



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## Edinburgh Research Explorer

### Who is the fairest of them all?

**Citation for published version:**

Munoz-Reyes, JA, Pita, M, Arjona, M, Sanchez-Pages, S & Turiegano, E 2013 'Who is the fairest of them all? The independent effect of attractive features and self-perceived attractiveness on cooperation among women.' ESE Discussion Papers, no. 234, Edinburgh School of Economics Discussion Paper Series.

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

**Publisher Rights Statement:**

© Munoz-Reyes, J. A., Pita, M., Arjona, M., Sanchez-Pages, S., & Turiegano, E. (2013). Who is the fairest of them all?: The independent effect of attractive features and self-perceived attractiveness on cooperation among women.(ESE Discussion Papers; No. 234). Edinburgh School of Economics Discussion Paper Series.

**General rights**

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

**Take down policy**

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact [openaccess@ed.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@ed.ac.uk) providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.





Edinburgh School of Economics  
**Discussion Paper Series**  
Number 234

*Who is the fairest of them all?  
The independent effect of attractive features and self-perceived  
attractiveness on cooperation among women*

**J. A. MUÑOZ-REYES**  
(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and  
Universidad de Playa Ancha, Chile)

**M. PITA**  
(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

**M. ARJONA**  
(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

**S. SANCHEZ-PAGES**  
(University of Edinburgh)

**E. TURIEGANO**  
(Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)

Date  
November 2013

**Published by**  
School of Economics  
University of Edinburgh  
30 -31 Buccleuch Place  
Edinburgh EH8 9JT  
+44 (0)131 650 8361  
<http://edin.ac/16ja6A6>



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

1 **Who is the fairest of them all? The independent effect of attractive features and**  
2 **self-perceived attractiveness on cooperation among women**

3

4 **Running headline: Attractiveness and cooperation in women**

5 Word count: 7,997

6

7 **MUÑOZ-REYES J.A.<sup>1,2</sup>, PITA, M.<sup>1</sup>, ARJONA, M.<sup>1</sup>, SANCHEZ-PAGES S.<sup>3</sup>,**  
8 **TURIEGANO, E.<sup>1</sup>**

9

10 <sup>1</sup> Departamento de Biología, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

11 <sup>2</sup> Centro de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de Playa Ancha, Valparaíso, Chile.

12 <sup>3</sup> Edinburgh School of Economics, UK.

13

14 **Corresponding author.**

15 **Departamento de Biología. Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. C/ Darwin nº2,**

16 **28049, Madrid, Spain. E-mail address: [enrique.turiegano@uam.es](mailto:enrique.turiegano@uam.es) (E. Turiégano).**

17 **Tel.: +34 914976794.**

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27 **ABSTRACT**

28 The present paper analyzes the extent to which attractiveness-related variables affect  
29 cooperative behavior in women. Cooperativeness is evaluated through a Prisoner's  
30 Dilemma Game (PDG). We consider several morphometric variables related to  
31 attractiveness: *Fluctuating Asymmetry* (FA), *Waist-Hip Ratio* (WHR), *Body Mass Index*  
32 (BMI) and *Facial Femininity* (FF). These variables have been shown to predict human  
33 behavior. We also include as a control variable a score for *Self-Perceived Attractiveness*  
34 (SPA). We test differences in these variables according to behavior in the PDG. Our  
35 results reveal that low FA women cooperate less frequently in the PDG. We also find  
36 that women with lower WHR are more cooperative. This result contradicts the expected  
37 relation between WHR and behavior in the PDG. We show that this effect of WHR on  
38 cooperation operates through its influence on the expectation that participants hold on  
39 the cooperative intent of their counterpart. In addition, we show that the effect of  
40 attractive features on cooperation occurs independently of the participants' perception of  
41 their own appeal. Finally, we discuss our results in the context of the evolution of  
42 cooperative behavior and under the hypothesis that attractiveness is a reliable indicator  
43 of phenotypic quality.

44

45 **Keywords:** Cooperation; Attractiveness; Fluctuating asymmetry; Waist-hip ratio; Body  
46 Mass Index; Facial Femininity.

47 **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

48

49 Human cooperation is an undeniably appealing phenomenon which has attracted  
50 substantial attention from scientists (Hammerstein, 2003). One line of research on  
51 cooperative behavior has obtained important insights by using strategic games (e.g.  
52 Burnham, 2007; Eisenneger et al. 2010; Kosfeld et al. 2005; Lovejoy et al. 2013; Millet  
53 & Dewitte, 2006; Mulford et al. 1998; Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010, 2013;  
54 Takahashi et al. 2006; Van den Bergh & Dewitte, 2006; Zaatari & Trivers, 2007; Zak et  
55 al. 2009, Zethraeus et al. 2009). In strategic games, participants face simplified social  
56 situations in the laboratory and receive rewards depending on their decisions as well as  
57 those of other participants. Because these studies use controlled environments, the  
58 behavior displayed by subjects is easily measurable and replicable.

59

60 In the present study, we define cooperation as an individual behavior aimed to  
61 maximize collective interest rather than pure self-interest. One way of evaluating  
62 cooperation with strategic games is through the Prisoners' Dilemma (PDG henceforth).  
63 The PDG is a strategic game in which collective welfare and self-interest are in stark  
64 conflict. Standard Game Theory postulates that individuals act following their self-  
65 interest only and should hence not cooperate in the PDG, even though such behavior  
66 eventually leads to a loss in collective welfare. Early experimental studies demonstrated  
67 that such prediction is only partially fulfilled. Even in one-shot situations, and when  
68 playing against complete strangers, humans tend to cooperate in the PDG in sizeable  
69 rates (see Marwell & Ames, 1981 and Dawes & Thaler, 1988, among many).  
70 Undoubtedly, it is of a great interest to explore which individual factors, if any, cause  
71 some individuals to be more prone to cooperate than others.

72           Several recent papers describe the effect of physiology-related variables on  
73 human behavior in economic experiments (Apicella et al. 2008; Burnham, 2007;  
74 Eisenberger et al. 2010; Kosfeld et al. 2005; Millet & Dewitte, 2006; Van der Bergh &  
75 Dewitte, 2006; Zaatari & Trivers, 2007; Zak et al. 2009; Zethraeus et al. 2009).  
76 However, few studies have focused on the relationship between individual features and  
77 cooperative behavior in two-person interactions like the PDG (Lovejoy et al. 2013;  
78 Mulford et al. 1998; Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010; Takahashi et al. 2006). Even  
79 smaller is the number of these studies focusing exclusively on women. This gap in the  
80 literature is rather unsatisfactory given the important physiological differences,  
81 especially endocrine, that exist between sexes (for exceptions see Buser, 2012; Pearson  
82 & Schiepper, 2013).

83

84           In the present paper, we investigate the relationship between cooperation among  
85 women in the PDG and a number of physiology-related variables with well-established  
86 effects on human behavior. These variables are Facial Fluctuating Asymmetry, Facial  
87 Femininity, Waist-Hip Ratio and Body Mass Index.

88

89           Fluctuating Asymmetry (FA) is a variable with a physiological basis and linked  
90 to individual's fitness. It can be defined as a departure from symmetry in traits that are  
91 symmetrical at the population level (Van Dongen & Gangestad, 2011). FA is considered to  
92 be the result of developmental instability, reflecting the ability of an organism to  
93 maintain a stable development of its morphology and to overcome possible external  
94 perturbations (Møller & Swadle, 1997; Thornhill & Gangestad, 2006; Van Dongen &  
95 Gangestad, 2011). Consequently, it has been described as linked to individual fitness in  
96 many species (Møller, 1997; Møller & Thornhill, 1998). In humans, there exists a

97 positive average effect of FA on a variety of outcomes, from hormone levels to health  
98 problems. These effects are robust, especially those related to reproduction (Van  
99 Dongen & Gangestad, 2012). FA has also been related to human behavior (Furlow et al.  
100 1998; Holtzman et al. 2011; Manning & Wood, 1998; Muñoz-Reyes et al. 2012; Pound  
101 et al. 2007; Zaatari & Trivers, 2007). In particular, FA has been studied in relation to  
102 cooperative behavior in males. Results show that low FA males (more symmetric)  
103 cooperate less often in the PDG (Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010). FA is also a  
104 determinant of behavior in the Ultimatum Game (Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2013;  
105 Zaatari & Trivers, 2007; Zaatari et al. 2009). In both the PDG and in the Ultimatum  
106 Game (UG henceforth), symmetrical men (with lower FA) tend to be less prosocial.  
107 Personality measurements corroborate this finding (Holtzman et al. 2011). One possible  
108 explanation for the lack of pro-sociality of symmetrical males is their higher capability  
109 to obtain resources by themselves, which reduces their need to obtain help from others.  
110 An additional aspect related to the link between FA and fitness is that a low FA is  
111 considered to be an attractive feature in many human populations (reviewed in  
112 Johnston, 2006; Kościński, 2007; Little et al. 2011; Thornhill & Gangestad, 1999; Van  
113 Dongen & Gangestad, 2011).

114

115 Another morphometric feature described as an indicator of fitness is the Waist-  
116 Hip Ratio (WHR), which results from dividing the waist perimeter by the hip perimeter.  
117 This measure is strongly influenced in women by hormone levels during puberty, which  
118 in turn determine the differential allocation of fat between sexes (Björntorp, 1997;  
119 Kirschner & Samojlik, 1991; Lev-Ran, 2001). Since the distribution of fat is very  
120 different between males and females, WHR can be considered as a secondary sexual  
121 characteristic in women. The standard values of WHR in Caucasian female populations

122 range from 0.67 to 0.80 (Marti et al. 1991). WHR is associated with both health and  
123 fertility. Women with ratios around 0.70 present optimal oestrogen levels (Jasińska et  
124 al. 2004) and are less likely to develop serious illness, such as diabetes, cardiovascular  
125 disorders and ovarian cancer (reviewed in Singh, 2002). Regarding fertility, women  
126 with values of WHR of 0.80 or higher have significantly lower pregnancy rates than  
127 women with lower values, independently of their Body Mass Index (Singh, 2002). In  
128 addition, it has been pointed out that women with a low WHR present an ideal fat  
129 distribution in terms of fertility (Swami & Tovée, 2007). The link of this feature to  
130 fertility and resistance to illness is to be expected, given that secondary sex  
131 characteristics are linked to fitness in many species (Møller & Alatalo, 1999).

132

133 WHR is related to another physiological indicator of health in humans, the Body  
134 Mass Index (BMI) (Flegal et al. 2013; Tovée et al. 1998, 1999), also linked to  
135 reproductive potential. Extreme values of BMI have a negative impact on fertility  
136 (Brown, 1993; Kaplan, 1990; Lake et al. 1997; Reid & VanVugt, 1987). Given its  
137 association with both health and fertility, many researchers have proposed BMI as a  
138 primary measure of female attractiveness (Tovée et al. 1999), although it is commonly  
139 recorded as a nutritional marker. The World Health Organization considers the range  
140 18.50-24.99 as standard for adults. Values under 18.50 are considered underweight,  
141 between 25 and 30 as overweight, and equal to or above 30 as obese.

142

143 Both WHR and BMI are important indicators of female attractiveness. Although  
144 related, they display relatively independent effects. Controlling for BMI, women with a  
145 WHR around 0.70 are classified as the most attractive by men of most cultures,  
146 including Western Caucasian societies (Singh et al. 2010). Still, the optimal value in



147 terms of attractiveness ranges from 0.60 to 0.80 across different human populations  
148 (Dixson et al. 2007; Marlowe et al. 2005). Individuals exhibiting a remarkable deviation  
149 in their WHR (for example, women with high WHR and men with low WHR) are  
150 commonly seen as less attractive by the opposite sex (Pazhoohi & Liddle, 2012). BMI  
151 also influences individual attractiveness. Low values within the standard range, i.e.  
152 around 20, are those typically regarded as more appealing (Tovée et al. 1998, 1999).

153

154         Another variable related with both phenotypic quality and attractiveness is the  
155 degree of facial sexual dimorphism. Facial Femininity (FF henceforth) in women  
156 positively correlates with disease resistance (Thornhill & Gangestad, 2006), oestrogen  
157 levels and fertility (Law Smith et al. 2006). Some authors have proposed FF as an  
158 individual indicator of the historical energy balance and the capacity to allocate energy  
159 for reproduction (Gangestad & Scheyd, 2005). Sexual dimorphism in facial features  
160 depends on sexual hormones levels during puberty (Johnston, 2006). Sexual  
161 development in female faces entails certain noticeable modifications, such as thickening  
162 of the lips and thinning of the cheekbones (Johnston, 2000). Hormone levels in puberty  
163 (Berenbaum & Beltz, 2011) and, more specifically, the degree of masculinity/femininity  
164 of the face, have proven to have an effect on adult behavior (Apicella et al. 2008; Carré  
165 et al. 2009; Haselhuhn & Wong, 2012; Pound et al. 2009; Stirrat & Perrett, 2010, 2012),  
166 although most of these studies have been performed in men. More importantly, the  
167 degree of masculinity/femininity has been described as a good predictor of  
168 attractiveness both in women and men (reviewed in Johnston, 2006; Kościński, 2007;  
169 Little et al. 2011; Thornhill & Gangestad, 1999).

170

171           Attractiveness affects human behavior both in individuals' everyday life and in  
172 the laboratory (e.g., Langlois et al. 2000; Mulford et al. 1998; Takahashi et al. 2006;  
173 Wilson & Eckel, 2006). This could bring up a potential confound: the observed effects  
174 of attractiveness-related features on behavior may operate directly or indirectly, that is,  
175 by determining perceived attractiveness which subsequently affects behavior. In order to  
176 control for this possibility, we included a score of self-perceived attractiveness (SPA  
177 henceforth) as an additional variable. The effect of SPA on cooperation has already been  
178 explored. Results show that women who find themselves attractive are less cooperative  
179 in the PDG (Mulford et al. 1998). In general, individuals who consider themselves  
180 attractive are also considered as such by others (Feingold 1992; Marcus & Miller, 2003;  
181 Weeden & Sabini, 2007). Hence, the SPA score allows us to test whether the fitness-  
182 related variables we consider influence cooperative behavior directly or through their  
183 effect on self-perceived attractiveness.

184

185           Our main hypothesis is that women who display features associated with higher  
186 fitness -low FA, high FF and low WHR- cooperate less often in the PDG. We base this  
187 hypothesis on previous results indicating that men showing higher fitness are less prone  
188 to behave pro-socially (Holtzman et al. 2011; Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010;  
189 Zaatari & Trivers, 2007; Zaatari et al. 2009). The standard explanation for these results  
190 is based on the idea that cooperative behavior is a tool to receive future help from  
191 others. Thus, high fitness individuals, who enjoy a greater capacity to obtain resources  
192 by themselves, need to resort to cooperative behavior less often (Zaatari & Trivers,  
193 2007). According to our hypothesis, women with a low WHR (controlling for BMI) and  
194 a high FF should show less cooperative behavior in the PDG. We also expect to find a  
195 positive effect of FA on cooperation, meaning that we expect symmetric women to

196 cooperate less often. This result has already been found for males (Sanchez-Pages &  
197 Turiegano, 2010), and there is no reason to expect the influence of FA on behavior to be  
198 sex-dependent.

199

200 We are also interested in whether the effects of these variables on cooperation  
201 are mediated by attractiveness. One plausible hypothesis might be that these features  
202 solely influence cooperative behavior through attractiveness because high-fit individuals  
203 are perceived as more attractive and also feel more attractive themselves. This can be  
204 very important since attractive people tend to receive benefits from others without the  
205 expectation of costly reciprocation. Under this hypothesis, the attractiveness of high fit  
206 individuals accustoms them to receive benefits which lead them to behave less  
207 prosocially. In the present study, we can examine this hypothesis by analyzing whether  
208 the effect of FA, WHR and FF on cooperative behavior depends on SPA. Still, we  
209 conjecture that these variables do not exclusively operate through attractiveness. This is  
210 because high fit individual is more capable of obtaining resources independently of  
211 whether they receive them from others who consider her as attractive. So, as a second  
212 hypothesis, we postulate that all these three features exert their effect on cooperation  
213 independently of SPA. Such result would imply that the biological determinants behind  
214 the studied features (such as developmental stability and hormone levels) wield their  
215 influence on behavior regardless of whether the individual considers herself as attractive  
216 or not.

217

## 218 **2.0 METHODS**

219 - *2.1 Design and performance of experiments*

220

221 Experiments were performed at the Faculty of Sciences of the UAM (Madrid,  
222 Spain). Participants were recruited among the student population few weeks before the  
223 semester exams in the spring and autumn of 2012. Recruitment was made by means of  
224 advertisement billboards and e-mail (sent by non-teaching staff) as the UAM ethical  
225 committee requires. In total, 176 White Spanish females took part in this study.

226

227 Participants played the PDG within a set of different tests (not considered in the  
228 current paper). In the PDG, subjects have to choose between two possible strategies:  
229 “cooperate” or “defect”. If the two players choose “cooperate” they both get 90 points,  
230 if both choose “defect” each one gets 30 points. If they choose different actions, the one  
231 who cooperates gets 10 points and the one who defects obtains 160 points. The  
232 exchange rate used in the experiment was 100 points = 1€. Under the standard game-  
233 theoretical approach “defect” is a dominant strategy because it is the strategy that  
234 maximizes the individual benefit regardless of the decision of the counterpart. In  
235 addition to playing the PDG, participants were asked to guess the decision of their  
236 opponent (Expected Behavior, EB). This variable has been shown to be a strong  
237 determinant of behavior in the PDG (Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010). Participants  
238 played a single round of the PDG. They were informed that they were playing against  
239 another female participant from a previous session. They did not know anything else  
240 about their counterpart. Subjects knew that their decisions would affect participants of a  
241 future session in the same way. The experiment was run employing the Z-Tree 3.2.10  
242 software (Fischbacher, 2007). Each participant was allocated a computer terminal.  
243 Experimental sessions had less than 20 subjects each. Participants received a show-up  
244 fee (5€) and a variable reward dependent upon the decisions taken in the different

245 games implemented in the experiment. Final payment was  $13.25 \pm 0.08\text{€}$  (av $\pm$ SEM) per  
246 person (PDG average payment was  $0.87 \pm 0.04\text{€}$ ). Prior to the experiment, participants  
247 were informed that their final payment would depend upon their decisions in several  
248 items of the study, but not in all of them. Few weeks after the experiment, subjects were  
249 informed about the exact payment procedure.

250         At the end of each experimental session, pictures of each participant were taken  
251 to prospectively measure individual FA and FF. Their height, weight, and both waist and  
252 hip perimeter were measured in order to estimate BMI and WHR. Participants also  
253 provided some personal data by filling up a questionnaire (age, current studies, ethnic  
254 group, sexual orientation, SPA). All data remained completely anonymous as required  
255 by the ethical committee of the UAM.

256

## 257 -         2.2 *Measurement of morphometric variables*

258

259         Three full frontal facial color photographs were taken of each participant, at  
260 three meters of distance and under standardized light conditions with the zoom  
261 completely opened in order to avoid distortion of the facial shape. Participants were  
262 asked to remove any facial adornment, to pose with a neutral expression and to look  
263 directly into the camera. To measure FA from these images, the shape of each face was  
264 defined by manually setting 39 predetermined *Landmarks* (LMs). These 39 points can  
265 be unambiguously identified in each photo (Figure 1). The LMs were placed twice by  
266 two of the authors in order to detect possible placement errors. LMs were located  
267 employing the TPS software (by FJ Rohlf, available at  
268 <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/morph/>)

269

270 To calculate the FA of each image, we compared the LMs of each face and its  
271 mirror-image (Klingenberg et al. 2002). The asymmetry of a bilateral object can be  
272 partially attributed to directional asymmetry (differences in the population between  
273 average right and left size) and partially to FA (deviation of each individual's asymmetry  
274 from the overall average asymmetry). We obtained FA by decomposing the Procrustes  
275 distance between each image and its mirror-image using the Procrustes ANOVA method  
276 (Klingenberg & McIntyre, 1998). This decomposition was performed with the Morpho J  
277 software (available at [http://www.flywings.org.uk/MorphoJ\\_page.htm](http://www.flywings.org.uk/MorphoJ_page.htm)). As an individual  
278 measure of symmetry we used the Mahalanobis distance, which avoids the effect of  
279 correlation between variables (Rodríguez-Salazar et al. 2001). We thus employed a  
280 value of FA that is highly independent of the selected LMs. To control for the potential  
281 error in the LMs placement, FA computation in Morpho J requires two sets of LMs for  
282 each face (each set placed by a different researcher). Error in LM positioning was not  
283 significant (Procrustes ANOVA, error  $SS=9,297 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $df=13172$ ,  $F=0,006$ ,  $p=0.989$ ).

284

285 We estimated Facial femininity (FF) by measuring the Procrustes distance  
286 between each participant's average face and a masculine reference face. The masculine  
287 reference face was built from the images of 100 males belonging to the same age and  
288 population as the subjects of study. Participants' average face was obtained as an  
289 average of the three captured pictures and their mirror-images. The use of symmetrical  
290 average faces for comparison with the masculine reference face avoids any undesired  
291 effect of individual symmetry in the measure of FF.

292

293 We computed the WHR by dividing the waist perimeter by the hip perimeter of  
294 each participant and trying to minimize the error caused by clothes. Waist perimeter was

295 measured in the lower girth region of the natural waist, generally right above the  
296 umbilicus. Hip perimeter was measured in the wider point of the gluteus. During  
297 measurements, participants stood feet together, loosen arms, normal breath, and with  
298 their body weight uniformly distributed. In order to estimate BMI, the weight and height  
299 of each participant was measured barefoot and without heavy clothing. A female  
300 researcher took these measurements from each participant privately and just once.

301

### 302 - *2.3 Self-perceived Attractiveness (SPA)*

303

304 To obtain SPA, each participant reported an estimation of its own attractiveness  
305 in a 1 to 7 Likert-like scale, being 1 the lowest score and 7 the maximum, assessed as  
306 deviations of the population average. Participants who consider themselves on the  
307 average were advised to score themselves with 4.

308

### 309 - *2.4 Statistical analyses*

310

311 We tested for the normality of all variables by means of the Shapiro-Wilk test.  
312 For those variables not normally distributed, we performed the usual logarithmic  
313 transformations. However, both SPA and BMI were resistant to that transformation. To  
314 analyze the results, we employed (non-parametric) Spearman Rho ( $\sigma$ ) for correlations,  
315 two-tailed Student-t tests for the normally distributed variables and Mann-Whitney test  
316 for SPA and BMI. We also employed logistic regressions to analyze the simultaneous  
317 effect of several variables on our dichotomous dependent variable (“Cooperate” or  
318 “Defect”). We employed SPSS 15.0 (SPSS Inc.) in all the statistical analyses.

319

### 320 **3.0 RESULTS**

321

322 Table 1 presents the summary statistics of all the variables considered. First, we  
323 analyzed how the physiological variables relate to SPA. As expected, SPA correlates  
324 negatively with WHR, BMI and FA (Table 2). Although our measure of FF did not  
325 correlate with SPA, it negatively correlates with WHR. This is quite remarkable given  
326 that both features are strongly influenced by hormone levels during puberty. Age did not  
327 correlate with any of the morphometric variables or with SPA, although it must be noted  
328 that the age range of our subjects was very narrow. Although WHR and BMI do not  
329 show a significant correlation in our data, we followed the literature and controlled for  
330 BMI in any further analysis including WHR.

331

332 Regarding behavior in the PDG, 31.30% (n=55) of the 176 participants did not  
333 cooperate, a fraction consistent with results previously observed in the literature. We  
334 also tested for differences in behavior according to the expectation that participants had  
335 on the behavior of their counterpart. There was a strong and significant association  
336 between the behavior of a participant and the behavior she expected from her  
337 counterpart ( $\chi^2= 42.718$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Of the participants who expected their counterpart to  
338 cooperate (n=123), 83.74% (n=103) of them cooperated, whereas of the other 53  
339 participants who expected their counterpart to defect, 66.04% (n=35) defected.

340

341 Next, we analyzed the relationship between behavior in the PDG (cooperate or  
342 defect) and the individual variables considered (Table 1). Results reveal that those  
343 subjects who defected displayed a higher WHR and a lower FA than those who  
344 cooperated. In addition, and in line with the literature, participants who defected



345 perceived themselves as attractive (high SPA). Age, FF and BMI were not significantly  
346 different between participants who cooperated and those who defected.

347

348 We performed a set of logistic regressions in order to test simultaneously the  
349 effect of these variables on cooperation in the PDG (Table 3). In an initial analysis, we  
350 included all the morphometric variables plus Age (first row of Table 3). We observed  
351 that WHR and FA were statistically significant. Note that the coefficients associated to  
352 these variables are negative and positive respectively. In other words, participants with  
353 low WHR and high FA tended to cooperate more in the PDG. Next we built a simpler  
354 model excluding Age and FF given that they were not significant (second row of Table  
355 3). In this model, the variables FA and WHR remained significant. In the following  
356 model (third row of Table 3) we included the variable SPA (which correlates with both  
357 WHR and FA) in order to test whether the effect of the morphometric variables on the  
358 decision in the PDG depends on how attractive participants find themselves. In that  
359 model, all SPA, WHR and FA were significant. High values of SPA and WHR led to  
360 defection, whereas high values of FA led to cooperation. Hence, the physiological  
361 variables FA and WHR remained significant after including SPA in the logistic  
362 regression model. It is remarkable that both a low SPA and a low WHR relate with a  
363 tendency to cooperate considering that WHR negatively correlates with attractiveness.  
364 Women who see themselves as relatively unattractive cooperate more often, but women  
365 with low WHR –an attractive feature- tend to be more cooperative as well.

366

367 Finally, we included the variable Expected Behavior (EB) which has been  
368 described to strongly affect participants' decision in the PDG (fourth row of Table 3).  
369 The resulting model confirmed this finding: When participants expected their

370 counterpart to cooperate, they were more inclined to cooperate. It is worth noting that  
371 the significance of FA and SPA barely changed after the inclusion of EB. This result  
372 suggests that the effect of FA and SPA on behavior in the PDG does not operate through  
373 EB. However, the inclusion of EB in the model rendered WHR non-significant at the  
374 95% confidence level. This leads us to conclude that the effect of WHR on cooperation  
375 operates mostly through its influence on the expectation that subjects hold on the  
376 behavior of their counterpart. In fact, there were no significant differences in FA ( $t_{174}=-$   
377  $1.104$ ;  $p=0.312$ ) nor SPA ( $U=3001.5$ ;  $N_1=53$ ,  $N_2=122$ ;  $p=0.374$ ) between those who  
378 expected their counterpart to cooperate and those who expected the opposite. But there  
379 were significant differences in WHR between the two groups ( $t_{174}=2.519$ ;  $p=0.013$ ):  
380 those participants who expected their opponent to cooperate displayed lower ratios  
381 ( $0.715\pm 0.004$ ) than those who expected defection ( $0.732\pm 0.006$ ).

382

#### 383 **4.0 DISCUSSION**

384

385         The goal of the present study is to analyze the existing relationship between  
386 cooperative behavior in women and a set of individual characteristics previously  
387 categorized as indicators of phenotypic quality (high fitness), that are also known to be  
388 related with female attractiveness.

389

390         Of the studied variables, FA and WHR showed an effect on the decision to  
391 cooperate. Even more interestingly, and in line with our second hypothesis, their effect  
392 seems to be independent of the perception that individuals have of their own  
393 attractiveness. This is shown by the fact that FA and WHR maintained their significance  
394 after controlling for SPA, This independent effect of the physiological variables and

395 SPA on participants' cooperative behavior in the PDG is undoubtedly the more  
396 outstanding result of our study.

397

398         Several studies reveal an association between behavior and fitness related  
399 features, particularly symmetry, in humans (Furlow et al. 1998; Manning & Wood,  
400 1998; Muñoz-Reyes et al. 2012; Pound et al. 2007), and more specifically in relation to  
401 cooperative or prosocial behavior (Holtzman et al. 2011; Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano,  
402 2010; Zaatari & Trivers, 2007; Zaatari et al. 2009). Nevertheless, to date, no study had  
403 explored whether the effect of symmetry (or other physiological variables) works  
404 through the self-perception of personal attractiveness. A plausible explanation of the  
405 observed effect of FA on cooperative behavior might be that a symmetric person should  
406 feel more attractive and, therefore, more entitled to obtain resources autonomously due  
407 to the benefits conferred by attractiveness (reviewed in Langlois et al. 2000; Mulford et  
408 al. 1998). Our results, however, cast doubts on this explanation. The effect of FA on  
409 cooperation is independent of the effect of self-perceived attractiveness given that the  
410 effect of phenotypic quality on women's behavior remains significant after controlling  
411 for self-perception of attractiveness. While remarkable, the independent effect of these  
412 two factors is not entirely unexpected. Results observed in studies with males reveal  
413 that although men who find themselves attractive tend to cooperate more (Mulford et al.  
414 1998, but see Takahashi et al. 2006), highly symmetrical males cooperate less often  
415 (Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010). This occurs even though attractiveness and  
416 symmetry are correlated (reviewed in Johnston, 2006; Kościński, 2007; Little et al.  
417 2011; Thornhill & Gangestad, 1999; Van Dongen & Gangestad, 2011). The basis of this  
418 intriguing relationship between FA and behavior, triggered independently of SPA, could  
419 be explained by an unconscious self-adjustment of behavior to its expected

420 consequences based on previous experience. It has been described that several animal  
421 behaviors adjust to mathematical models based on their cumulative rate of success and  
422 failure despite animals do not use such models consciously (Dugatkin & Reeve, 2000).  
423 The link between symmetry and a low tendency to cooperate might be due to other  
424 individual characteristics which could be associated to FA, such as self-confidence or  
425 perceived self-sufficiency (the estimation of the own ability to obtain resources). As a  
426 matter of fact, symmetry is correlated with several personality traits, like neuroticism,  
427 agreeableness and openness to experience, the last two negatively (Fink et al. 2005;  
428 Holtzman et al. 2011). This association might be behind the link we observe between  
429 low FA and a weaker tendency to cooperate. Even though we find these questions quite  
430 interesting, they are beyond the scope of this study.

431

432 Independently of the mechanism behind it, the link we find between FA and cooperative  
433 behavior in women is to be expected given the results already found in men. More  
434 symmetrical males are less pro-social in the PDG (Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010)  
435 and in the UG (Zaatari & Trivers, 2007), and display fewer pro-social personality traits  
436 (Holtzman et al. 2011). Considering their higher phenotypic quality (Thornhill &  
437 Gangestad, 2006), low FA individuals depend less on maintaining a good relationship  
438 with their social environment, and, hence, are not prone to sacrifice personal benefits in  
439 order to favour others (Zaatari & Trivers, 2007). This explanation (already proposed in  
440 Mulford et al. 1998) also fits with the relationship between attractiveness and  
441 cooperative behavior described in this paper under the hypothesis that attractiveness is a  
442 valid indicator of fitness (Langlois et al. 2000). We do not want to imply that the need  
443 for resources was behind participants' behavior in our experiment. We rather suggest  
444 that their different capabilities in obtaining resources and their experiences when

445 sharing them might have shaped subjects' daily behavior and made them more or less  
446 pro-social independently of their short-term needs.

447

448 The independence between the effects of attractive-related physiological features and of  
449 SPA is evident in the case of WHR (once controlled for BMI). Even though low WHR  
450 scores are associated with attractiveness in women (Singh et al. 2010), we show that  
451 low WHR values associate with cooperative behavior. This result is unexpected if one  
452 exclusively focuses on the relationship between WHR and attractiveness. It confirms  
453 our conclusion that the effect of the attractive-related variables on cooperation does not  
454 operate exclusively through their influence on SPA. A likely explanation for this result  
455 stems from the positive association we found between a high WHR and the belief in the  
456 defection of the opponent. The effect of WHR on EB seems to be the strongest  
457 determinant of participants' behavior; Table 3 shows that EB explains individual  
458 behavior in the PDG better than any other variable (also in Mulford et al. 1998;  
459 Sanchez-Pages & Turiegano, 2010). That is, a high WHR is associated with a tendency  
460 to believe that the opponent will not cooperate, and this belief leads to defection. The  
461 relationship we observe between high WHR and the belief on the counterpart's  
462 defection is to be expected, especially given the associations already described in  
463 healthy women between this variable and different distrustful behaviors, such as  
464 hostility (Kaye et al. 1993), low self-perceived social status (Adler et al. 1993), and  
465 social anxiety (Landén et al. 2004). This may suggest that WHR, beyond of its  
466 relationship with fitness (Jasińska et al. 2004; Singh, 2002; Swami & Tovée, 2007),  
467 may be indicating 'desirability as a social partner' which, in turn, leads to women  
468 showing higher values (low desirability) to behave distrustfully in social interactions  
469 because of their previous experiences.

470

471           The FF of the participants had no significant effect on the propensity to  
472 cooperate in the PDG. Although the degree of sexual differentiation of the face has a  
473 well-known association with several behaviors, to date, most of the studies on this issue  
474 have focused only in men (Apicella et al. 2008; Pound et al. 2009; Stirrat & Perrett,  
475 2010, 2012). These studies employ the ratio between facial width and height (both in  
476 men and women) as a measure of masculinization/feminization. This feature was  
477 initially described as dimorphic between sexes (Carrè & McCormick, 2008; Weston et  
478 al. 2007), but has recently been questioned as such (Kramer et al. 2012; Lefevre et al.  
479 2012). In any case, in studies which included female participants, this measure of  
480 masculinity (or femininity) showed no effect on the propensity to engage in deception  
481 or cheating during a negotiation (Haselhuhn & Wong, 2012), nor in dominance (Carrè &  
482 McCormick, 2008). However, the same measure showed an effect on male behavior  
483 under the same experimental conditions. Therefore, our results are consistent with those  
484 stating that facial sexual dimorphism may influence behavior in men but not in women.  
485 It might be argued that we are not measuring facial femininity properly, but the strong  
486 correlation between FF and WHR substantiates the robustness of our femininity  
487 measure (see Table 2). This correlation is in line with the relationship previously  
488 observed between facial and body attractiveness when measured separately, which  
489 confirms that these two variables are valid indicators of fitness (Thornhill & Grammer,  
490 1999). Although both FF and WHR are related to oestrogen levels, it is remarkable that  
491 they do not have the same effect on cooperative behavior. This fact suggests that  
492 considering the stage of development in which the feminizing effect of hormones occurs  
493 is important in order to ascertain its effects on a specific behavior. Obviously, additional

494 experiments and physiological studies are needed to deepen our understanding of this  
495 result.

496

497         Regarding our first hypothesis, of the three variables related to fitness, only FA  
498 displayed the expected effect on cooperation, while FF showed no effect and WHR  
499 yielded the opposite. However, the effect of SPA fits with our hypothesis if one  
500 considers it as a reliable signal of fitness (Langlois et al. 2000). In summary, two  
501 variables confirmed our expectations and two did not. It is very interesting that WHR  
502 and FA, which are strongly correlated (see table 2) and linked to fitness, have opposite  
503 effects on cooperative behavior. The strong correlation between them and their  
504 correlation with SPA confirm them as measures of phenotypic quality, like facial and  
505 body attractiveness (Thornhill & Grammer, 1999), facial and voice femininity (Feinberg  
506 et al. 2005) and symmetry and sexual dimorphism (Little et al. 2008). The fact that their  
507 effects on behavior in the PDG follow different directions suggests that they relate to  
508 different kinds of high-fit features (Gangestad & Scheyd, 2005; Singh, 2002; Swami &  
509 Tovée, 2007; Van Dongen & Gangestad, 2011). That aside, this contradiction also casts  
510 doubts on the idea that the motivation to cooperate is only related to the possibility of  
511 obtaining resources from others through reciprocation. This is only one of the possible,  
512 and not mutually exclusive, motivations of pro-social behavior (social norms and ethical  
513 beliefs are also obvious factors). The mixed results obtained here demonstrate the  
514 difficulty of associating any behavior to a single motivation.

515

516         Let us remark that the present study is one of the few analyzing pro-social  
517 behavior solely in women. In a public good game played only by females, Buser (2012)  
518 found that contributions were higher during the menstrual phase of the menstrual cycle

519 and that those participants with a lower 2D:4D ratio contributed less. Nevertheless,  
520 there exists a vast literature comparing behavior between men and women in strategic  
521 games (reviewed in Balliet et al. 2011). Results show consistently that men and women  
522 act differently depending on the sex of their counterpart in social dilemmas. The lowest  
523 levels of cooperation are usually found in setups where only women participate. While  
524 in mixed-sex interactions women tend to be more cooperative, men tend to be more  
525 cooperative in same-sex interactions (Baillet et al. 2011; Croson & Gneezy, 2009).  
526 Under an evolutionary perspective, these differences are usually attributed to the  
527 advantage of males when forming coalitions aimed to obtain resources in hunting and  
528 war. This difference between men and women could in turn mediate the effect of SPA,  
529 WHR and FA when women face mixed-sex instead of single-sex strategic interactions.

530

531         To conclude, and beyond the interest of the results obtained and their  
532 implications, it is important to remark that this study, as many others, was performed  
533 using exclusively a university population within a western culture. For this reason,  
534 before generalizing results to the human species, it would be needed to extend the  
535 experiments to a major range of ages and socio-cultural strata, including a wider range  
536 of ethnicities. This is particularly necessary when considering WHR given that its  
537 association with numerous features relies partially on the ethnicity of the subjects (Kaye  
538 et al. 1993). However, we can conjecture what could be the effect of fitness related  
539 variables on cooperative behavior in non-western industrialized societies. As it has been  
540 described (Henrich et al. 2010), people in many of these societies behave more in line  
541 with the predictions of Standard Game Theory. Following this pattern, one should  
542 expect less people to cooperate in the PDG in non-industrialized societies. Therefore,



543 under the assumption that cooperative behavior is a tool to receive future help from  
544 others, only extremely low-fit individuals (showing remarkable unadaptive values in  
545 these variables) should cooperate often in these societies. Of course, this can only be  
546 elucidated by performing comparable experiments in other societies.

547

548

549

550

551

## 552 **Acknowledgements**

553

554 The authors gratefully acknowledge I. Monedero for his assistance during the  
555 sessions, one associated editor and two anonymous reviewers for their comments, and  
556 the financial support from the Ministry of Economics and Competitiveness, grant  
557 ECO2011-28750.

558

559

## 560 **5.0 REFERENCES**

561

562 Adler, N. E., Epel, E. S., Castellazzo, G., & Ickovics, J. R. (2000). Relationship of subjective  
563 and objective social status with psychological and physiological functioning:

564 Preliminary data in healthy white women. *Health Psychology, 19*, 586-592.

565 Apicella, C. L., Dreber, A., Campbell, B., Gray, P. B., Hoffman, M., & Little, A. C. (2008).

566 Testosterone and financial risk preferences. *Evolution and Human Behavior, 29*, 384-

567 390.

- 568 Balliet, D., Li, N. P., Macfarlan, S. J., & Van Vugt, M. (2011). Sex differences in cooperation: A  
569 meta-analytic review of social dilemmas. *Psychological bulletin*, *137*, 881-909.
- 570 Berenbaum, S. A., & Beltz, A. M. (2011). Sexual differentiation of human behavior: Effects of  
571 prenatal and pubertal organizational hormones. *Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology*, *32*,  
572 183-200.
- 573 Björntorp, P. (1997). Body Fat Distribution, Insulin Resistance, and Metabolic Diseases.  
574 *Nutrition*, *13*, 795-803.
- 575 Brown, J. E. (1993). Preconceptional nutrition and reproductive outcomes. *Annals of the New*  
576 *York Academy of Sciences*, *678*, 286-292.
- 577 Burnham, T.C. (2007). High-testosterone men reject low ultimatum game offers. *Proceedings of*  
578 *the Royal Society B*, *274*, 2327-2330.
- 579 Buser, T. (2012). Digit ratios, the menstrual cycle and social preferences. *Games and Economic*  
580 *Behavior*, *76*, 457-470.
- 581 Carré, J. M., & McCormick, C. M. (2008). In your face: Facial metrics predict aggressive  
582 behavior in the laboratory and in varsity and professional hockey players. *Proceedings*  
583 *of the Royal Society B*, *275*, 2651-2656.
- 584 Carré, J. M., McCormick, C. M., & Mondloch, C. J. (2009). Facial structure is a reliable cue of  
585 aggressive behavior. *Psychological Science*, *20*, 1194-1198.
- 586 Croson, R & Gneezy, U. (2009). Gender differences in preferences. *Journal of Economic*  
587 *Literature*, *47*, 1-27.
- 588 Dawes, R. M., & Thaler, R. H. (1988). Anomalies cooperation. *Journal of Economic*  
589 *Perspectives*, *2*, 187-197.
- 590 Dixson, B. J., Dixson, A. F., Morgan, B., & Anderson, M. J. (2007). Human physique and sexual  
591 attractiveness: Sexual preferences of men and women in Bakossiland, Cameroon.  
592 *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, *36*, 369-375.
- 593 Dugatkin, L. A., & Reeve, H. K. (2000). *Game theory and animal behavior*. New York: Oxford  
594 University Press.

595 Eisenegger, C., Naef, M., Snozzi, R., Heinrichs, M., & Fehr, E. (2010). Prejudice and truth  
596 about the effect of testosterone on human bargaining behavior. *Nature*, *463*, 356-359.

597 Feinberg, D. R., Jones, B. C., DeBruine, L. M., Moore, F. R., Law Smith, M. J., Cornwell, R. E.,  
598 . . . Perrett, D. I. (2005). The voice and face of woman: One ornament that signals  
599 quality? *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *26*, 398-408.

600 Feingold, A. (1992). Good looking people are not what we think. *Psychological Bulletin*, *111*,  
601 304-341.

602 Fink, B., Neave, N., Manning, J. T., & Grammer, K. (2005). Facial symmetry and the ‘big-five’  
603 personality factors. *Personality and Individual Differences*, *39*, 523–529.

604 Fischbacher, U. (2007). z-Tree: Zurich toolbox for ready-made economic experiments.  
605 *Experimental Economics*, *10*, 171-178.

606 Flegal, K. M., Kit, B. K., Orpana, H., & Graubard, B. I. (2013). Association of all-cause  
607 mortality with overweight and obesity using standard body mass index categories a  
608 systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of the American Medical Association*,  
609 *309*, 71-82.

610 Furlow, B., Gangestad, S. W., & Armijo-Prewitt, T. (1998). Developmental stability and human  
611 violence. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *265*, 1-6.

612 Gangestad, S. W., & Scheyd, G. J. (2005) The evolution of human physical  
613 attractiveness. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, *34*, 535-548.

614 Hammerstein, P. (2003). Genetic and cultural evolution of cooperation. Dahlem workshop  
615 report. Cambridge, M. A: MIT Press.

616 Haselhuhn, M. P., & M., Wong E. (2012). Bad to the bone: Facial structure predicts unethical  
617 behavior. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *279*, 571-576.

618 Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan A. (2010) The weirdest people in the world? *Behavioral  
619 and brain sciences*, *33*, 61-135.

- 620 Holtzman, N. S., Augustine, A. A., & Senne, A. L. (2011). Are pro-social or socially aversive  
621 people more physically symmetrical? Symmetry in relation to over 200 personality  
622 variables. *Journal of Research in Personality, 45*, 687-691.
- 623 Jasińska, G., Ziomkiewicz, A., Ellison, P., Lipson, S., & Thune, I. (2004). Large breasts and  
624 narrow waists indicate high reproductive potential. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*,  
625 *281*, 1213-1217.
- 626 Johnston, V. S. (2000). Female facial beauty: The fertility hypothesis. *Pragmatics and*  
627 *Cognition, 8*, 107-122.
- 628 Johnston, V. S. (2006). Mate choice decisions: The role of facial beauty. *TRENDS in Cognitive*  
629 *Sciences, 10*, 9-13.
- 630 Kaplan, A. S. (1990). Biomedical variables in the eating disorders. *The Canadian Journal of*  
631 *Psychiatry, 35*, 745-753.
- 632 Kaye, S. A., Folsom, A. R., Jacobs, D. R. Jr., Hughes, G. H., & Flack, J. M. (1993).  
633 Psychosocial correlates of body fat distribution in black and white young adults.  
634 *International Journal of Obesity and Related Metabolic Disorders, 17*, 271-277.
- 635 Kirschner, M. A., & Samojlik, E. (1991). Sex hormone metabolism in upper and lower body  
636 obesity. *International Journal Obesity, 15*, 101-108.
- 637 Klingenberg, C. P., Barluenga, M., & Meyer, A. (2002). Shape analysis of symmetric structures:  
638 Quantifying variation among individuals and asymmetry. *Evolution, 56*, 1909-1920.
- 639 Klingenberg, C. P., & McIntyre, G. S. (1998). Geometric morphometrics of developmental  
640 instability: Analyzing patterns of fluctuating asymmetry with procrustes methods.  
641 *Evolution, 52*, 1363-1375.
- 642 Kościński, K. (2007). Facial attractiveness: General patterns of facial preferences.  
643 *Anthropological Review, 70*, 45-79.
- 644 Kosfeld, M., Heinrichs, M., Zak, P. J., Fischbacher, U., & Fehr, E. (2005). Oxytocin increases  
645 trust in humans. *Nature, 435*, 673-676.
- 646 Kramer, R. S. S., Jones, A. L., & Ward, R. (2012). A lack of sexual dimorphism in width-to-

647 height ratio in white European faces using 2D photographs, 3D scans, and  
648 anthropometry *PLoS ONE*, 7, e42705.

649 Lake, J. K., Power, C., & Cole, T. J. (1997). Women's reproductive health: The role of body  
650 mass index in early and adult life. *International Journal Obesity*, 21, 432-438.

651 Landén, M., Baghaei, F., Rosmond, R., Holm, G., Björntorp, P., & Eriksson, E. (2004).  
652 Dyslipidemia and high waist-hip ratio in women with self-reported social anxiety.  
653 *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 29, 1037-1046.

654 Langlois, J. H., Kalakanis, L., Rubenstein, A. J., Larson, A., Hallam, M., & Smoot, M. (2000).  
655 Maxims myths of beauty? A meta-analytic and theoretical review. *Psychological Bulletin*,  
656 126, 390-423.

657 Law Smith, M. J., Perrett, D. I., Jones, B. C., Cornwell, R. E., Moore, F. R., Feinberg, D. R., . . .  
658 Hillier, S. G. (2006). Facial appearance is a cue to oestrogen levels in women.  
659 *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 273, 135-140.

660 Lefevre, C. E., Lewis, G. J., Bates, T. C., Dzhelyova, M., Coetzee, V., Deary, I. J., & Perrett, D.  
661 I. (2012). No evidence for sexual dimorphism of facial width-to-height ratio in four  
662 large adult samples. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 33, 623-627.

663 Lev-Ran, A. (2001). Human Obesity: An evolutionary approach to understanding our bulging  
664 waistline. *Diabetes/metabolism research and reviews*, 17, 347-362.

665 Little, A. C., Jones, B. C., Waitt, C., Tiddeman, B. P., Feinberg, D. R., Perrett, D. I., . . .  
666 Marlowe, F. W. (2008). Symmetry is related to sexual dimorphism in faces: data across  
667 culture and species. *PLoS One*, 3, e2106.

668 Little, A. C., Jones, B. C., & DeBruine, M. (2011). Facial attractiveness: Evolutionary based  
669 research. *Philosophical transactions. Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 366, 1638-  
670 1659.

671 Lovejoy, K., Catellier, J., Evans, C., Lohiser, A., & Chiu, I. H. (2013). Exploring individuals'  
672 social value orientation and decisions in a Prisoner's Dilemma. *Communication &*  
673 *Science Journal*, in press.

- 674 Manning, J., & Wood, D. (1998). Fluctuating asymmetry and aggression in boys. *Human*  
675 *Nature*, 9, 53-65.
- 676 Marcus, D. K., & Miller, R.S. (2003). Sex differences in judgments of physical attractiveness: A  
677 social relations analysis. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 29, 325-335.
- 678 Marlowe, F., Apicella, C., & Reed, D. (2005). Men's preferences for women's profile waist-to-  
679 hip ratio in two societies. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 26, 458-468.
- 680 Marti, B., Tuomilehto, J., Saloman, V., Kartovaara, L., Korhonen, H. J., & Pietinen, P. (1991).  
681 Body fat distribution in the Finnish population: Environmental determinants and  
682 predictive power for cardiovascular risk factor level. *Journal of Epidemiology &*  
683 *Community Health*, 45, 131-137.
- 684 Marwell, G., & Ames, R. (1981). Economists free ride, does anyone else? *Journal of Public*  
685 *Economics*, 15, 295-310.
- 686 Millet, K., & Dewitte, S. (2006). Second to fourth digit ratio and cooperative behavior.  
687 *Biological Psychology*, 71, 111-115.
- 688 Møller, A. P. (1997). Developmental stability and fitness: a review. *American Naturalist*, 149,  
689 916-932.
- 690 Møller, A. P., & Swaddle, J. P. (1997). *Asymmetry, developmental stability and evolution*. New  
691 York: Oxford University Press.
- 692 Møller, A. P., & Thornhill, R. (1998) Bilateral Symmetry and Sexual Selection: A Meta-  
693 Analysis. *American Naturalist*, 151, 174-192.
- 694 Møller, A. P., & Alatalo R.V. (1999). Good-genes effects in sexual selection. *Proceedings of the*  
695 *Royal Society B*, 266, 85-91.
- 696 Mulford, M., Orbell, J., Shatto, C., & Stockard, J. (1998). Physical attractiveness, opportunity,  
697 and success in everyday exchange. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103, 1565-1592.
- 698 Muñoz-Reyes, J. A., Gil-Burmann, C., Fink, B., & Turiegano, E. (2012). Facial asymmetry and  
699 aggression in Spanish adolescents. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 53, 857-861.
- 700 Pazhoohi, F., & Liddle, J. R. (2012). Identifying feminine and masculine ranges for Waist-to-

701 Hip ratio. *Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology*, 6, 227-232.

702 Pearson, M., & Schipper, B. C. (2013). Menstrual cycle and competitive bidding. *Games and*  
703 *Economic Behavior*, 78, 1-20.

704 Pound, N., Penton-Voak, I. S., & Brown, W. M. (2007). Facial symmetry is positively associated  
705 with self-reported extraversion. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 43, 1572-1582.

706 Pound, N., Penton-Voak, I. S., & SurrIDGE, A. K. (2009). Testosterone responses to competition  
707 in men are related to facial masculinity. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 276, 153-  
708 159.

709 Reid, R. L., & Van Vugt, D. A. (1987). Weight related changes in reproductive function.  
710 *Fertility and Sterility*, 48, 905-913.

711 Rodríguez-Salazar, M. E., Álvarez-Hernández, S., & Bravo-Nuñez, E. (2001). Coeficientes de  
712 asociación (pp. 47). City of Mexico: Plaza y Valdés.

713 Sanchez-Pages, S., & Turiegano, E. (2010). Testosterone, facial symmetry and cooperation in  
714 the Prisoners' dilemma. *Physiology & Behavior*, 99, 355-361.

715 Sanchez-Pages, S., & Turiegano, E. (2013) "Two studies on the interplay between social  
716 preferences and individual biological features". *Behaviour*, *In press*.

717 Singh, D. (2002). Female mate value at a glance: Relationship of waist-to-hip ratio to health,  
718 fecundity and attractiveness. *Neuroendocrinology Letters*, 23, 81-91.

719 Singh, D., Dixson, B. J., Jessop, T. S., Morgan, B., & Dixson, A. F. (2010). Cross-cultural  
720 consensus for waist-hip ratio and women's attractiveness. *Evolution and Human*  
721 *Behavior*, 31, 176-181.

722 Stirrat, M., & Perrett, D. I. (2010). Valid facial cues to cooperation and trust : Male facial width  
723 and trustworthiness. *Psychological Science*, 21, 349-354.

724 Stirrat, M., & Perrett, D. I. (2012). Face structure predicts cooperation: Men with wider faces  
725 are more generous to their in-group when out-group competition is salient  
726 *Psychological science*, 23, 718-722.

727 Swami, V., & Tovée, M. (2007). Perceptions of female body weight and shape among

- 728 indigenes and urban Europeans. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 48, 43-50.
- 729 Takahashi, C., Yamahishi, T., Tanida, S., Kiyonari, T., & Kanazawa, S. (2006). Attractiveness  
730 and cooperation in social exchange. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 4, 315-329.
- 731 Thornhill, R., & Gangestad, S. W. (1999). Facial attractiveness. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 3,  
732 452-460.
- 733 Thornhill, R., & Gangestad, S. W. (2006). Facial sexual dimorphism, developmental stability,  
734 and susceptibility to disease in men and women. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 27,  
735 131-144.
- 736 Thornhill, R., & Grammer, K. (1999). The body and face of woman: One ornament that signals  
737 quality? *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 20, 105-120.
- 738 Tovée, M. J., Maisey, D. S., Emery, J. L., & Cornelissen, P. L. (1999). Visual cues of female  
739 physical attractiveness. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 266, 211-218.
- 740 Tovée, M. J., Reinhardt, S., Emery, J. L., & Cornelissen, P. L. (1998). Optimum body-mass  
741 index and maximum sexual attractiveness. *Lancet*, 352, 548.
- 742 Van den Bergh, B., & Dewitte, S. (2006). Digit ratio (2D:4D) moderates the impact of sexual  
743 cues on men's decisions in ultimatum games. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 273,  
744 2091-2095.
- 745 Van Dongen, S., & Gangestad, S. W. (2011). Human fluctuating asymmetry in relation to health  
746 and quality: A meta-analysis. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 32, 380-398.
- 747 Weeden, J., & Sabini, J. (2007). Subjective and objective measures of attractiveness and their  
748 relation to sexual behavior and sexual attitudes in university students. *Archives of*  
749 *Sexual Behavior*, 36, 79-88.
- 750 Weston, E. M., Friday, A. E., & Lio, P. (2007). Biometric evidence that sexual selection has  
751 shaped the hominin face. *PLoS ONE*, 2, 1-8.
- 752 Wilson, R. K., & Eckel, C. C. (2006). Judging a book by its cover: Beauty and expectations in  
753 the trust game. *Political Research Quarterly*, 59, 189-202.
- 754 Zaatari, D., Palestis, B. G., & Trivers, R. (2009). Fluctuating asymmetry of responders affects



755 offers in the Ultimatum Game oppositely according to attractiveness or need as  
756 perceived by proposers. *Ethology*, 115, 627-632.

757 Zaatari, D., & Trivers, R. (2007). Fluctuating asymmetry and behavior in the ultimatum game in  
758 Jamaica. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 28, 223-227.

759 Zak, P. J., Kurzban, R., Ahmadi, S., Swerdloff, R. S., Park, J., Efremidze, L., & Matzner, W.  
760 (2009). Testosterone Administration Decreases Generosity in the Ultimatum Game.  
761 *PLoS ONE*, 4, e 8330.

762 Zethraeus, N., Kocoska-Maras, L., Ellingsen, T., Von Schoultz, B., Hirschberg, A. L., &  
763 Johannesson, M. (2009). A randomized trial of the effect of estrogen and testosterone on  
764 economic behavior. *PNAS*, 106, 6535-6538.

765 **Tables and figures**  
766

767 Table 1: Summary statistics for the entire subject population and according to choice in  
768 the PDG.

769 (Mean  $\pm$  SEM. For statistics analysis, the natural logarithm of WHR was employed).

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Defect (n = 55)</b>	<b>Cooperate (n = 121)</b>	
<b>Age (yr)</b>	21.42 $\pm$ 0.19	21.31 $\pm$ 0.31	21.48 $\pm$ 0.24	$t_{174} = -0.419$ ; $p = 0.675$
<b>WHR</b>	0.7198 $\pm$ 0.003	0.7300 $\pm$ 0.006	0.7152 $\pm$ 0.004	$t_{174} = 2.184$ ; $p = 0.030$
<b>BMI</b>	22.746 $\pm$ 0.291	23.294 $\pm$ 0.592	22.497 $\pm$ 0.326	U = 3000; $N_1 = 55$ $N_2 = 121$ ; $p = 0.296$
<b>FA</b>	4.248 $\pm$ 0.038	4.101 $\pm$ 0.065	4.3155 $\pm$ 0.046	$t_{174} = -2.631$ ; $p = 0.009$
<b>FF</b>	8.318 $\pm$ 0.131 $\times 10^{-2}$	8.238 $\pm$ 0.204	8.354 $\pm$ 0.166	$t_{174} = -0.412$ ; $p = 0.681$
<b>SPA</b>	4.313 $\pm$ 0.071	4.564 $\pm$ 0.132	4.198 $\pm$ 0.083	U = 2666.5; $N_1 = 55$ $N_2 = 121$ ; $p = 0.024$

770  
771

772 Table 2: Spearman Rho correlation between considered variables

	LN [WHR]	BMI	FA	FF	Age
SPA	$\sigma_{176} = -0.255$ $p = 0.001$	$\sigma_{176} = -0.190$ $p = 0.011$	$\sigma_{176} = -0.178$ $p = 0.018$	$\sigma_{176} = -0.070$ $p = 0.357$	$\sigma_{176} = 0.084$ $p = 0.265$
	LN [WHR]	$\sigma_{176} = 0.118$ $p = 0.119$	$\sigma_{176} = 0.235$ $p = 0.002$	$\sigma_{176} = -0.217$ $p = 0.004$	$\sigma_{176} = 0.027$ $p = 0.720$
		BMI	$\sigma_{176} = 0.106$ $p = 0.162$	$\sigma_{176} = -0.129$ $p = 0.087$	$\sigma_{176} = 0.117$ $p = 0.124$
			FA	$\sigma_{176} = -0.046$ $p = 0.546$	$\sigma_{176} = 0.040$ $p = 0.602$
				FF	$\sigma_{176} = 0.042$ $p = 0.577$

773  
774

775 Table 3: Estimation of the probability of cooperation in the PDG: Logistic models.

776 (Expected Behaviour of the opponent (EB) was coded as 1 if cooperation was expected

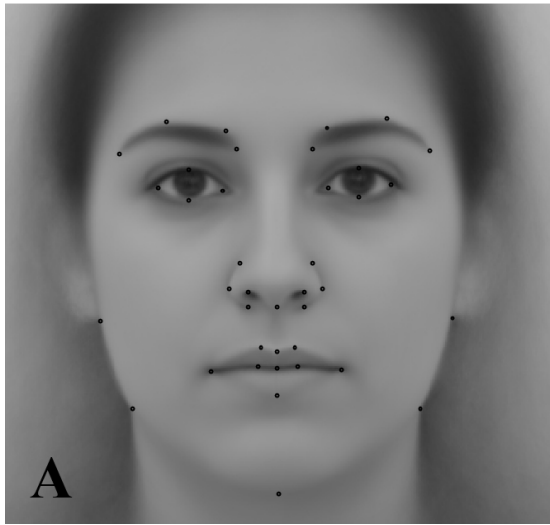
777 and 0 if defection was expected.)

Variables in the model	MODEL				VARIABLE				
	-2LL	Likelihood Ratio Test	df	p	variables	coef	Wald	df	P
Ln(WHR), BMI, FA, FF, Age	202.882	15.741	5	0.008	Constant	-7.246	5.657	1	0.017
					Ln(WHR)	-8.394	6.008	1	0.014
					BMI	-0.023	0.229	1	0.632
					FA	1.137	9.551	1	0.002
					FF	-0.113	0.001	1	0.991
					Age	0.048	0.467	1	0.494
Ln(WHR), BMI, FA	203.360	15.262	3	0.002	Constant	-6.210	5.951	1	0.015
					Ln(WHR)	-8.284	6.043	1	0.014
					BMI	-0.020	0.176	1	0.675
					FA	1.125	9.475	1	0.002
SPA, Ln(WHR), BMI, FA	191.849	26.773	4	<0.001	Constant	-3.089	1.263	1	0.261
					SPA	-0.715	10.410	1	0.001
					Ln(WHR)	-11.407	9.736	1	0.002
					BMI	-0.056	1.280	1	0.258
					FA	1.085	8.194	1	0.004
EB, SPA, Ln(WHR), BMI, FA	157.962	60.660	5	<0.001	Constant	-2.776	0.754	1	0.385
					EB	2.293	29.791	1	<0.001
					SPA	-0.671	7.572	1	0.006
					Ln(WHR)	-7.649	3.414	1	0.065
					BMI	-0.096	2.865	1	0.091
					FA	1.127	6.315	1	0.012

778

779

780 Figure 1: Example of landmarks placement.



781

