Speaker: Dr David Lewis (Murdoch U)
Title: Lumbar curvature: Evolution and standards of attractiveness
Where: Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre (351.1.001)
Host: Dr Matt Thompson (Matthew.Thompson@murdoch.edu.au)

Abstract:
This talk will present multiple studies supporting the thesis that human standards of attractiveness reflect the output of psychological mechanisms to detect survival- and reproduction-relevant traits. I tested novel hypotheses based on an adaptive problem uniquely faced by women: a forward-shifted centre of mass during pregnancy. The human female spine possesses evolved morphology to deal with this adaptive challenge. This, in turn, would have created selection pressures for the evolution of a male mate preference for cues to these underlying spinal structures. On this basis, I hypothesized that men possess an evolved mate preference for women exhibiting an angle of lumbar curvature biomechanically optimum for dealing with the adaptive problem of pregnancy. Multiple independent studies employing distinct methods have discriminatively supported this hypothesis. Discussion will centre on future directions and alternative evolutionary explanations, including lumbar curvature as a cue to sexual proceptivity.

Biography:
David obtained his PhD in psychology with Professor David Buss at the University of Texas at Austin in 2013. He then spent three years conducting cross-cultural research in the Middle East before joining Murdoch University. His research has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, funded by the National Science Foundation, and spans wide domains of the psychological and biological sciences.

Meeting the presenter:
To arrange a meeting with the presenter, please contact the host.

Reading for the keen:


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