



The Problem with Dogon Polygyny

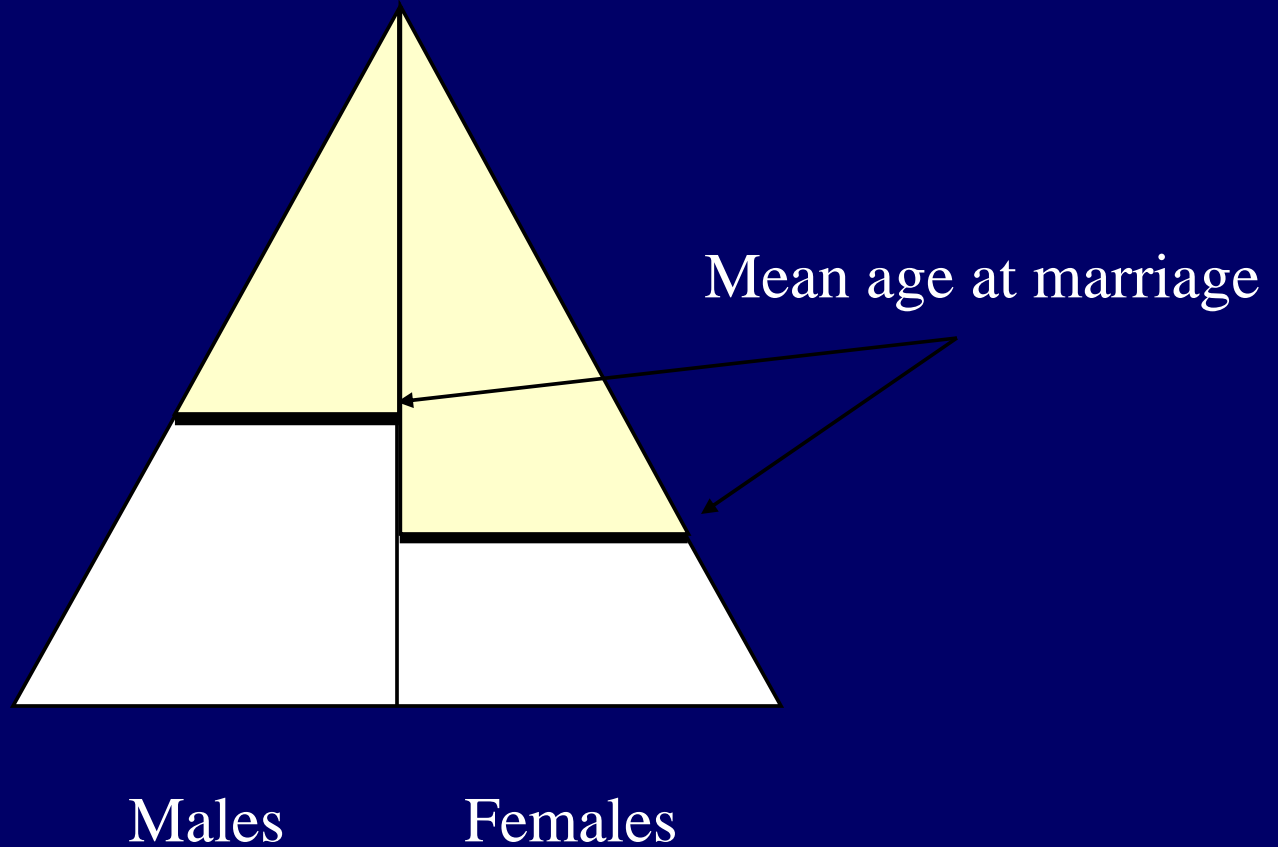
- ❑ Fertility of polygynous women is only 80% of monogamous woman.
 - ❑ The odds of a polygynous child dying before reaching age 10 is 7 to 11 greater than a monogamous child.
 - ❑ Child mortality rate is positively associated with polygyny index even after controlling for dependency ratio.
 - ❑ Near significant negative correlation between BMI and polygyny (i.e., children were skinnier in polygynous households).
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Low fertility among polygynous Dogon women: some hypotheses

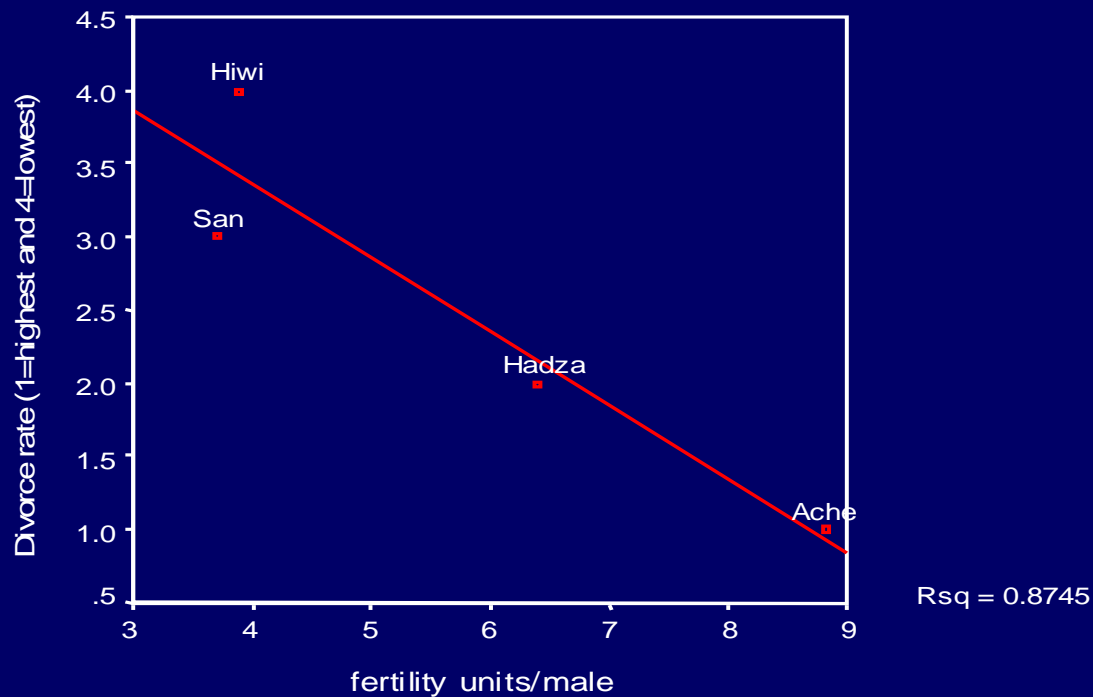
- ❑ Resource dilution (lower per capita household wealth, not true)
 - ❑ Cowife competition (poisoning, commonly brought to court)
 - ❑ Low paternal investment (husbands divert wealth into more wives, true)
 - ❑ Nepotistic investment (less kin support in such marriages, probably not true)
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Dogon Population Distribution



Foragers Divorce

Divorce and Fertility Units/Male



From Blurton Jones et al. "Paternal Investment and Hunter-Gatherer Divorce Rates." Table 4.4, page 78

Forager: Fertility and Divorce

Total Fertility Rate and Divorce

