Women After All?
Sex, Evolution, and the End of Male Supremacy

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In Conversation with Mayree Clark

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WOMEN AFTER ALL

SEX, EVOLUTION, and the END of MALE SUPREMACY

MELVIN KONNER, M.D.
“A lively, readable feminist book...”

Anthropologist Louise Lamphere, *Current Anthropology*, August 2015
WOMEN AFTER ALL

SEX, EVOLUTION, AND THE END OF MALE SUPREMACY

MELVIN KONNER

“Sparkling, thought-provoking account of sexual differences. Whether you're a man or a woman, you'll find his conclusions gripping.”
—JARED DIAMOND, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Guns, Germs, and Steel

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“It’s important to understand that the similarities between men and women’s brains are much greater than any differences; the differences that exist are unrelated to general intelligence, but they are tied to specific dispositions. . . men greatly exceed women in violence and driven sexuality.”
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Epigraph to Women After All

“All these arguments we have to-day to offer for woman, and one, in addition, stronger than all besides, the difference in man and woman. Because man and woman are the complement of one another, we need woman’s thought in national affairs to make a safe and stable government.”

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton, January 19, 1869
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Hormones shape brain circuits before birth
“Variability in [gender] behavior shouldn’t be confused with malleability. There is little evidence, for example, that you can really change your sexual orientation.”

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Erasmus Darwin called sex “the masterpiece of nature” and tried to explain it, but his grandson Charles said “The whole question is still hidden in darkness.”
Praying Mantis:

Losing Your Head Over Her
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“...This leads me to say a few words on what I have called Sexual Selection...”

--Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species, Chapter IV
Two sexes in the hummingbird *Spathura underwoodi*. 
Two sexes in the chameleon *Chamelio owenii*. 

![Image of chameleon heads](image.png)
The two sexes in the cassowary
Tournament vs. Pair-Bonding Species

MATING STRATEGIES

TOURNAMENT

- isolated $\varnothing$
- polygyny ($\varnothing$ group)
- parental investments: none
- variance in $A_{2S}$: high
- sexual dimorphism: high

PAIR BONDING

- polygyny $\rightarrow$ monogamy $\rightarrow$ polyandry
- facultative
- little or none, less than $\varnothing$
- $\approx 50\%$
- more than $\varnothing$
- negligible
- (high $\varnothing$ variance)
- low
- low
Tournament vs. Pair-Bonding Species

MATING STRATEGIES

TOURNAMENT

Pair Bonding

isolated ♀ polygyny ♀ group ♀ group
(polygynous) (facultative)

Parental Investments

none little or none less than ♀ ~ 50% more than ♀

Variance in ♀ 25:

high

Sexual Dimorphism

HIGH

low

(high ♀ variance)

low

negligible

Low
Figure 2. PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS AGE 15 AND OLDER WHO WERE MARRIED, BY SEX AND RACE, 1960–2011, UNITED STATES
**Figure 9.** FERTILITY RATES OF WOMEN AGE 15–44, BY YEAR, UNITED STATES

NOTE: The number of births that an average woman would have if, at each year of age, she experienced the birth rates occurring in the specified year. A total fertility rate of 2.11 represents “replacement level” fertility under current mortality conditions (assuming no net migration).

The kids are alright.
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Pan troglodytes: Chimpanzees

- Highly social
- Complex behavior
- Male dominance
- Assaults & killing
Pan paniscus: Bonobos

Highly social
Complex behavior
Little aggression
Female coalitions
“Make love, not war”
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Epilogue ∙ #YesAllWomen  295
Homo sapiens at work, over 90% of human history
In hunter-gatherer cultures, women’s voices are heard.
As hunter-gatherers settled down, increased their population density, and eventually became farmers, men’s groups reached a critical mass where women could be excluded.
War drove male dominance.

From the tomb of Egyptian Prince Mesehti, 4,200 years old
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“Civilization”: Male coalitions don’t just build pyramids, they are pyramids—of power.
“Solomon . . . had seven hundred royal wives and three hundred concubines . . .”

1 Kings 11:3

Tischbein, *The Queen of Sheba Kneeling before King Solomon*, 1700s
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MAP OF THE HUMAN Y CHROMOSOME

11.32 - Testis Determining Factor (TDF)
11.31 - Gadgetry (MAC-locus)
11.21 - Channel Flipping (FLP) (unstable map position due to regular transposition)
11.11 - Catching & Throwing (BLZ-1)
11.11 - Self-confidence (BLZ-2) (note-unlinked to ability)
11.21 - Ability to Remember & Tell Jokes (GOT-1)
11.21 - Sports Page (BUD-E)
11.22 - Addiction to death & destruction movies (T-2)
11.22 - Air Guitar (RIF)
11.22 - Ability to identify aircraft (DC10)
11.22 - Pre-adolescent fascination with Arachnida & Reptilia (MOM-4U)
11.23 - Spitting (P2E)
11.23 - Sitting on the john reading (S/I)
12 - Inability to express affection over the phone (ME-2)
12 - Selective hearing loss (HUH?)
12 - Total lack of recall for dates (OOPS)
Epidemiology:
- Affects 49% of humans
- Found almost everywhere

Mechanisms:
- Testosterone poisoning
- “Unprotected X”

Consequences:
- Unable to become pregnant
- Higher mortality at all ages
- Shorter life span
- High-risk behavior
- Tendency to violence
- Driven sexuality
- Premature hair loss
- Much more X-linked disease
X-Chromosome Deficiency Syndrome

Epidemiology:
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Malala earns top grades in school exams

Forbes Asia, August 23, 2015
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Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her proper place
Fortune 500 Female CEOs, 1995-2014

Note: Based on the percentage of women CEOs at the time of the annual published Fortune 500 list. For 2014, share is as of November.

Source: Catalyst (http://www.catalyst.org/knowledge/women-ceos- fortune-1000)

Pew Research Center
There will be 148 females for every 100 males among college graduates by 2021.
There will be 148 female college graduates for every 100 male college graduates by 2021.
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Some email from the boys

“FUCK YOU AND YOUR ANTI MALE WSJ ARTICLE MELVIN

“FUCK YOU”
Some email from the boys

“Regarding female superiority:

“Sometimes the liberal mind will just amaze me. You know Melvin, you just can't put a label on your kind of stupid.”

***** *****

Texan
A Better World, Ruled by Women

Male biology has brought us war, corruption, scandal

BY MEET SU KONNER

HILLARY CLINTON seems to be preparing to run for president, and former Western Pacific CEO Cary Potter may yet enter the race on the Republican side. Whatever wins the White House in 2008, it is clear that women are poised to play a major role in the next national election.

The mythology of American politics is as old as the nation itself, and it is still based on the idea that men are stronger, more capable, and more intelligent than women. This belief is reflected in the way that politicians are elected and how they govern.

The first woman to run for president in the United States was Susan B. Anthony in 1872. She was not even listed on the ballot in most states, and she only received 1,000 votes. Despite this setback, Anthony continued to work for women's rights and eventually helped to pass the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

In 1984, Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman to run for president. She received only 15% of the vote, but her campaign was a significant step forward for women of color.

The most recent woman to run for president was Sen. Hillary Clinton, who lost the 2008 Democratic nomination to Barack Obama. However, Clinton's campaign was significant because it showed that women are capable of running for the highest office in the land.

The fact that women are finally being taken seriously as serious contenders for the presidency is a clear sign that the myth of male superiority is beginning to crack. This is good news for all of us, because it means that we are moving closer to a world where women and men are treated equally.

The Wall Street Journal, Saturday/Sunday, March 7-8, 2015
It’s all over, boys: the end of male supremacy

(and it’s a man who’s saying that)
“I’ve been feeling overwhelmed lately by the never-ending push by men to oppress women…Your book has given me renewed hope that this hideous situation does not have to continue forever - it is just what I needed to re-focus and feel positive about the future.”

-Tammy Caputi, April 15, 2015, personal communication, used by permission
Happening now...
We’ll continue to see images like those on the right...
…but we’ll see more and more images like this one.
Soccer star Abby Wambach kisses her wife Sarah Huffman after Team USA won the Women's World Cup, July 5, 2015.
If you think nothing’s changed, you’re not as old as I am.