

Weird science/BSFA

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 05 Feb 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/2927>

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Matthew Davis — 05 Feb 2002, 04:05

On 02/02/2002 22:16:29 maa32 wrote:

Speaking of Lamarck, recent research has shown that some hormones in the mother's womb can affect the development of the brain in male children and increase their homosexual proclivities - and this hormone level alters depending upon how many children the mother has previously had, therefore her behavior directly affects expression in her children within one generation - and it affects phenotype: the pointer finger and ring finger of children affected by this increased hormone level will be approximately the same length, whereas those exposed to lower levels will have greater variation in finger length. Pretty odd, huh?

This was mentioned on a BBC documentary on genetics a couple of weeks ago. When I mentioned this later on I had several tables of men in a gay pub all holding out their hands and comparing finger lengths. Judging by this rather amateur practical test there didn't appear to be any basis to this theory at all. Ho-hum.

And since no-one else has mentioned it - Wolfe's essay "The Best Introduction to the Mountains" is up for the British Science Fiction Association's Non-Fiction Award