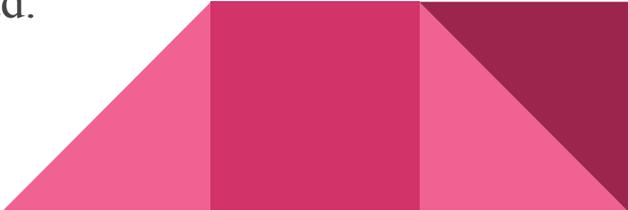


Modernity's effect on social connections from an evolutionary psychology perspective

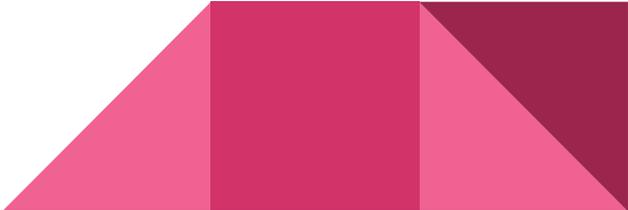


Carolyn Cortes

Theory

- Humans evolved psychology aligns with hunter-gatherer lifestyles.
 - Hunter-gatherers lived in bands that included immediate and extended family.
 - Living in a group increases evolutionary fitness.
 - Groups that are cooperative provide more resources for each other.
 - By living and working in a group knowledge is spread.
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Theory Continued

- In hunter-gatherer bands the extended and immediate family provide child care, resources, and social support.
 - The act of reciprocal altruism and kin selection facilitates trust between the immediate and extended family.
 - Humans psychology is programmed to look for extended family members.
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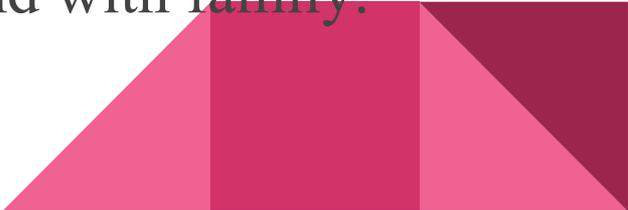
Theory Continued

- Modern conditions and attitudes are rooted in economic independence and division.
 - There is more focus on the nuclear family interests rather than both the immediate and extended family.
 - It is harder to maintain the extended family unit and does not satisfy humans evolved psychology for the extended family social unit and connection.
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Hypothesis

- The hypothesis is that individuals who have less connection with their extended family, will experience greater feelings of loss, insecurity, and loneliness.
 - To test this hypothesis a survey was administered to Albright College students to assess their satisfaction with their social connections.
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Survey

- Questions were asked about the compositions of their family home and who they were closest to.
 - The frequency of telecommunications and in person visits with both immediate and extended family were assessed.
 - The survey asked about overall satisfaction with their peer and family relations, feelings of anxiety, lack of guidance, disappointment, and wanting a stronger bond with family.
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Predicted results

- The goal was to see if there was a correlation between loneliness, lack of guidance, anxiety, and satisfaction in a person's life with the frequency of contact and visit with family.
 - Individuals that have less in person contact with their immediate and extended family will have less satisfaction with their family.
 - Those who have experienced less family satisfaction will have more feelings of lacking guidance.
 - Those who live with their extended family will experience more satisfaction with their family and peers. They will experience less loneliness, anxiety, and disappointment with their social connections.
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