Evaluating the “fertility of parental care” hypothesis:

Sherry and Hampson argue that the suite of traits was selected because it pays in decreasing women’s mobility. They argue that traveling costs women in two key ways. 1) Traveling is costly in terms of energy that could be diverted towards reproduction. 2) Traveling is risky.

Oestregen inhibits spatial ability.

Testosterone boosts spatial ability in development.

Women perform better during menses when estradiol levels are lowest, than midluteal or periovulatory phases of the cycle when estradiol levels are high (Hampson 2014 cites many).

WHAT ARE HORMONES LIKE DURING BFEED?

Decreased movement during pregnancy (mice and humans? Barnett and McEwan 1973 “movements of virgin….”; Fraser Barnett 1975 “Effects of pregnancy on parental and other activities”)

Spatial learning reduced in female deer mice during breeding season (Galea 1994 “sexually dimorphic spatial learning…”)

Sex diff in spatial cognition peaked in spring, not in autumn.

EVIDENCE::: onset of sex difference in spatial ability consistent with onset of female receptivity (Sherry and Hampson ’97)

Risks (general)

Getting lost… examples from Polly, and Steve…

Rape and other violence… examples from Mehinaku, modern US.

Infanticide… non-human primate examples.

Predators… non-human examples.

Risks (Twe)

Examples of women becoming lost.

Rape… example from Otjizu mountains

Predators.. leopards, snakes, river crossing.

Hypotheses:

Women’s travel maps onto reproductive status.

Results:

Women actually travel *more* when they are breastfeeding children.

Discussion:

Not really that risky?

Freed from regular chores?