

Sexuality

Human

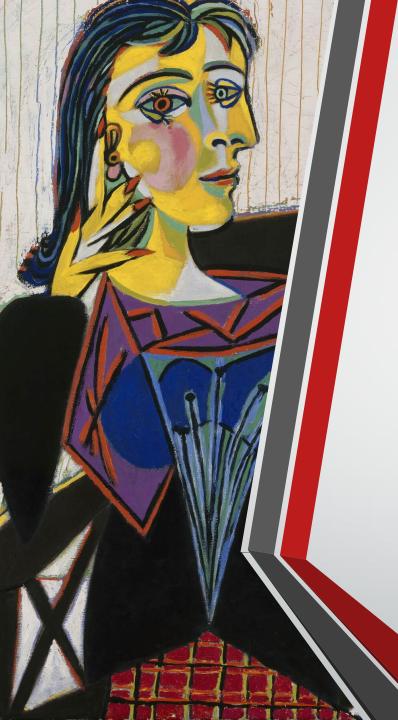
MUNI Department of Anthropology

Arwa Kharobi Professor assistant



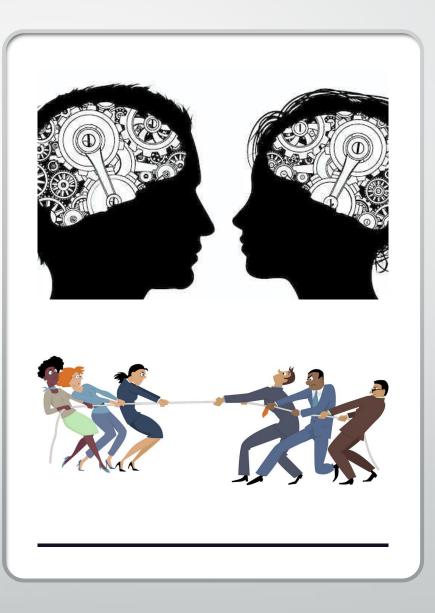
Bi7878 General anthropology I: biological anthropology 23/11/2022





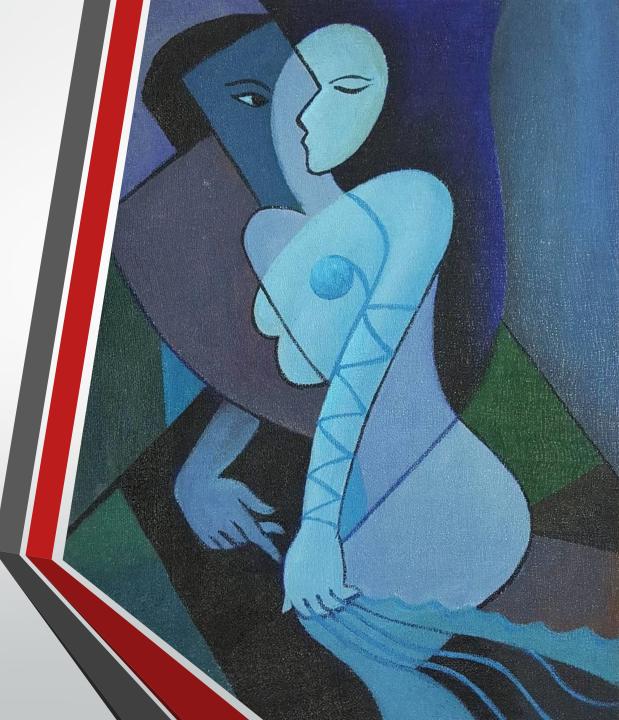
- Sex refers to the biological categories of M & F (& other categories)
- The sex of a person is determined by an examination of biological & anatomical features, including (but not limited to):
- **1.** visible genitalia (e.g., penis, testes, vagina)
- 2. internal sex organs (e.g., ovaries, uterus)
- 3. secondary sex characteristics (e.g., breasts, facial hair),
- **4.** chromosomes (XX for females, XY for males, & other possibilities)
- 5. reproductive capabilities (including menstruation)
- 6. activities of growth hormones, particularly testosterone & estrogen

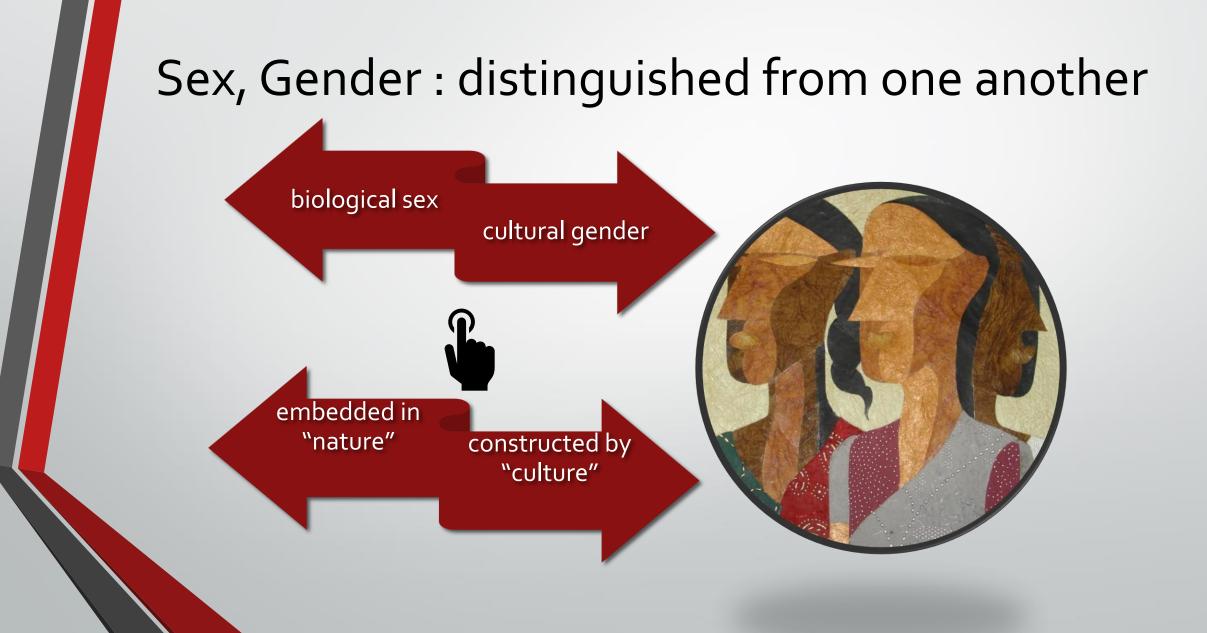
- It may seem as though nature divides humans neatly into females & males, but not only...
- hormonal influences can produce results different from the ways that people typically develop
- Hormonal influences shape the development of sex organs over time & can stimulate the emergence of secondary sex characteristics associated with the other sex

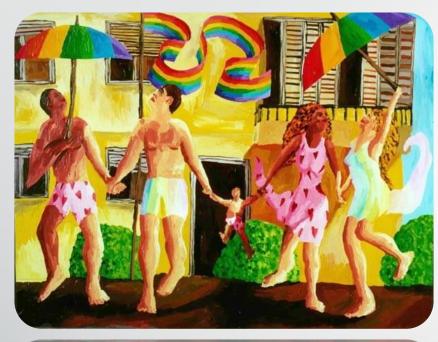


sex : based on biology

- gender : developed by social scientists to refer to cultural roles based on these biological categories
- ♥ The cultural roles of gender assign certain
- **1.** behaviors
- **2.** relationships
- **3.** responsibilities
- **4.** rights differently to people of different genders









Are biological sex categories based on an objective appraisal of nature?

Are sex categories universal & durable?

> Some scholars question the biological objectivity of sex & its opposition to the more flexible notion of gender

- Sexuality: refers to erotic thoughts, desires, practices & the sociocultural identities associated with them
- The complex ways in which people experience their own bodies & perceive their own gender contribute to the physical behaviors they engage in to achieve pleasure, intimacy, &/or reproduction
- This complex of thoughts, desires, & behaviors constitutes a person's sexuality

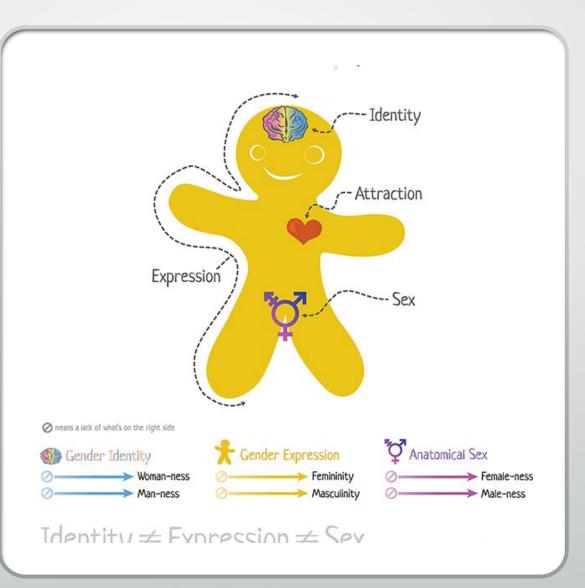




- Some cultures have very strict cultural norms regarding sexual practices, while others are more flexible
- **Some** cultures confer a distinctive identity on people who practice a particular form of sexuality, **while** others allow a person to engage in an array of sexual practices without adopting a distinctive identity associated with those practices

Gender & Sexuality of whole persons





(credit: "Genderbread Person v4" by Sam Killermann/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

Multifaceted topic



To understand human sexuality, one must understand its

Discussions of sexuality should include information about:

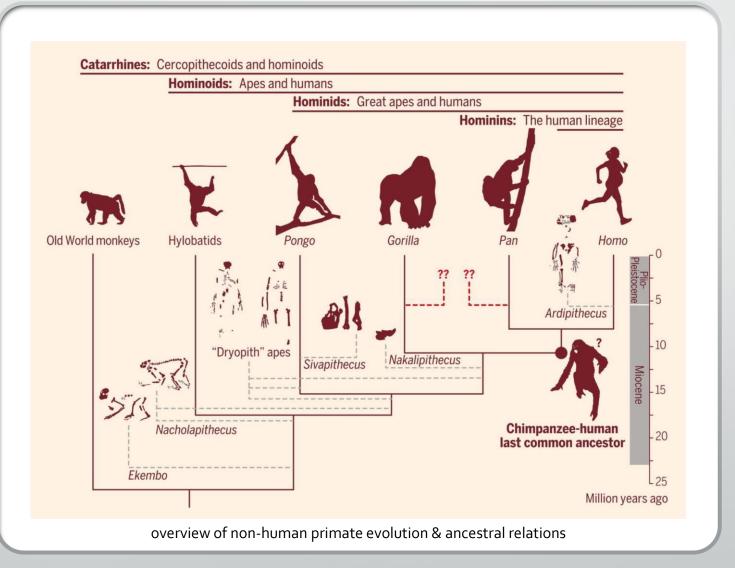
- anatomy
- physiology
- gender roles
- sexual identity
- love
- interpersonal relationships
- social/cultural factors as revealed in community st&ards & laws
- moral/spiritual/religious effects on sexuality

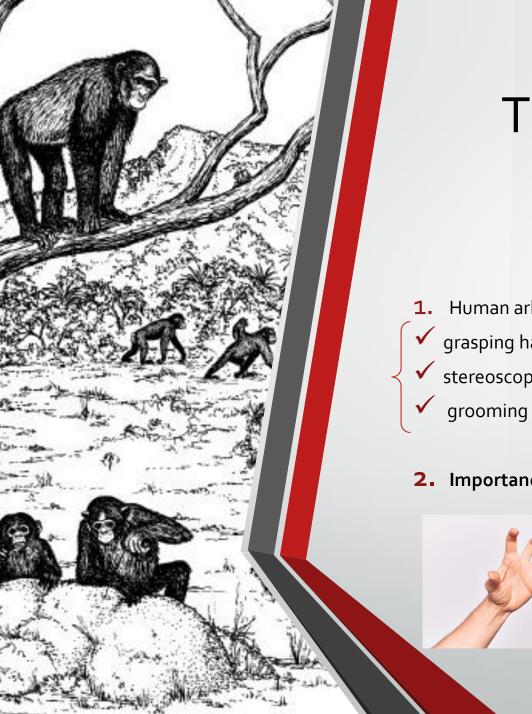
On the program today

- **1**. The Evolutionary History of Human Sexuality
- 2. Primate (Human and nonhuman) Sex Differences: Behavior & biology
- 3. Modern Human Male Anatomy & Physiology
- **4.** Modern Human Female Anatomy & Physiology
- 5. Development of the Male & Female Reproductive Systems
- 6. Development of the Sexual Organs in the Embryo & Fetus
- 7. Further Sexual Development Occurs at Puberty
- 8. Sexuality through the Life Stages
- 9. Fertilization
- **10.** Pregnancy & Childbirth
- **11.** Evidence from
 - **1.** Archaeology: cases studies
 - 2. Bioanthropology: methods & application
 - **3.** Paleopathology: Syphilis



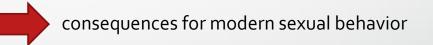
The Evolutionary History of Human Sexuality





The Evolutionary History of Human Sexuality

- **1.** Human arboreal & terrestrial **adaptations** \rightarrow development of the:
- ✓ grasping hand
- ✓ stereoscopic vision ≻



2. Importance of touch, feeling, & vision = important components in sexual attraction





The Evolutionary History of Human Sexuality

- 3. Importance of the social group for human survival
- **4.** Concept of **bonding** in human

the establishment of a relationship or link with someone based on **shared** *feelings*, interests, or experiences

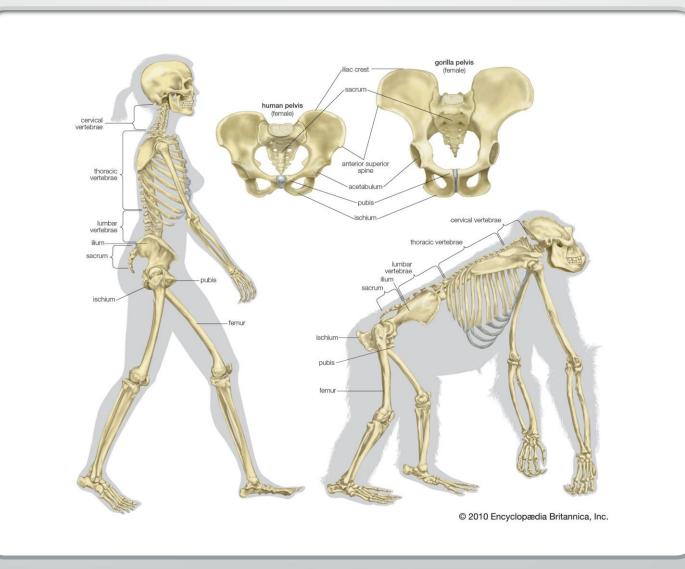


The Evolutionary History of Human Sexuality

 Bipedalism also had a profound impact on the evolution of human sexuality & reproduction.

it had a consequence for:

- evolution of the hand
- ✓ manipulation of tools
- elaboration of the motor areas of the brain
- memory & thinking



The development of lifelong social relationships or attachments is **a hominid characteristic** that reflects continuities from our non-human primate heritage.

Evidence from Biological Anthropology



Primate Sex Differences: Behavior

1950 most **primatologists** believed that:

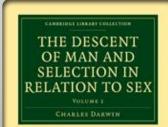
- males were the public actors in primate social life, while females were passive, marginal figures
- males constantly competed against one another for dominance in a rigid group hierarchy, while females were more narrowly interested in raising young



(Fedigan & Fedigan 1989)

Primate Sex Differences: Behavior

Description of the total social organization of primates in terms of male competition = Charles Darwin's notion







Males

• must be assertive & dominant

forced to compete for the opportunity to mate with females

Females

- shaped by evolution to choose the strongest male to mate with
- then concern themselves exclusively with nurturing their offspring to adulthood

Primate Sex Differences: Behavior



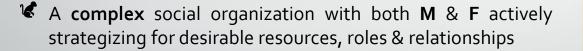
By the **1980s**, new studies, new results about primate social organization:

- most primate groups are essentially composed of related F + M as temporary members who often move between groups
- 2. The heart of primate society is not a set of competitive M but a set of closely bonded mothers & their young
- 3. F are not marginal figures but central actors in most social life
- 4. The glue that holds most primate groups together is not male competition but F kinship & solidarity





Primate Sex Differences: Behavior



cooperation rather than competition

Males

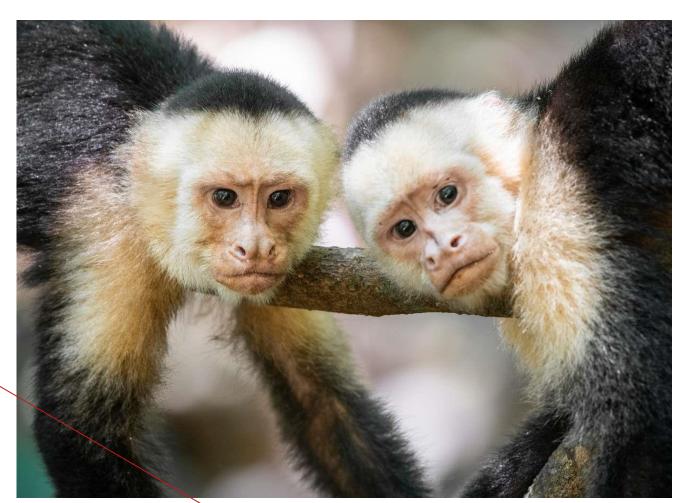
• friendliness with females may be a much better reproductive strategy than fighting with other males

Females

- often sexually assertive & highly competitive
- actively exercise their preference to mate with certain male "friends" rather than aggressive or dominant males

Primate Sex Differences: Behavior

- both are competitive
- both are cooperative
- both are central actors in primate social life



equally important to social life

Primate Sex Differences: Biology



What about the **biological differences** & their link to behavioral differences?

Primate Sex Differences: Biology

The anatomy differs in two main respects:

- 1. adult F
- bear offspring
- often pregnant or nursing for most of their adult lives
- devote more time & resources to care of young than **M**
- juvenile F pay more attention to babies in the group than do juvenile males





Primate Sex Differences: Biology

The anatomy differs in two main respects

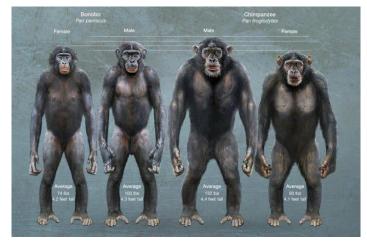
2. M primates

- slightly bigger than **F/** this difference itself is quite variable:

M & F gibbons nearly the same
M gorillas twice the size of F
F chimpanzees about 75% the size of M
Human F about 90% the size of M

human sexual dimorphism closer to gibbons than chimpanzees

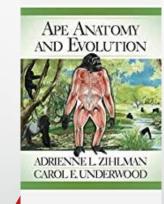




Primate Sex Differences: Sexual dimorphism

Some researchers suggest that a high level of sexual dimorphism is associated with:

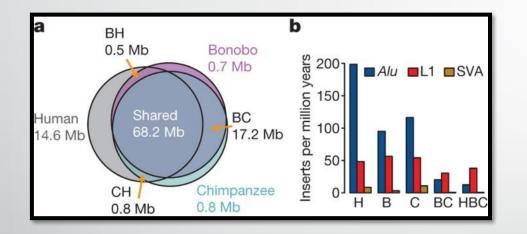
- **1.** strong **M** dominance
- **2.** rigid hierarchy
- 3. M competition for mating with F



Others:

- no simple correlation between anatomy & behavioral expression, within or between species
- each species features a unique "mosaic" of sex differences involving anatomy & behavior
- **3.** no clear commonality that might predict what is "natural" for humans

Primate Sex Differences



- closest primate to us are
- Isharing 99% of their DNA with us
- each exhibits very different gender-related behaviors





Human Sex Differences

as primate research, research on human biological sex/gender differences has been considerably slanted by the gender bias of the (often male) researchers

Euro-American intellectual tradition; scholars have argued that women's biological constitution makes them:

- **1.** unfit to vote
- **2.** go to college
- **3.** compete in the job market
- **4.** hold political office

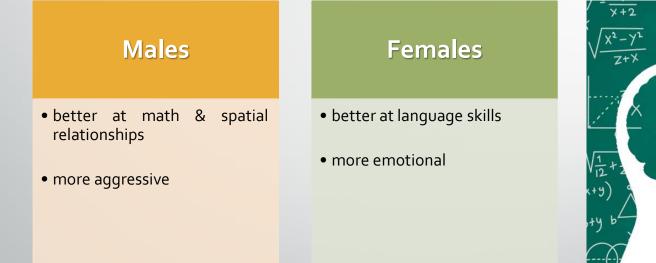


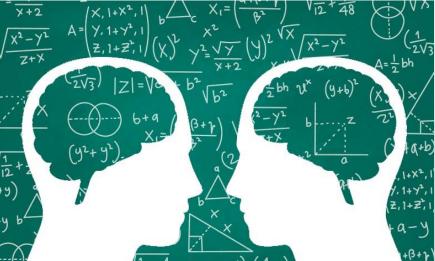




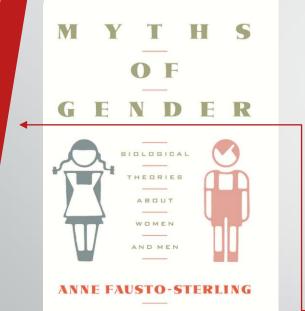


Then the different cognitive abilities

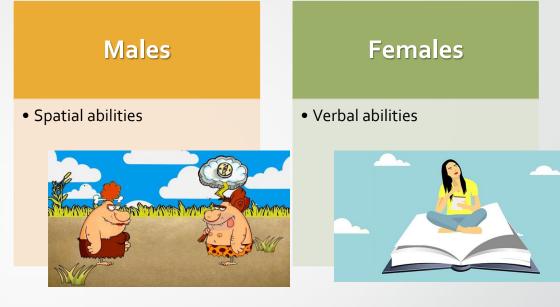




Human Sex Differences



R E V I S E D E D I T I D N INCLUDES A NEW CHAFTER ON BRAIN ANATOMY BEX DIFFERENCES, AND HOMOBEXUALITY



1992: a massive review of research on cognitive & behavioral sex/gender differences in humans

a very small difference no statistically significant

only about 5% can be attributed to gender → 95% of the differences are due to other factors (i.e., educational opportunities)

Human Sex Differences: Biology & Behavior

TYPES OF PARENTING



Definite rule

Low expectations
 Excessive responsiveness

· Little su

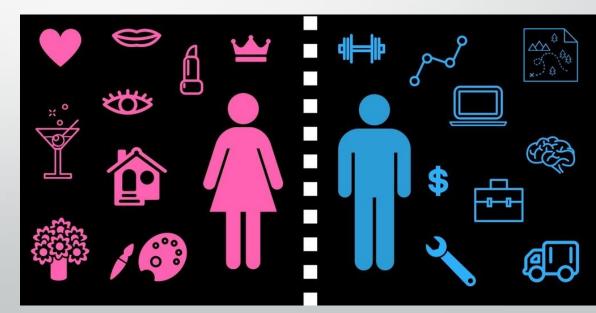
A CAR

not necessarily rooted in biological sex differences

Parenting styles

forms of play

gender roles—all elements of culture—



may shape the data more than biology

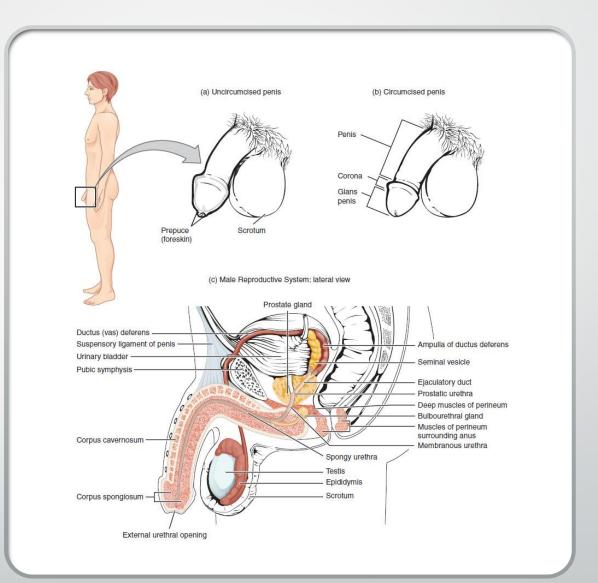
As with bonobos & chimpanzees, humans are **biologically quite flexible**, allowing for a diverse array of forms of gender & sexuality



Modern Human Male Anatomy & Physiology

The male reproductive system:

- functions to produce sperm & transfer them to the female reproductive tract
- The paired testes are a crucial component : they produce both sperm & androgens
- O the most important male & androgen is testosterone
- Several accessory organs & ducts aid the process of sperm maturation & transport the sperm & other seminal components to the penis, which delivers sperm to the F reproductive tract



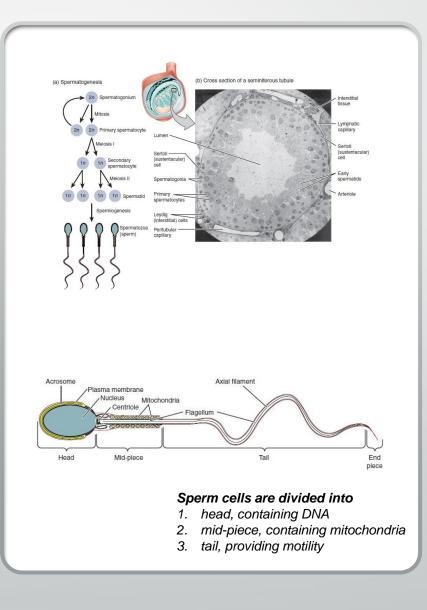
The structures of the male reproductive system include the testes, the epididymides, the penis, & the ducts & gl&s that produce & carry semen. Sperm exit the scrotum through the ductus deferens, which is bundled in the spermatic cord. The seminal vesicles & prostate gl& add fluids to the sperm to create semen.

Modern Human Male Anatomy & Physiology

Spermatogenesis:

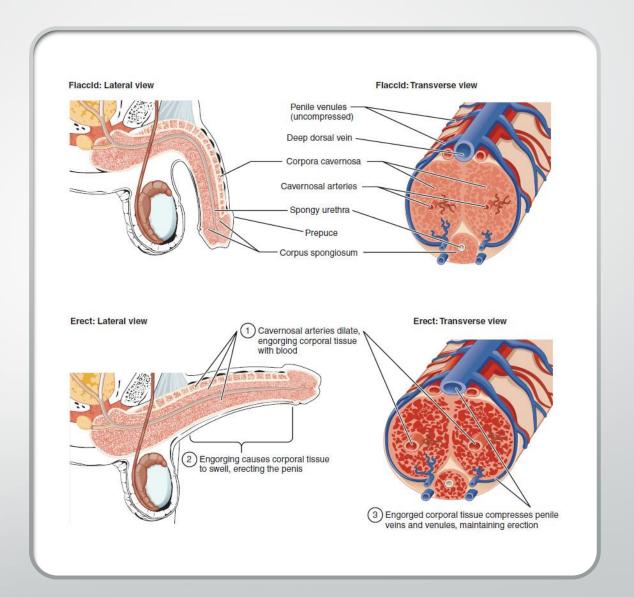
the production of sperm, occurs within the seminiferous tubules that make up most of the testis

- It begins with mitotic division of spermatogonia (stem cells) to produce primary spermatocytes that undergo the two divisions of meiosis to become secondary spermatocytes, then the haploid spermatids
- O During spermiogenesis, spermatids are transformed into spermatozoa (**formed sperm**)
- O Upon release from the seminiferous tubules, sperm are moved to the epididymis where they continue to mature



Modern Human Male Anatomy & Physiology

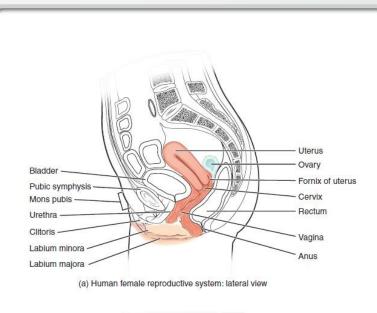
- **O Penis** is the male organ of copulation
- Columns of erectile tissue called the corpora cavernosa & corpus spongiosum fill with blood when sexual arousal activates vasodilatation in the blood vessels of the penis
- Testosterone regulates & maintains the sex organs & sex drive & induces the physical changes of puberty
- Interplay between the testes & the endocrine system precisely control the production of testosterone with a negative feedback loop

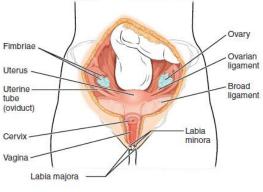


Modern Human Female Anatomy & Physiology

The female reproductive system:

- ♀ Functions to produce gametes & reproductive hormones
- ${f Q}$ Has the additional task of
 - Q supporting the developing fetus
 - Q delivering it to the outside world
- ♀ Located primarily inside the pelvic cavity
- Quaries are the female gonads & oocyte are the gamete they produce

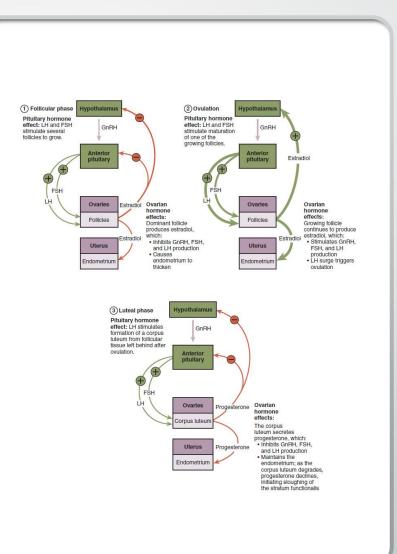




(b) Human female reproductive system: anterior view

Modern Human Female Anatomy & Physiology

- Q Ovaries produce oocytes in a process called oogenesis
- Completed only in an oocyte that has been penetrated by a sperm
- In the ovary, an oocyte surrounded by supporting cells is called a follicle
- Early tertiary follicles with their fluid-filled antrum will be stimulated by an increase in FSH, a gonadotropin produced by the anterior pituitary, to grow in the 28-day ovarian cycle
- Supporting granulosa & theca cells in the growing follicles produce estrogens, until the level of estrogen in the bloodstream is high enough that it triggers negative feedback at the hypothalamus & pituitary



Modern Human Female Anatomy & Physiology

♀ The uterus has

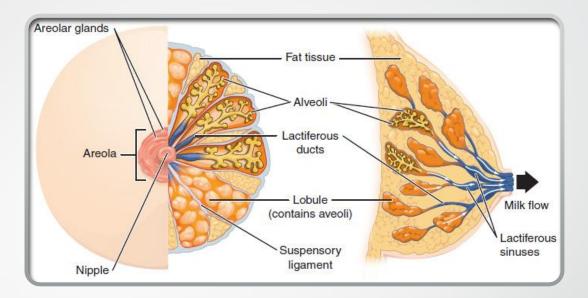
- ^Q **3 regions:** fundus, body & cervix
- ^Q 3 layers: outer perimetrium, muscular myometrium & inner endometrium
- The endometrium responds to estrogen released by the follicles during the menstrual cycle & grows thicker with an increase in blood vessels in preparation for pregnancy.
- If the egg is not fertilized, no signal is sent to extend the life of the corpus luteum, & it degrades, stopping progesterone production.
- This decline in progesterone results in the sloughing of the inner portion of the endometrium in a process called menses, or menstruation.





Modern Human Female Anatomy & Physiology

- Breasts are accessory sexual organs that are utilized after the birth of a child to produce milk in a process called lactation
- Birth control pills provide constant levels of estrogen & progesterone to negatively feed back on the hypothalamus & pituitary, & suppress the release of FSH & LH, which inhibits ovulation & prevents pregnancy







Development of the Male & Female Reproductive Systems

- Development of the reproductive systems begins soon after fertilization of the egg
- With primordial gonads beginning to develop approximately one month after conception
- Reproductive development continues in utero
- Little change between infancy & puberty



- F are considered the "fundamental" sex—that is, without much chemical prompting, all fertilized eggs would develop into F.
- To become a **M**, an individual must be exposed to the cascade of factors initiated by a single gene on the **M Y** chromosome.
- This is called the SRY (Sex-determining Region of the Y chromosome). Because F do not have a Y chromosome, they do not have the SRY gene. Without a functional SRY gene, an individual will be F.



- In both **M & F** embryos, the same group of cells has the potential to develop into either the **M or F** gonads; this tissue is considered bipotential.
- The SRY gene actively recruits other genes that begin to develop the testes & suppresses genes that are important in F development.
- As part of this SRY-prompted cascade, germ cells in the bipotential gonads differentiate into spermatogonia.
- Without SRY, different genes are expressed, oogonia form, & primordial follicles develop in the primitive ovary.



- Soon after the formation of the testis, the Leydig cells begin to secrete testosterone.
- Testosterone can influence tissues that are bipotential to become **M** reproductive structures.



Not all tissues in the reproductive tract are bipotential.

- The internal reproductive structures form from one of two rudimentary duct systems in the embryo.
- For proper reproductive function in the adult, one set of these ducts must develop properly, & the other must degrade.
- In **M**, secretions from sustentacular cells trigger a degradation of the female duct, called the Müllerian duct.
- At the same time, testosterone secretion stimulates growth of the male tract, the Wolffian duct.
- Without such sustentacular cell secretion, the Müllerian duct will develop; without testosterone, the Wolffian duct will degrade.
- ${\underline{\aleph}}$ Thus, the developing offspring will be female.

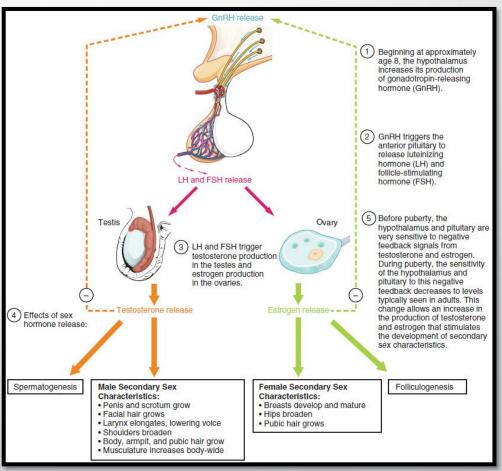


Further Sexual Development Occurs at Puberty

- *is the stage of development at which individuals become sexually mature*
- outcomes of puberty for boys & girls are very different, but the hormonal control of the process is very similar
- though the timing of these events varies between individuals, the sequence of changes that occur is predictable for M & F adolescents



"At your age, Tommy, a boy's body goes through changes that are not always easy to understand."



During puberty, the release of LH & FSH from the anterior pituitary stimulates the gonads to produce sex hormones in both male & female adolescents.

Further Sexual Development Occurs at Puberty

- first changes around the age of 8 or 9 when the production of LH becomes detectable
- The release of LH occurs primarily at night during sleep & precedes the physical changes of puberty by several years
- In pre-pubertal children, the sensitivity of the negative feedback system in the hypothalamus & pituitary is very high
- → very low concentrations of androgens or estrogens will negatively feed back onto the hypothalamus & pituitary, keeping the production of GnRH, LH, & FSH low



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Further Sexual Development Occurs at Puberty

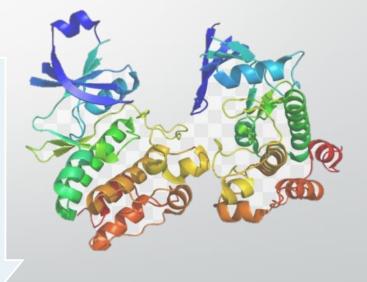
As an individual approaches puberty, 2 changes in **sensitivity** occur:

Second

increase in sensitivity of the gonads to the FSH & LH signals:

the gonads of adults are more responsive to gonadotropins than are the gonads of children. decrease of sensitivity in the hypothalamus & pituitary to negative feedback:

it takes increasingly larger concentrations of sex steroid hormones to stop the production of LH & FSH



the levels of LH & FSH slowly increase & \rightarrow to the enlargement & maturation of the gonads \rightarrow to secretion of higher levels of sex hormones & the initiation of spermatogenesis & folliculogenesis.

First

Further Sexual Development Occurs at Puberty

In addition to age, multiple factors can affect the age of onset of puberty

- **1.** genetics
- 2. environment
- 3. psychological stress
- **4.** nutrition

historical data demonstrate the effect of better & more consistent nutrition on the age of menarche in girls

17 years of age in **1860** 12.75 years in **1960**, until today.





Signs of Puberty in girls

Male	Female
Increased larynx size & deepening of the voice	Deposition of fat, predominantly in breasts & hips
Increased muscular development	Breast development
Growth of facial, axillary, & pubic hair, & increased growth of body hair	Broadening of the pelvis & growth of axillary & pubic hair

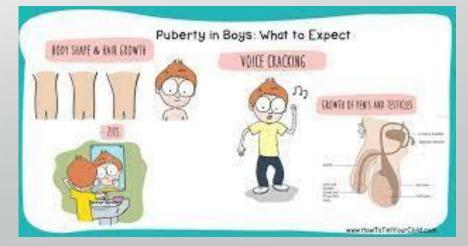




Signs of Puberty in **Boys**

Male	Female
Increased larynx size & deepening of the voice	Deposition of fat, predominantly in breasts & hips
Increased muscular development	Breast development
Growth of facial, axillary, & pubic hair, & increased growth of body hair	Broadening of the pelvis & growth of axillary & pubic hair





	EVOLUTION AND HUMAN SEXU	UALITY 109
	TABLE 3. Life course perspective on huma	an sexuality
Life course stage	Key adaptive and physiological processes	Key patterns of sexuality
Perinatal	Early organizing effects on brain and differentiation of primary reproductive characteristics	Sex-specific developmental trajectories begin to unfold Sex-specific and plastic mechanisms orient toward social stimuli to enhance survival
Early Childhood	Dependency on mothers and other caregivers for social and energetic support	Interest in own and others' genitals, includ- ing auto-stimulation Some degree of sex differentiation in social
Middle Childhood	Greater independence and interaction with other adults and juveniles	behavior Expanded distinctions in sex differentiation, with females more oriented toward care- giving contexts and males more oriented toward physical play Increasing frequency of sex play, especially for males, in same-sex and between-sex pair-bonding contexts
Puberty and Adolescence	A second phase of organizing effects of steroid hormones on the brain, and development of secondary sexual characteristics	Shift into potential reproductive realm Females tend to be 1-2 years ahead of males Marking transition toward social, economic, and political activities conducive to repro- ductive success, with female transitions highlighting aspects of fertility and male transitions highlight social achievement Increased frequency of intercourse, but also
Adulthood	Age-related changes in reproductive physiology	quite variable by individual, sex, population Age-related changes in sexuality during adulthood can be related to reproductive
	Subtle physiological changes across the ovulatory cycle and dramatic changes across the reproductive cycle	partnerships Cyclical female shifts across the ovarian cycle have at best subtle influences on sexuality, whereas shifts across pregnancy and postpartum phases have pronounced impacts on female sexuality
Senescence	Age-related declines in reproductive function, including decreases in sex steroids	Male sexuality is typically intertwined with that of a long-term partner, although sex differences in desire are amplified during late pregnancy and early postpartum The menopausal transition in women is associated with some declines in sexual function Measures of sexual behavior decline with advancing age in both women and men, although in sex- and context-specific ways

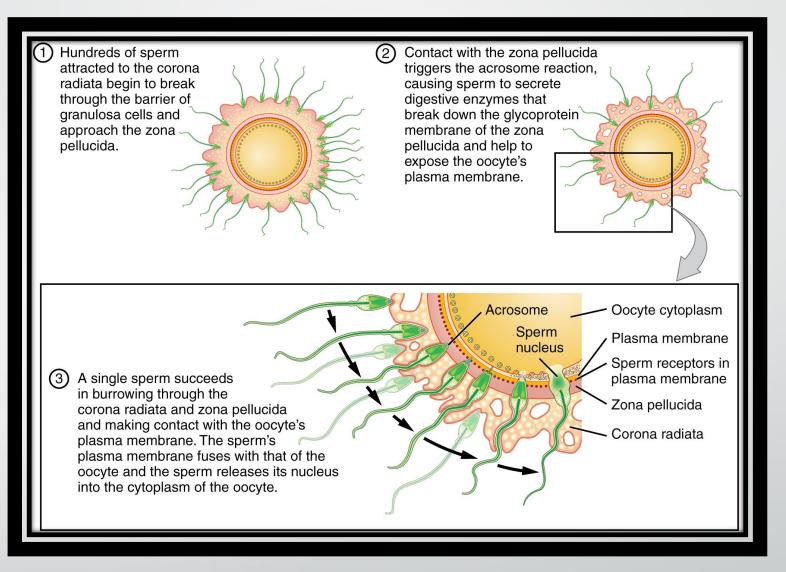
Sexuality through the Life Stages



Gray 2013

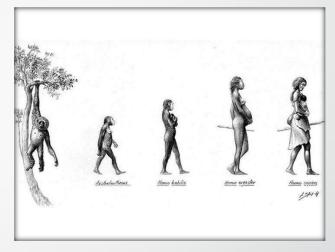
Fertilization

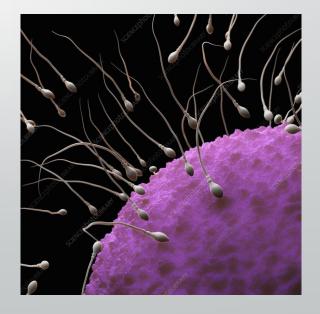
- Occurs when a sperm & an oocyte (egg) combine & their nuclei fuse
- Because each of these reproductive cells is a haploid cell containing half of the genetic material needed to form a human being, their combination forms a diploid cell
- This new single cell, called a zygote, contains all of the genetic material needed to form a human—half from the mother & half from the father



Fertilization

- Hundreds of millions of sperm deposited in the vagina travel toward the oocyte, but only a few hundred actually reach it.
- The number of sperm that reach the oocyte is greatly reduced because of conditions within the female reproductive tract.
- Many sperm are overcome by the acidity of the vagina, others are blocked by mucus in the cervix, whereas others are attacked by phagocytic leukocytes in the uterus.
- Those sperm that do survive undergo a change in response to those conditions.
- They go through the process of capacitation, which improves their motility & alters the membrane surrounding the acrosome, the cap-like structure in the head of a sperm that contains the digestive enzymes needed for it to attach to & penetrate the oocyte.





Pregnancy & Childbirth

REALIZED BOOK AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE REAL PRO

- As biological, psychological, & cultural phenomena
- Comprised of an integration of physical, sociocultural, & psycho-emotional variables
- Pregnancy & birth physiologically normal as a part of the hominid life cycle // reproduction is culturally managed



Pregnancy & Childbirth

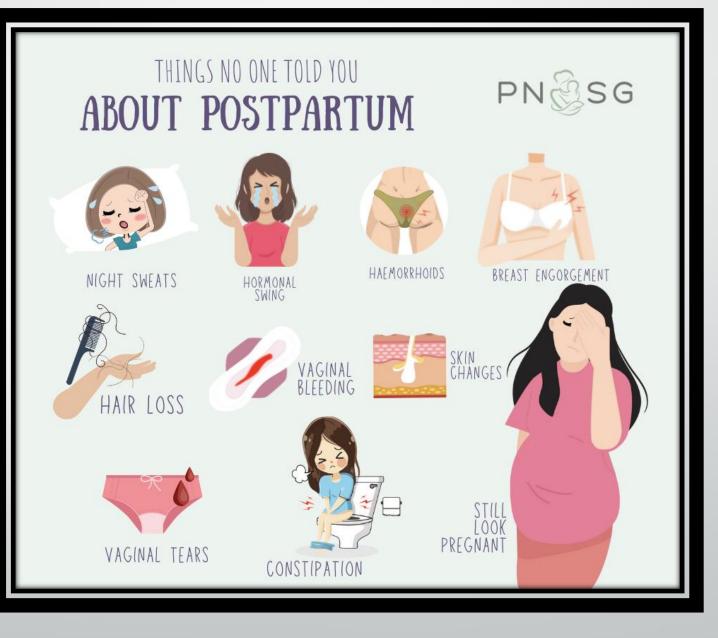
- Fetal development & the impact that health & lifestyle have on the overall experience
- Birth process is a normal physiological event in which problems may develop for the fetus, mother, or both
- Labor is generally depicted as a 3 or 4 process depending on the medical text used
- There are two general models developed as the cultural response to pregnancy:
 - **1.** interventionist
 - **2.** non-interventionist



Pregnancy & Childbirth

postpartum period,

A bio-social event, extends from the birth of the baby until the woman resumes her full pre-pregnancy roles & new status in the society as a mother & adult.



Evidences in archaeology



Lovers of Valdaro

Italy, Neolithic A man & a woman





Lovers of Modena

Italy, 4th-6th Century CE First presumed to be a man & a woman both male: DNA using protein from tooth enamel





So called Warrior burials

Russia, 19th century a wooden sarcophagus presumed to be a boy, DNA : it's a girl!









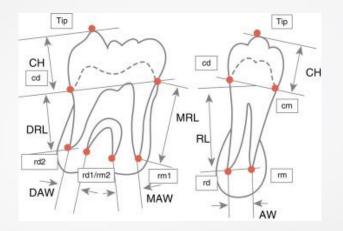
Evidences in bioanthropology



Odontometry

Tooth measurements

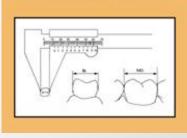
- **M**ost common indicators:
 - Tooth height
 - Mesiodistal diameter
 - Buccolingual diameter
 - Crown module
- **T** Used for age & sex estimation













Entheseal changes (EC)

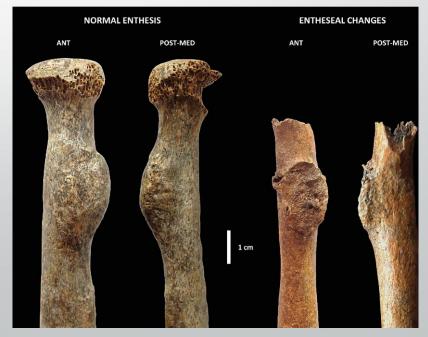
The morphological alterations to entheses(muscle, tendon, & ligament attachment sites on bone) that occur as an adaptative response to biomechanical stress

- analysis of bony changes at sites of insertion of muscle & ligaments
- Development of several methodological approaches for the analysis of human skeletal remains from (different contexts & chronologies) all aimed at inferring behavior

Crubézy, 1988; Hawkey & Merbs, 1995; Al Oumaoui et al., 2004; Mariotti el al., 2004; Galtés et al., 2006; Villotte, 2006

Recently, researchers have questioned the validity of this approach & its correlation with past human lifestyles

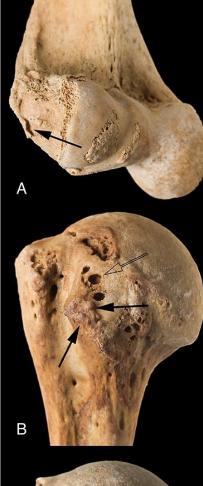
Jurmain, 1999; Weiss, 2003



Method for coding Enthesopathies

Villotte *et al.* 2010. Enthesopathies as Occupational Stress Markers: Evidence From the Upper Limb. AJPA. 142. 224-34.

- a visual method of studying fibrocartilaginous enthesopathies of the upper limb
- applied to 367 males died between (18th-20th centuries), from 4 European identified skeletal collections:
- **1.** the Christ Church Spitalfields Collection,
- 2. the identified skeletal collection of the anthropological museum of the University of Coimbra,
- 3. the Sassari & Bologna collections of the museum of Anthropology,
- **4.** University of Bologna.

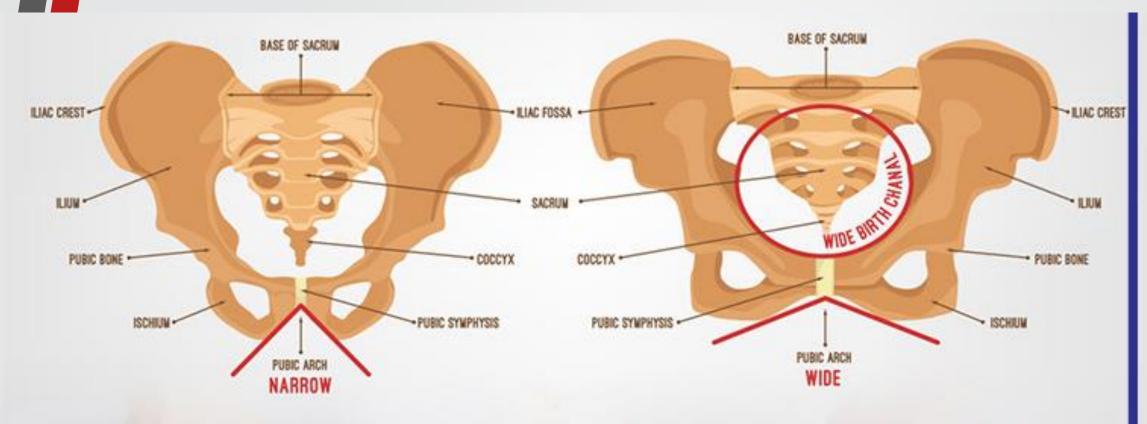




Results of the method

- established a strong link between enthesopathies & physical activity
- **M** with occupations involving heavy manual tasks have significantly (P-value < 0.001) more lesions of the upper limbs than nonmanual & light manual workers
- probability increases with age & is higher for the right side compared with the left

- enthesopathies can be used to reconstruct past lifestyles of populations if bioanthropologists:
- **1.** pay attention to the choice of entheses in their studies
- **2.** use appropriate methods.



MALE PELVIC GIRDLE

FEMALE PELVIC GIRDLE



Sex Estimation paleoanthropology paleopathology (sex <mark>vs</mark> gender) Importance of sex estimation forensic archaeology medecine paleodemography

- genetic (DNA)
- civil status (Birth certificate, records)
- somatic (body, skeleton)

Sex Estimation



SKULL VS PELVIC

Preservation

Good

Precision

80%

95%

Bad

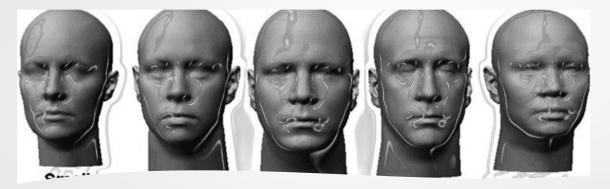
Population specificity

Presence

Absence



1. Morphological methods



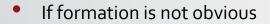
focus on shape

Difficult to learn, based on *Eyeballing*



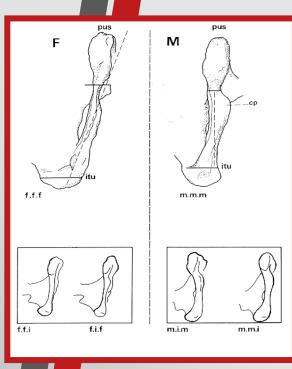
obvious morphological differences allowing optimal separation of the sexes & no need of specific tools &/or softwares

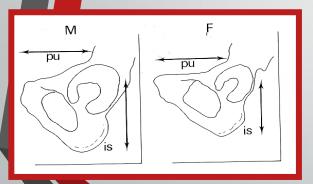
'Based on eye balling'



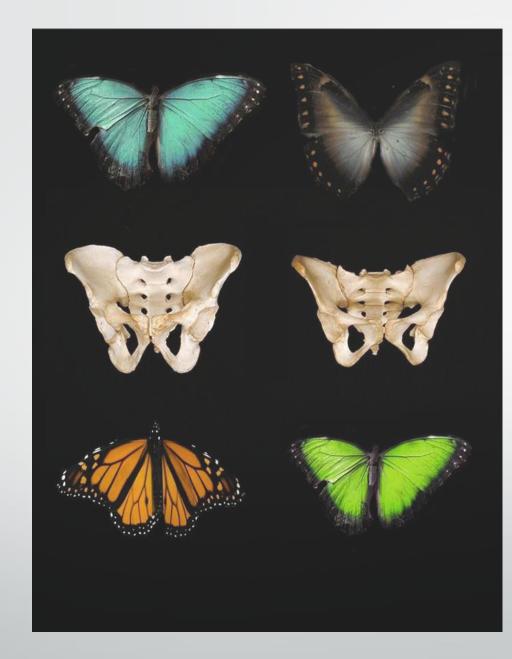
- experience becomes an essential component
- observer must develop a sense of what is relatively large or small, angled or curved, wide or narrow
- Intra- & inter-observer repeatability + statistical analyses are problematical
- difficult to assign a degree of confidence with which the estimate has been made

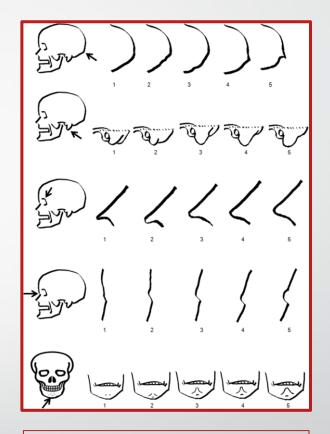












Standard for scoring cranial traits (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994)

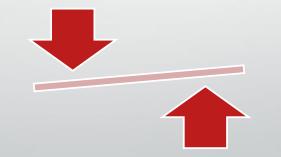


2. Metrics methods

- taking measurements based on osteological landmarks
- evaluation of a single measurement or index of two or numerous measurements (complex multivariate methods)



2. Metrics methods



well-defined measurements less potential for inter- & intra observer errors

DSP: Diagnose Sexuelle Probabiliste

Reference data: Murail P, Bruzek J, Houët F, Cunha E. 2005. DSP: A tool for probabilistic sex diagnosis using worldwide variability in hip-bone measurements. Bulletins et mémoires de la Societé d'Anthropologie de Paris. 17 (3-4), 167-176

- ✓ disregarded visual traits
- ✓ focused on hip-bone measurements, which eliminates the problem of long-time training & reduces the errors of interobservation
- ✓ based on any combination of at least 4 variables among the 10 proposed (to minimize the problem of bone preservation)
- ✓ These variables cover all the parts of the hip-bone



Depth of the great sciatic notch

Distance from the postero-inferior iliac spine (defined as the point of intersection between the auricular su the configuration of hip bone, it is easier to use small arms of sliding caliper (M 15.1 - Bräuer, 1988).

10 Measurements



Acetabulo-symphyseal pubic length

Minimum distance from the superior and medial point of the pubic symphysis to the nearest point on the acet









DSP: Diagnose Sexuelle Probabiliste

- Instead of dealing with a population-specific discriminant value, computed, for each specimen, the probability of its being M or F, which implies a statistical decision-making process when determining sex
- built a database using a very large reference sample of hip-bones from 4 continents (actual sex is known) (to take into account the entire variability of sexual dimorphism among modern humans)





The general principle of sex determination is to compute each specimen's individual probability of being M or F, by comparing its measurements to the worldwide hip-bone database

DSP	≡		
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Evidences in paleopathology



SYPHILIS



- a chronic bacterial infection
- transmitted through sexual contact
- caused by a type of bacteria known as *Treponema pallidum*

STAGES OF SYPHILIS

Table 1. Stages, Time Course, and Manifestations of Syphilis

		Manifestations						
Stage	Time	Common	Uncommon					
Primary	10 to 90 days	Chancre	Local lymphadenopathy					
Secondary	1 to 3 months	Arthralgia, condylomata lata, fatigue, generalized lymphadenopathy, headache, maculopapular/papulosquamous exanthema, myalgia, pharyngitis	Annular syphilis, iritis, pustular syphilis, pyrexia, syphilitic alopecia, ulceronodular syphilis					
Early latent	After primary or secondary stages, 1 year or less of no symptoms	None	None					
Late latent	More than 1 year of no symptoms	None	None					
Tertiary	Months to years	Late neurosyphilis*	Cardiovascular syphilis, gummatous syphilis					

*—Neurosyphilis may occur at any stage of infection.

Information from reference 5.

SYPHILIS ON THE BONES

O 75% of changes found in nasal, vault & tibia/fibula bones

- Cranial vault:
 - O caries sicca (characteristic)
 - O clustered pits
 - bone destruction (gumma)
 - O bone formation around gumma
 - outer table, frontal bone first









SYPHILIS ON THE BONES

Post-cranial:

Lower leg bones-destruction/formation of bone; periostitis, osteitis, osteomyelitis (non-gummatous)

Charcot joints (neurological damage) Aortic aneurysm (weakness in blood vessel that erodes spine)?



SYPHILIS ON THE BONES

- **1.** Facial changes of leprosy & tuberculosis
- 2. Lower leg bones: periostitis, osteitis & osteomyelitis
- **3.** Paget's disease of bone (osteitis deformans)
- 4. Cranial lesions: metastatic carcinoma, multiple myeloma







Leprosy

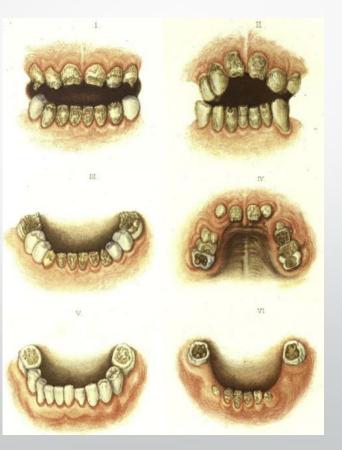
Paget's disease vs syphilis

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

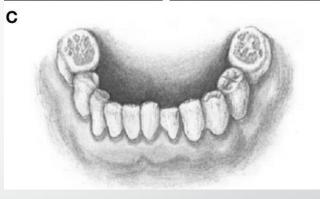
Dental defects:

- **1.** Hutchinson's incisors
- 2. Mulberry molars
- 3. Moon/Fournier molars





A B

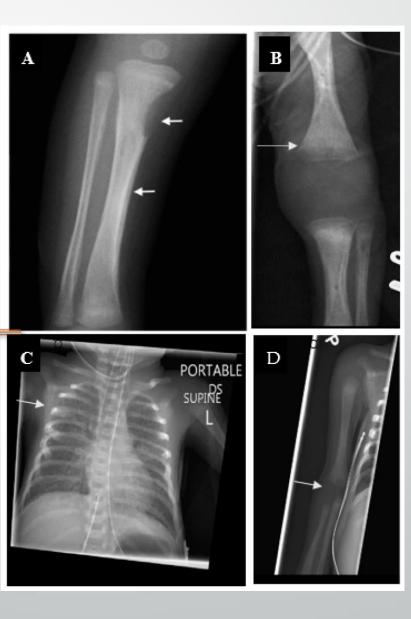


CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

A chronic infectious disease Caused by a spirochete (treponema pallidum) Acquired by the fetus in the uterus before birth 80% From the mother High mortality, No treatment Symptoms after several weeks, months or years after birth

Skeletal manifestations:

- 1. Periostitis-distal femur/proximal tibia
- **2.** Osteitis
- **3.** Osteomyelitis
- **4**. Osteochondritis
- 5. Wimberger's sign (medial tibial metaphyseal loss)
- Wimberge
 Dactylitis



HISTORY OF SYPHILIS

'Continues to be one of the most contentious issues in science' (Ortner 2003)

Different Hypotheses:

- **1.** <u>Columbian theory</u>: a New World disease brought back by Columbus
- 2. <u>Pre-Columbian theory</u>: present in Europe before the arrival of Europeans in the Americas
- <u>Combination theory</u>: Present in both Old world & New world pre-Columbus



NOT JUST COLUMBUS

Home > News > Press Releases > 2020 > Syphilis May Have Spread Through Europe Before Columbus

Syphilis May Have Spread Through Europe Before Columbus

Press release University of Zurich

AUGUST 13, 2020

Columbus brought syphilis to Europe – or did he? A recent study conducted at the University of Zurich now indicates that Europeans could already have been infected with this sexually transmitted disease before the 15th century. In addition, researchers have discovered a hitherto unknown pathogen causing a related disease. The predecessor of syphilis and its related diseases could be over 2,500 years old.



Petrous part of the skull of a perinatal infant (PD28) proved an exceptional source for treponemal DNA

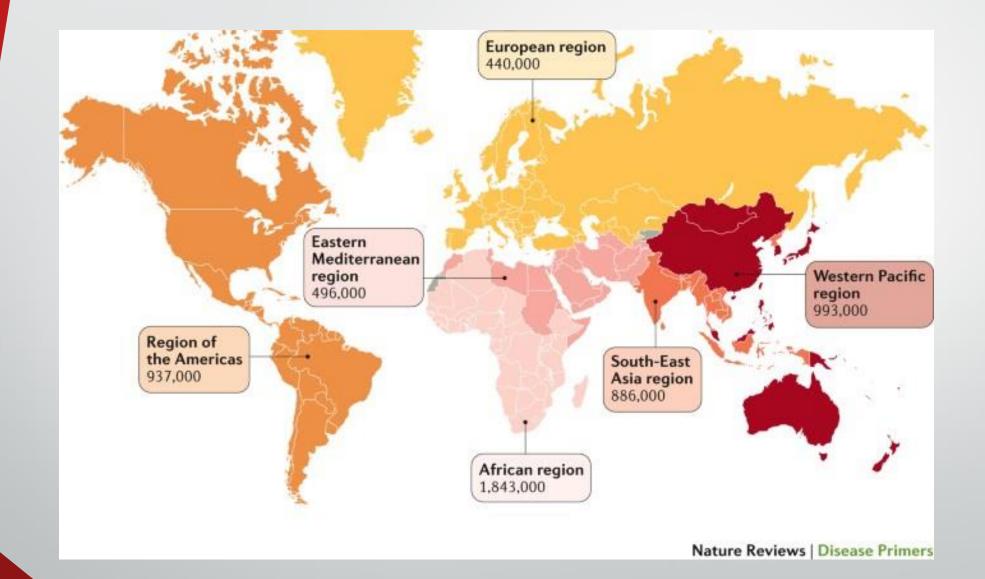
Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease – and while commonly dismissed due to the availability of modern treatments, it is in fact spreading at an alarming rate: Over the last decades, more than 10 million people around the world have been infected with the syphilis subspecies *pallidum* of the *Treponema pallidum* bacteria. Other treponematoses, such as yaws and bejel, are caused by other subspecies of *Treponema pallidum*. The origins of syphilis, which wreaked havoc in Europe from the late 15th to the 18th century, are still unclear. The most popular hypothesis so far holds Christopher Columbus and his sailors liable for bringing the disease to Europe from the New World.

Yaws already widespread in Europe





Lesions in the skull of a Finnish individual showed signs of treponemal infection © Kati Salo



HISTORICAL TREATMENT

No effective treatments but a number of remedies

Expel the foreign, disease-causing substance from the body:

(blood-letting, laxative use, & baths in wine & herbs or olive oil)

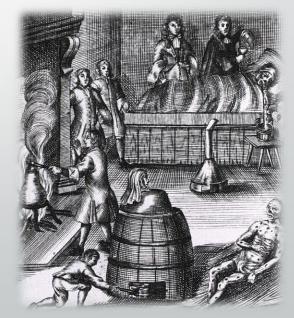
Use of mercury **during the 16th cent**:

- rubbing it on the skin
- applying a plaster
- by mouth
- 'Fumigation' method





An artificial nose from the 17–18th cen



Conclusions

Human sexuality is a very complex and multidimensional behaviour that is affected by many factors in our live (anatomy, physiology, cognition and learning) as well as influenced by culture, ethnicity, economy and politics.

