

Parent-Offspring Conflict

Predicted from genetic difference (50% homology)

Results in differing agendas concerning allocation of parents resources

Incremental consumption of resources results in diminishing returns:

E.G.: First unit of food prevents starvation

Second unit of food promotes health

Third unit of food removes discomfort

Distribution of scarce resources had differential utility for parent and offspring

Uniform distribution across offspring maximizes return

For parent

Parent-Offspring Conflict, cont

Distribution of scarce resources had differential utility for parent and offspring:

Uniform distribution across offspring maximizes return for parent

Since siblings only have 50% genetic homology:

Resources devoted to sibling only have 50% efficiency

May have less efficiency than the diminished return of receiving them yourself

Efficiency or Return defined as promoting survival of one's genes

Parent-Offspring Conflict, cont

Efficiency per Unit of Food:

1st: 4 units

2nd: 3 units

3rd: 2 units

Return for mother if one unit of food to each of two siblings:

$4 \text{ units} + 4 \text{ units} = 8 \text{ units}$

Return for first sibling from such a distribution:

$4 \text{ units} + 4 \text{ units} \times 50\% \text{ (shared genes)} = 6 \text{ units}$

Return for first sibling from receiving both units of food:

$4 \text{ units} + 3 \text{ units} = 7 \text{ units}$ (Diverges from mother's maximal Return)

Parent-Offspring Conflict, cont

Conflict over differential resource allocation also applies to only children:

- Parents' needs
- Nephews & Nieces

Parent-Offspring Conflict, cont

After puberty male offspring are predicted to come into conflict
With the father over access to women outside the home

60% of familial homicides are male vs. male

27% male perpetrator, female victim

5% female perpetrator, male victim

7% female perpetrator, female victim

(Paternal uncertainty would predict greater homicide rate by
father than by mother)

Parent-Offspring Conflict, cont

Genetic relatedness does not predict symmetrical investment:

Parent and child share 50% homology

As child develop, need for parental investment diminishes

As parents age, reproductive value diminishes

Consequential increase in child's value to parents

Asymmetrical value predicts conflict:

Detroit: 11 parent-adult child homicides -- 9/11 by child

Canada: 82% (n=91) of adult-son homicides committed by son

Data excludes step-fathers