , Susan Perry^l , Abigail E. Page^{dd} , Luis Pacheco-Cobos^{mm} , Kathryn Othsⁿⁿ , Seung-Yun Oh^{oo}, David Nolin^{pp}, Daniel Nettle^{qq}, Cristina Moya^m , Andrea Bamberg Migliano^e, Karl J. Mertensⁱ , Rita A. McNamara^{rr} , Richard McElreath^b, Siobhan Mattison^c , Eric Massengill^c, Frank Marlowe^{ss}, Felicia Madimenos^{tt} , Shane Macfarlan^{uu} , Virpi Lummaa^{ll}, Roberto Lizarralde^w, Ruizhe Liu^c, Melissa A. Liebert^{ww} , Sheina Lew-Levy^{b,xx}, Paul Leslie^{yy} , Joseph Lanning^{zz}, Karen Kramer^{uu}, Jeremy Koster^{b,aaa}, Hillard S. Kaplan^{bbb} , Bayarsaikhan Jamsranjav^{ccc}, A. Magdalena Hurtado^{ddd} , Kim Hill^{ddd} , Barry Hewlett^{kk}, Samuli Helle^{ll}, Thomas Headland^{eee}, Janet Headland^{eee}, Michael Gurven^{fff} , Gianluca Grimalda^{ggg} , Russell Greaves^{uu}, Christopher D. Golden^t , Irene Godoy^{hhh} , Mhairi Gibson^{bb} , Claire El Moudenⁱⁱⁱ, Mark Dyble^{jjj}, Patricia Draper^{kkk}, Sean Downey^{ff} , Angelina L. DeMarco^{uu}, Helen Elizabeth Davis^{lll} , Stefani Crabtree^{a,mmm} , Carmen Cortez^m, Heidi Colleran^b , Emma Cohenⁱⁱⁱ, Gregory Clarkⁿⁿⁿ , Julia Clark^{ooo}, Mark A. Caudell^{kk} , Chelsea E. Carminito^{aaa}, John Bunce^b , Adam Boyette^b, Samuel Bowles^a , Tami Blumenfield^{c,ppp} , Bret Beheim^b, Stephen Beckerman^{cc}, Quentin Atkinson^{qqq} , Coren Apicella^{rrr}, Nurul Alam^h , and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder^{a,b,m,1,2}

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To address claims of human exceptionalism, we determine where humans fit within the greater mammalian distribution of reproductive inequality. We show that humans exhibit lower reproductive skew (i.e., inequality in the number of surviving offspring) among males and smaller sex differences in reproductive skew than most other mammals, while nevertheless falling within the mammalian range. Additionally, female reproductive skew is higher in polygynous human populations than in polygynous

Significance

How and why do human systems of marriage and reproduction differ from comparable systems in other mammals? To answer