

Report for the seminar on the “Ecology of the Male Life Course”

Castle of Rauischholzhausen, Germany, 10-12 October 2006,

organized by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Evolutionary Perspectives on Demography

The Goal of the Seminar was to integrate perspectives from life history with the growing body of knowledge regarding hormonal, immunological, developmental, psychological and behavioural aspects of male life history trajectories. It was organized around three crucial life stages (pre-reproductive, reproductive, and post-reproductive), with papers that addressed the overall theoretical perspective, overviewed current knowledge and introduced new research findings. The seminar was set up as a forum in which ultimate and proximate analyses of male life histories could be discussed by scholars from different disciplinary specializations, with the aim of providing new perspectives on contemporary demographic features.

There were 26 accepted papers. In addition, two senior researchers were invited to give a plenary lecture on the state-of-the-art of a relevant field: Ingo Walter, Department of Genetics, Saarland University, Germany presented on “Sexual dimorphism in epigenetic control of gene expression - findings and theoretical concepts”, Walter Krause, Department of Andrology, Medical School Marburg University presented on “Androgens in the male life course”.

Papers were accessible to all participants before the seminar through the IUSSP website and CD-ROMs with all papers were handed over upon checking-in at the castle reception. During the seminar, every author spoke only very briefly, presenting no more than one table and one figure at most. For every paper, a discussant, in all but two cases, someone who had submitted a paper also served as a discussant. Two graduate students from the institute of the local organizer (Hannah Seydel and Ronny Westerman) also served as discussants. This procedure gave enough space for long and stimulating discussions. Many of the participants had previously been unaware not only of the majority of other participants, but also of the results of their respective fields of research.

Within weeks after the seminar, the editor of the well known peer-reviewed journal “Social Biology” expressed interest to publish the papers of the seminar in two subsequent issues of the journal 2007/2008. Social Biology is about to re-invent itself, having selected a new name “Biodemography and Social Biology” (B & SB), and, therefore was considered by the seminar organizers as a fitting platform for the publication of the seminar results.

The seminar was organized in 6 sessions:

Session1: Behaviour

Papers presented:

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| 1. Anderson | Kermyt | HIV/AIDS Risk Behaviour Over The Male Life Course: A Perspective From Life History Theory |
| 2. Gurven | Michael | Hunting as subsistence or mating effort? A re-evaluation of “Man the Hunter” |
| 3. Winking | Jeff | Are men really that bad as fathers? The role of men's investments |

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| 4. | Hami | Hinde | Choice of spouse and consanguineous marriages in the region of Rabat-Sale-Zemmour-Zaer in Morocco |
| 5. | Mazur | Allan | Male Dominance Contests that Turn Violent |

Session 2: Health and Mortality

Papers presented:

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| 6. | Goldstein | Joshua | Time Trends in the Male Accident Hump |
| 7. | Groos | Sabine | Healthy men with subnormal sperm counts live shorter lives |
| 8. | Jiang | Quanbao | Measures of widowerhood and child-losing in contemporary China |
| 9. | Jones | James
Holland | The impact of violent death on marriage markets and nuptiality in Colombia, 1985-2002 |
| 10. | Sinkewicz | Marilyn | The Mental Health of Men: Profiles and Life Trajectories of Urban American Fathers |

Session3: Physiology

Papers presented:

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| 1. | Bribiescas | Richard | Hormones as life history regulatory mechanisms in human males |
| 2. | Magid | Kesson | Bangladeshi-born adult migrants to the UK show greater salivary testosterone than sedentees |
| 3. | Campbell | Benjamin | Age-Related Patterns of Urinary Gonadotropins (FSH and LH) and E-3-G |
| 4. | Muehlenbein | Michael | Adaptive Physiological Variation in Metabolic, Endocrine, and Immune Functions |

Session 4: Ecology

Papers presented:

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| 5. | Tuljapurkar | Shripad | Uncertainty, Early Humans, and Life History Evolution |
| 6. | Kuzawa | Christopher | Intergenerational signaling, developmental plasticity and the origins of sex differences |
| 7. | Weden | Margaret | Cohort Sex-differences in Mortality and Theoretical Implications for Biodemography & Human Ecology |

Session 5: Reproduction and Senescence in present day male life courses

Papers presented:

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| 1. | Bard | David | Gene-Environment Interactions Affecting Early Fertility: A Link between SES and Health |
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			Behaviors
2.	Martínez Salgado	Mario	Beginning Of Male Reproduction In Mexico: A Look Through The National Reproductive Health Survey, 2003
3.	Huerta	Carmen	Pathways to early fatherhood in the UK
4.	Sear	Rebecca	Size-dependent reproductive success in Gambian men: does height or weight matter more?
5.	Ravanera	Zenaida	Men's Life Course Trajectories: How and Why They Differ by Social Status and from Women's Life Course
6.	Grundy	Emily	Paternity history and health and mortality in mid and later life in England and Wales: a record link

Session 6: Reproduction and Senescence in present day male life courses (continued)

Papers presented:

7.	Smith	Ken	Effects of Grandmothers and Grandfathers on Inclusive Fitness
8.	Soneij	Samir	Racial Disparities in Disability-Free Life Expectancy

List of Participants – Authors at the IUSSP Seminar “Ecology of the Male Life Course”, October 10-12, 2006, Rauschholzhausen Castle, Germany

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