



THE BEADED CONNECTIONS
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Ph.D. University of London, M.A. University of California at Davis, B.A. University of Alberta at Edmonton. My research publications may seem to bespeak a random walk, since they include topics like the “bisexual behavior of female rhesus monkeys”, “who kills whom in spouse killings”, and “competitiveness, risk-taking and violence: the young male syndrome”, but these topics are conceptually integrated when one considers the possible consequences of a history of sexual selection. The young male syndrome is the focus of my work at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin as part of the Sciences of Risk project organized by Alex Kacelnik. I co-edit, with Martin Daly, the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior*. Here (<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/Psychology/dalywilson/dalywilson.html>) are some papers to introduce “the young male syndrome”. Margo Wilson et al. “An Evolutionary Psychological Perspective on the Modulation of Confrontational Competition and Risk Taking.” In *Hormones, Brain and Behaviour*, edited by D. Pfaff et al. (San Diego, 2002). Martin Daly and Margo Wilson “Risk-Taking, Intrasexual Competition, and Homicide.” *Nebraska Symposium on Motivation* 47 (2001): 1–36). Margo Wilson and Martin Daly. “Sexual Rivalry and Sexual Conflict: Recurring Themes in Fatal Conflicts.” *Theoretical Criminology* 2, no. 3 (1998): 291–310). – Address: Department of Psychology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1, Canada; E-mail: wilson@mcmaster.ca.

How wonderful to just read and think without interruption. I do want credible answers why young men take more dangerous risks than young women, apparently disregarding the immediate and long-term costs. I wonder if Berlin is different. [Phone rings and stu-

dent knocks at the door.] Sigh, I was only dreaming. The trip to Berlin is still one week away.

Thinking and talking about risk began with a bang: the Sciences of Risk meeting convened within hours of our settling in Villa Walther. This intensity of learning and discussion can't be maintained for three months, but it was a great source of ideas about the various unconnected threads that risk entails. Our discussions continued through the summer and expanded to include social norms, scalar utility theory, emotional modulation of decisions, domain-specificity, and even wasps discounting the future. It's been productive and delightful to get to know people in our risk group, at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Humboldt University, and the ABC group at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. I never anticipated the relevance of the particular interests and expertises among these colleagues and friends. The possible research and analytic directions in understanding the young male syndrome and decision-making more generally have been extended in unanticipated ways.

Going to a new place brings home the value of local expertise. I wish to extend my appreciation to all the sweet people who showed us how to negotiate the washing machine, for example, and suggested where to find birds, wonderful restaurants and great food stalls, and more generally shared their recently acquired local knowledge. Of course, Barbara Sanders is still the primo resource person at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Thank you all for your many courtesies, kindness, and expertise.

Berlin, especially the area around Wiko, was a fabulous and unanticipated pleasure. I've never seen a large city with such a great balance between the peopled world and the natural world. Any biologist could find opportunities for research nearby while enjoying the creature comforts of civilization. I'll bet no one has studied the bugs and the slugs in the garden of Villa Walther.

It looks as if each year the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin hosts about four dozen scholars whose academic interests vary from the rare and exotic to the fashionable and mundane. As a psychologist, I have wondered if the Kolleg might be part of a long-term study of interdisciplinary dynamics and synthesis; a model for the design of fruitful scholarly environments. One design feature that Wiko surely has correct is appreciating that wonderful meals have a profound effect in fostering trust, goodwill, and enthusiasm for life. Thank you all.

Every time I see a bead I'll recall the network of good memories from my visit to Berlin.