INTRODUCTION

- There are evolutionary trade-offs between energy allocated to reproduction and the self, known as embodied capital.
- The members of the Latter-Day Saint (LDS) faith are urged to marry young and reproduce frequently.
- We expect to see selection toward early and frequent reproduction over embodied capital in the Latter-Day Saint (LDS) culture.
- Seen in the young average age of first marriage and the average amount of children per household.

BACKGROUND

- Gordon B. Hinckley, a former prophet of the LDS church, in a General Conference message titled “Thou Shalt Covet Not,” said, “To our young adults of marriageable circumstances, I hope you will not put off marriage too long.”
- The LDS faith relies heavily on the concept of marriage and family. According to a talk given by Neil L. Andersen, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the second-highest governing body of the church, marriage and family are integral to “God’s plan” (2011).
- Strong social pressures toward a young age of marriage, reproduction, and high reproductive frequency (Hinckley 1990).

HYPOTHESIS AND PREDICTIONS

- Hypothesis
  - Encouragement toward reproduction in LDS culture has greater trade-offs with embodied capital in comparison to non-LDS populations.
  - LDS culture may influence early and frequent reproduction, this results in energy trade-offs allocated toward embodied capital (Hill and Kaplan 1999).
- Predictions
  - Correlation between younger age of marriage and being LDS
  - Positive correlation between fertility and age of first reproduction
  - Negative association between both age of marriage and age of first reproduction with education

RESULTS

- LDS vs Non-LDS Relationship Status and Age
- LDS vs Non-LDS Age and Highest Degree Attained
- LDS Age and Highest Degree Attained

CONCLUSIONS

- Predictions supported:
  - LDS have an earlier age of marriage
  - Strong desire for children and satisfaction with marriage
  - Less satisfaction with education and longer to complete degree
- Evolutionary trade-off between young age of marriage and education.
- Religious affiliation affects life history traits.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Online Qualtrics questionnaire using a stratified random sample from Utah State University in Logan, UT and Texas A&M University in College Station, TX.
- N = 149
- n = 59 practicing Utah LDS members
- n = 64 non-LDS from both states
- n = 10 Utah
- n = 49 Texas
- Unambiguous questions about fertility, first age of reproduction, age at first marriage, and their activeness within the LDS church.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- Doctrine
  - A former prophet of the LDS church, Gordon B. Hinckley, in a General Conference message titled “Thou Shalt Covet Not,” said, “To our young adults of marriageable circumstances, I hope you will not put off marriage too long.”
  - The LDS faith relies heavily on the concept of marriage and family. According to a talk given by Neil L. Andersen, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the second-highest governing body of the church, marriage and family are integral to “God’s plan” (2011).
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