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

The principle of allocation
- Limited amount of resources for growth, maintenance, and reproduction.

Human life history trade-offs
- Characterized by trade-offs between energy for current and future reproduction and energy allocated to the self, known as embodied capital.
- Early reproduction produces more children, but limits embodied capital in the form of education and economic success (Hill and Kaplan 1999).

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- Doctrine
  - A former prophet of the LDS church, Gordon B. Hinckley, in a General Conference message titled “Thou Shalt Covet,” said, “To our young adults of marriagable 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).

RESULTS

- LDS vs Non-LDS Relationship Status and Age
  - Number of Participants
    - Age Category and Religious Affiliation
    - LDS
    - Non-LDS
    - Married
    - Engaged
    - Cohabitating
    - In a relationship (not cohabiting)
    - Single, no partner

- Do You Want Children in the Future?
  - Number of Participants
    - LDS
    - Non-LDS
    - Sample Category
    - Utah
    - Texas
    - Definitely yes
    - Probably yes
    - Might or might not
    - Probably not
    - Definitely not

- LDS vs Non-LDS Age and Highest Degree Attained
  - Number of Participants
    - Age and Religious Affiliation Category
    - High School
    - Associate’s
    - Bachelor’s
    - Masters

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

METHODS

- 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 LDS members
  - n = 64 non-LDS from both states
  - n = 140 Utah
  - n = 49 Texas
- Unambiguous questions about fertility, first age of reproduction, age at first marriage, and their activeness within the LDS church.

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.