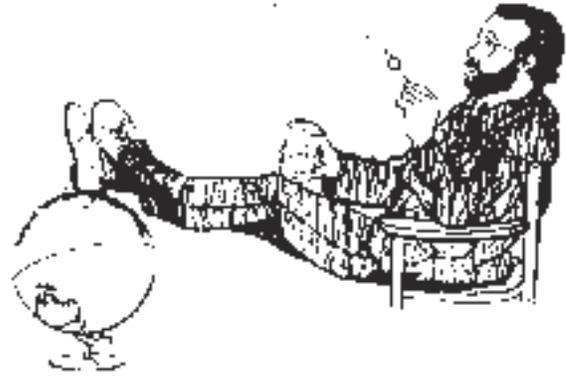

Improbable Research Review

*Improbable theories, experiments, and
conclusions*

compiled by Dirk Manley, *Improbable
Research staff*



The Shape of Holes

“The Shape of Holes,” Marco Bertamini and Camilla J. Croucher, *Cognition*, vol. 87, no. 1, February 2003, pp. 33-54. The authors, who are, respectively, at the University of Liverpool and the University of Cambridge, say that:

We discuss the many interesting aspects of holes as a subject of study in different disciplines and predict that much insight... will continue to come from holes.

Before the Flood (preliminary)

“PREFACE: Wetting: Introductory Note,” Stefan Herminghaus, *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter*, vol. 17, no 9, 2005, pp. S261-4.

The shape of holes
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Abstract
The shape of holes can be recognized as accurately as the shape of objects (Palmer, S. E. (1999). *Vision science: photons to phenomenology*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press), yet the area enclosed by a hole is a background region, and it can be demonstrated that background regions are not represented as having shape. What is therefore the shape of a hole, if any? To resolve this apparent paradox, we

Fluctuating asymmetry and romantic jealousy[☆]
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Abstract
We investigated whether fluctuating asymmetry (FA) is related to the expression of romantic jealousy. The mate retention hypothesis suggests that romantic jealousy functions to prevent philandering, so one's mate value, relative to rivals, may be a factor modulating jealousy. FA was used as a measure of mate value, and we found, as predicted, that asymmetrical individuals are significantly more jealous in mating contexts, but not in nonromantic contexts.

Hazards of Fluctuating Asymmetry (1)

“Fluctuating Asymmetry and Romantic Jealousy,” William M. Brown and Chris Moore, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, vol. 24, 2003, pp. 113-7. (Thanks to Stephen Goss for bringing this to our attention.)

Abstract

We investigated whether fluctuating asymmetry (FA) is related to the expression of romantic jealousy. The mate retention hypothesis suggests that romantic jealousy functions to prevent philandering, so one's mate value, relative to rivals, may be a factor modulating jealousy. FA was used as a measure of mate value, and we found, as predicted, that asymmetrical individuals are significantly more jealous in mating contexts, but not in nonromantic contexts.

Hazards of Fluctuating Asymmetry (2)

“Fluctuating Asymmetry and Low Back Pain,” E. Al-Eisa, D. Egan and R. Wassersug, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, vol. 25, 2004, pp. 31-7.

Flight Response

“The Importance of Impulse Purchasing Behaviour in the International Airport Environment,” Gerry Crawford and T.C. Melewar, *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*, vol. 3, no. 1, September 2003, pp. 85-98.

We welcome your suggestions for this column. Please enclose the full citation (no abbreviations!) and, if possible, a copy of the paper.