We conducted six studies investigating how fWHR provides a veridical cue to parental ability while considering domains related to protection and nurturance. Study 1 investigated how these features influence perceptions of how effective men are in these domains, with Study 2 demonstrating the degree to which these inferences are rooted in configural processing. We additionally assessed perceptions of competing motivational states in these targets (Study 3). Two further studies sought to identify boundary conditions of this effect by considering interactive effects with racial stereotypes (Study 4) and whether these inferences extend to women (Study 5). Finally, we assessed whether individual differences in parental motives influenced acuity toward these features (Study 6). We report all measures, manipulations, and exclusions herein. In all studies, we did not analyze data until we completed data collection over the allotted period of data collection. Materials, data, and syntax have been made available at: [OSF LINK]

**Study 1**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited 101 undergraduates from a private university in Northeast U.S. in exchange for course credit (76 women, 25 men; *MAge*=20.80, *SD*=5.26; 49% White). Sensitivity analyses indicated we were sufficiently powered to detect small effects (Cohen’s *f*=0.10, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedure**

**Target Faces*.*** Participants evaluated 20 color images of neutrally expressive Caucasian male faces from the Chicago Faces Database (Ma, Correll, & Wittenbrink, 2015). Norming of stimuli demonstrated substantial differences in fWHR between high- and low-fWHR faces Database naturally varying in fWHR, with 10 possessing the highest fWHR in the set and 10 possessing the lowest (Deska & Hugenberg, 2018).

**Parenting Efficacy.** We tasked participants with responding to two face-valid 7-point scales assessing the extent these targets were perceived as effective in nurturing their children and protecting them from harm (1=*Not at All*; 7=*Very Much*). Items were placed below each target with participants having as much time to evaluate each face as they would like.

**Results**

We modeled parenting efficacy as functions of Participant Sex (Male vs. Female), Target fWHR (High vs. Low), and Parenting Role (Protection vs. Nurturance). This was conducted using a generalized liner mixed effects model built in *R* using the *lmer()* function taken from the *lme4* package (Bates, Mächler, Bolker, & Walker, 2015; Table xx displays full model results). Overall, this model detected a significant effect of Target fWHR, indicating that high-fWHR targets were viewed as more effective parents compared to low-fWHR targets (4.06 vs. 3.88, respectively). Additionally, a significant effect of Parenting Role indicated that targets were perceived as more effective in protecting their offspring than nurturing them (4.03 vs. 3.91). However, no significant effect of Participant Sex was detected.

Importantly, this model yielded a significant interaction between Target fWHR and Parenting Role, such that high-fWHR targets were perceived as more effective at protecting their offspring than low-fWHR targets (4.23 vs. 3.89). However, no difference occurred between perceptions of high and low-fWHR targets in terms of nurturing (3.89 vs. 3.93).

**Study 2**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited 194 participants from public university in Southeastern U.S. for course credit in a single wave of data collection (153 women, 41 men; *MAge*=20.54, *SD*=3.12; 52.6% White). A sensitivity analysis indicated 194 participants would sufficiently detect small effects (*f*=0.07, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedure.** Participants responded to the pair of items for each from Study 1 to evaluate these targets in a similar capacity. Critically, half of the trials presented the faces upright with the other half presenting them inverted.

**Results**

[words here]

**Study 3**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited 207 undergraduates from a private university in Northeastern U.S. for course credit in a single wave of data collection. We excluded one participant from final analyses for reporting being neither male nor female, given our interest in identifying potential sex differences (155 women, 51 men; *MAge*=19.61, *SD*=1.94; 40% White). Sensitivity analyses indicated we were sufficiently powered to detect small effects (Cohen’s *f*=0.09, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedure.**

***Parenting Motives.*** Participants completed a modified version of the Abbreviated Parental Care and Nurturance Scale (PCAT-pn), a scale developed to assess individual differences in parenting motives along dimensions of protection and nurturance (Hofer, Buckels, White, Beall, & Schaller, 2018). We modified the wording of items to assess how each target appeared to typify both motives, with 4 items assessing protection (e.g., “This person would hurt anyone who was a threat to a child”) and 6 assessing nurturance (“If this person were to see an infant, they would want to hold”). Items demonstrated strong reliability across stimulus level and subscale (αs>0.93).

***Perceived Mating Interest.*** We assessed targets’ perceived mating interest using a pair of face-valid items tasking participants with indicating the extent to which they perceived the targets as being interested in LTM or STM (Brown, Keefer, Sacco, & Brown, in press).

Consenting participants viewed each face in a randomized order and evaluated their parenting motivation, and contextual mating preferences. Participants further indicated how dominant they perceived each target as being using a single, face-valid item (1=*Not at All*; 7=*Very Much*). All items operated along the same anchors. This was followed by demographics and debriefing.

**Results**

**Perceived Dominance.** [words here]

**Parenting Motives.** [words here]

**Mating Interest.** [words here]

**Study 4**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited 151 participants from a public university in Southeastern U.S. in exchange for course credits. Two participants were excluded from final analyses; one reported being neither male nor female and another completing the study in under 90 seconds, suggesting non-conscientious responding (*n*=149; 106 women, 43 men; *MAge*=18.69, *SD*=1.11; 86.6% White). Sensitivity analyses indicated we could detect small effects with 138 participants (*f*=0.25, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedures.** Consenting participants engaged in the same task as described in Study 1 by evaluating high- and low-fWHR targets in their perceived parenting ability in protection and nurturance domains. However, participants evaluated either White (*n*=75) or Black male targets (*n*=74) on a between-subjects basis. This methodological decision was to reduce concerns of demand characteristics given differing racial stereotypes that could be activated during within-subjects comparisons (Christiansen, 2012). The Black targets were also chosen from the Chicago Faces Database (Ma et al., 2015) and varied in naturally occurring fWHR like their White counterparts in the previous studies, with previous work demonstrating formidability in Black targets to have similar signal values to White targets (Deska, Lloyd, & Hugenberg, 2018b).

**Results**

[words here]

**White Targets.** [Words here]

**Black Targets.** [Words here]

**Study 5**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited a sample of 132 undergraduates from a public university in Northeastern U.S. in exchange for course credit. One participant was excluded for final analyses for identifying as neither male nor female, given our interest in same- and cross-sex perceptions. This resulted in a final sample of *n*=131 (75 men, 56 women, *MAge*=20.78 years, *SD*=2.73; 39.7% Asian). Sensitivity analyses indicated we were sufficiently powered to detect small effects (Cohen’s *f*=0.12, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedures.** Consenting participants engaged in similar procedures as Study 1, albeit with the notable exception of a truncated number of target male faces. Specifically, we tasked participants with evaluating high- and low-fWHR male and female faces for a total of 20 trials of five targets in each category. This mirrors procedures from previous work assessing target sex effects of fWHR (i.e., Deska et al., 2018a). Like the male faces employed throughout previous studies, the female faces similarly represented the highest and lowest fWHRs in the database.

**Results**

[words here]

**Study 6**

**Method**

**Participants.** We recruited a sample of 333 undergraduates from a public university in Southeastern U.S. in exchange for course credit. No data were excluded (254 women, 79 men; *MAge*=18.74 years, *SD*=1.92; 82.9% White). Sensitivity analyses indicated we were sufficiently powered to detect small effects (Cohen’s *f*=0.20, 1-β=0.80).

**Materials and Procedure**

**Parenting Motives.** Participants responded to the self-report version of PCAT-pn to indicate their dispositional motivation to provide care for offspring (Hofer et al., 2018). This scale consists of the protection (4 items, α=0.78; *MGrand*=4.03, *SD*=0.70) and nurturance subscales (6 items, α=0.83; *MGrand*=3.98, *SD*=0.80), which operate along 5-point scales with higher scores indicating higher levels of a specific motive. It should be noted all four protection items and two nurturance items had a separate set of scalar anchors (1=*Strongly Disagree*; 5=*Strongly Agree*) from the other four nurturance items assessing the extent to which individuals found a given situation tender (1=*No Tenderness at All*; 5=*A Lot of Tenderness*). Subscales were moderately correlated, prompting us to consider them separately (*r*=0.33, *p*<0.001).

Consenting participants evaluated each the high- (*M*=3.34, *SD*=0.94) and low-fWHR (*M*=3.38, *SD*=0.84) White male targets along a single item assessing general parenting ability (1=*Not at All Effective*; 7=*Very Effective*). This was followed by the PCAT-pn and debriefing.

**Results**

[words here]

References

[ADD LME4 CITE HERE]

Table 1

*Summary of Linear Mixed Effects Modeling Output for XX in Study 1*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statistic | Estimate | *SE* | *z* | *p* value | Omnibus χ2 | *p* value |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |