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.
- Strong social pressures toward a young age of marriage, reproduction, and high reproductive frequency (Hinkley 1990).

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).

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 = 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. Hinkley, in a General Conference message titled “Thou Shalt Covet” 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 (Hinkley 1990).

RESULTS

- LDS vs Non-LDS Relationship Status and Age

- LDS vs Non-LDS Age and Highest Degree Attained

- Do You Want Children in the Future?

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.


References


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