

OVULATORY CYCLE EFFECTS ON TIP
EARNINGS BY LAP DANCERS:
ECONOMIC EVIDENCE FOR HUMAN
ESTRUS?



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Background



- ❧ Main paper is about mate choices, pill users vs. non-pill users
- ❧ **One specific claim:**
- ❧ “Finally, a study investigating tip earnings by lap dancers showed that earnings varied across their menstrual cycle (Figure 1) [4]. Such changes are probably a result of multiple factors, including changes in both female physical traits as well as behaviour [3,4,21], and could be indicative of changes in male preference and/ or female mate acquisition.”

Definitions



- ❧ Woman's menstrual cycle
 - ❧ 28 days
 - ❧ Follicular phase → ovulation
 - ❧ Luteal phase → results in either fertilization or menstruation
 - ❧ Fertile phase: 7 days before and 7 days after ovulation
- ❧ Estrous: period of sexual receptivity/fertility
- ❧ **Purpose:** to show that estrous in humans is not “hidden”; manifests in variety of subtle cues that men are sensitive to.
- ❧ **Method:** measured tips earned by lap dancers in 2-month span. If hypothesis is correct → women at midcycle would be in higher demand and thus earn higher tips

How it was done



- ❧ Background: difference between stage dance and lap dance (majority of income)
- ❧ Experimental methods:
 - ❧ Recruitment: through email, newspapers, and flyers
 - ❧ Website entries
 - ❧ Mood, work hours, location, tip earnings, menstruation status
 - ❧ 18 subjects, 7 on pill and 11 were not
- ❧ Cycle: 3 parts → Menstrual (Days 1-5), Fertile (Days 9-15), Luteal (Days 18-28)

Results



- ∞ Average workday: 5.2 hours
- ∞ Mean of \$248.73 per shift
- ∞ Average of \$14 per lap dance
- ∞ Normally cycling women made much more money during estrus (about \$90 more during luteal phase and \$170 more during menstrual phase)
- ∞ Normally cycling women also experienced a midcycle “peak” in tip earnings

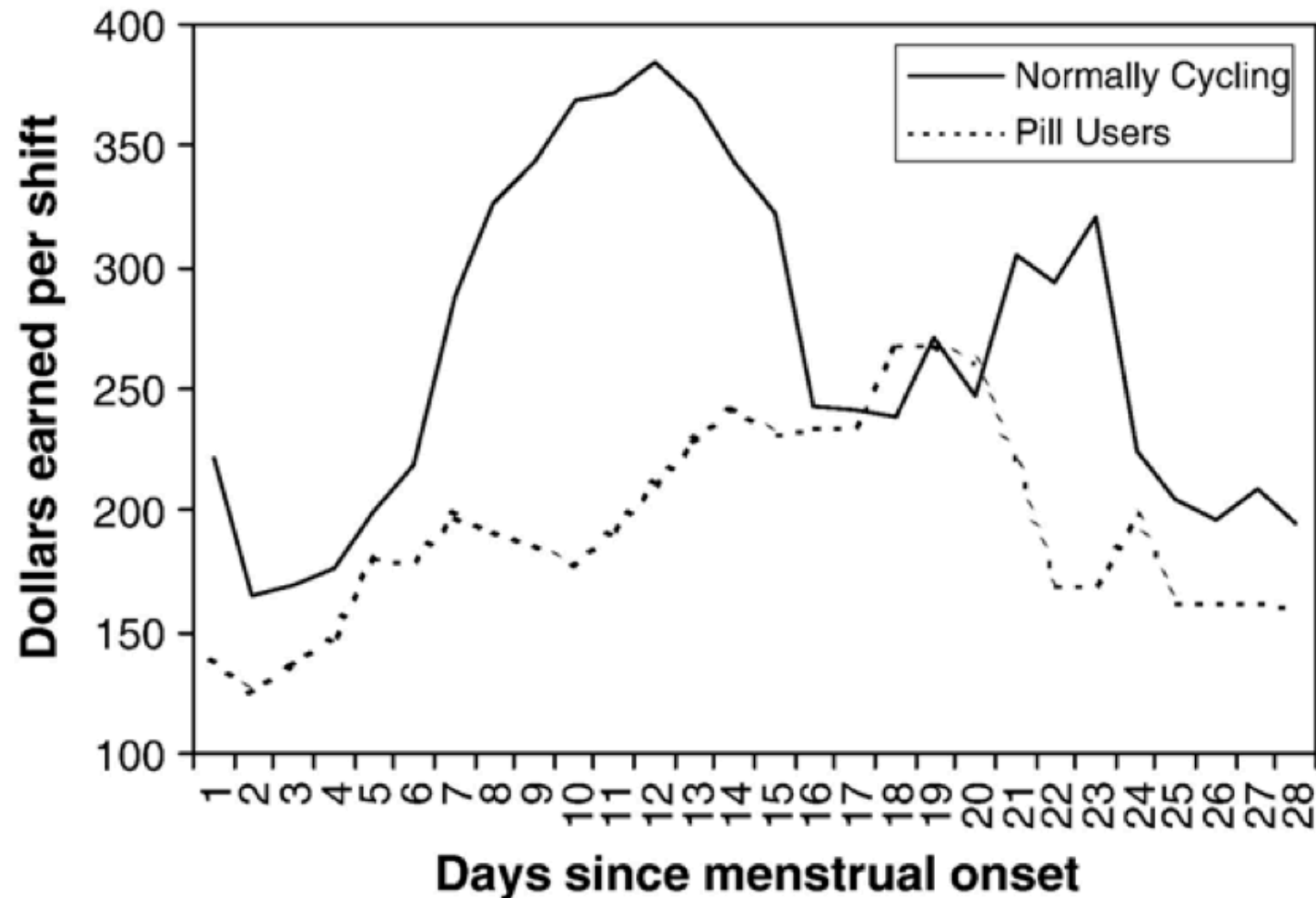
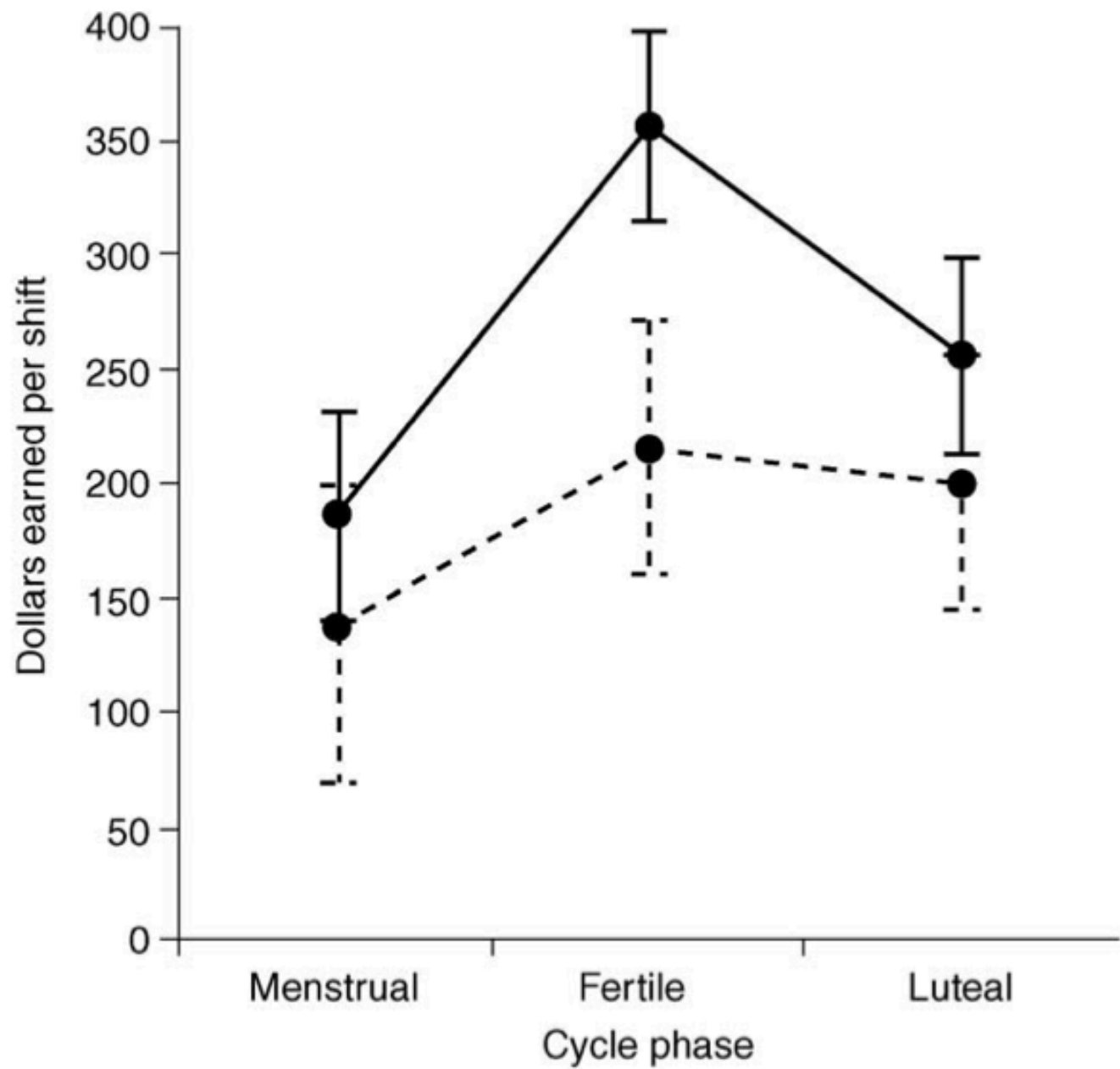


Fig. 1. Effects of ovulatory cycle (Days 1–28) on average tip earnings per shift, for normally cycling women versus women using hormonal contraception (pill users); each data point represents a 3-day average of the indicated day, the previous day, and the following day.



TRENDS in Ecology & Evolution

Results



- ❧ Women apparently “leak” cues of their fertility status during intimate interactions with men and men pick up these cues and act accordingly.
- ❧ This applies only to naturally cycling women
- ❧ What are these cues believed to be?

My thoughts



- ❧ Compelling paper, but...lots of limitations!
 - ❧ Sample size
 - ❧ Similarity in sample
 - ❧ Key measures → is self-reporting the best method?
 - ❧ Recruitment description
 - ❧ Finally, did not test what CAUSED midcycle earnings shift. We only know there is one.

Another Study



WOMEN'S BODY MOVEMENTS ARE A
POTENTIAL CUE TO OVULATION

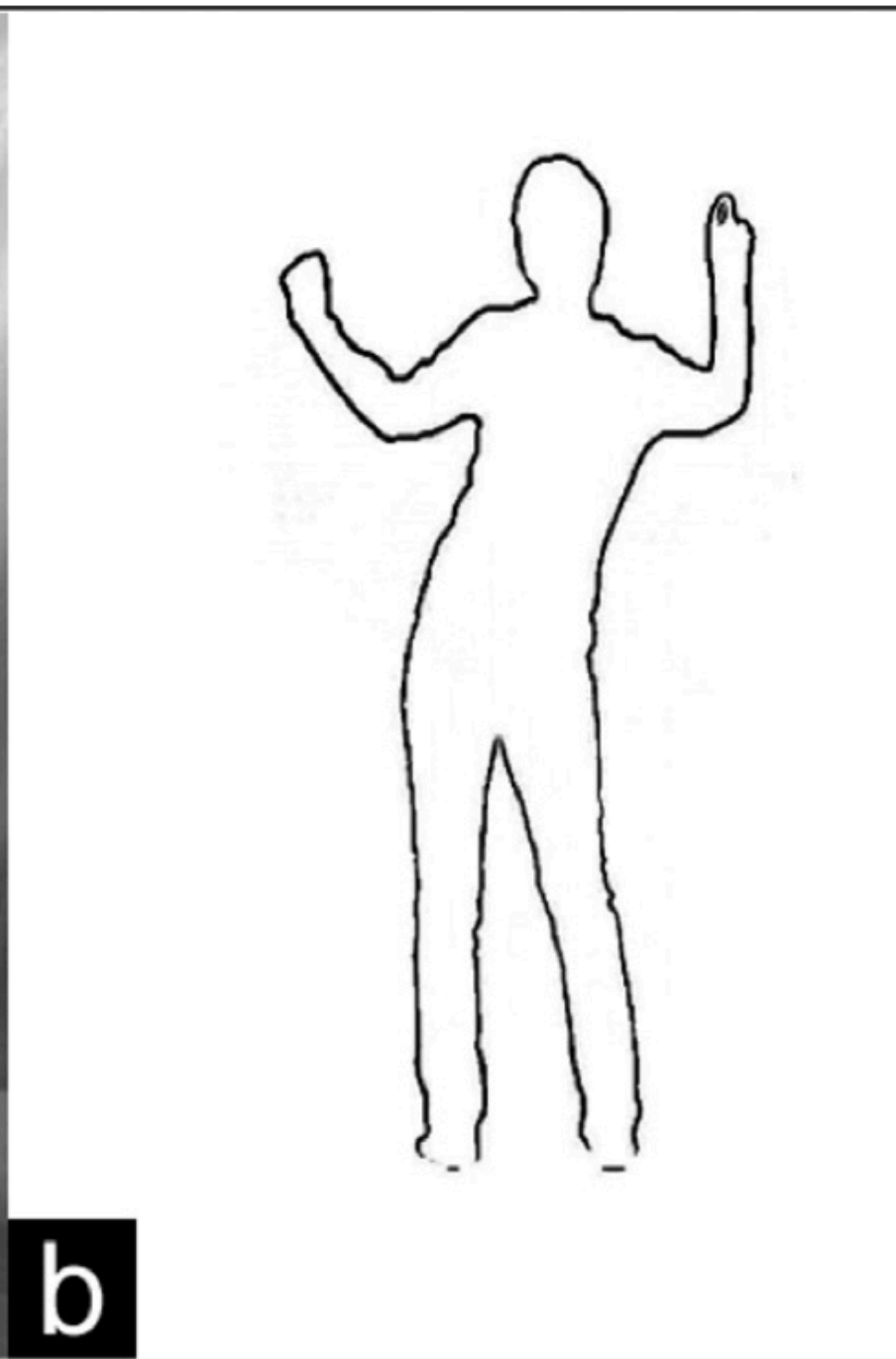
BY: BERNHARD FINK, NADINE HUGILL,
BENJAMIN P. LANGE

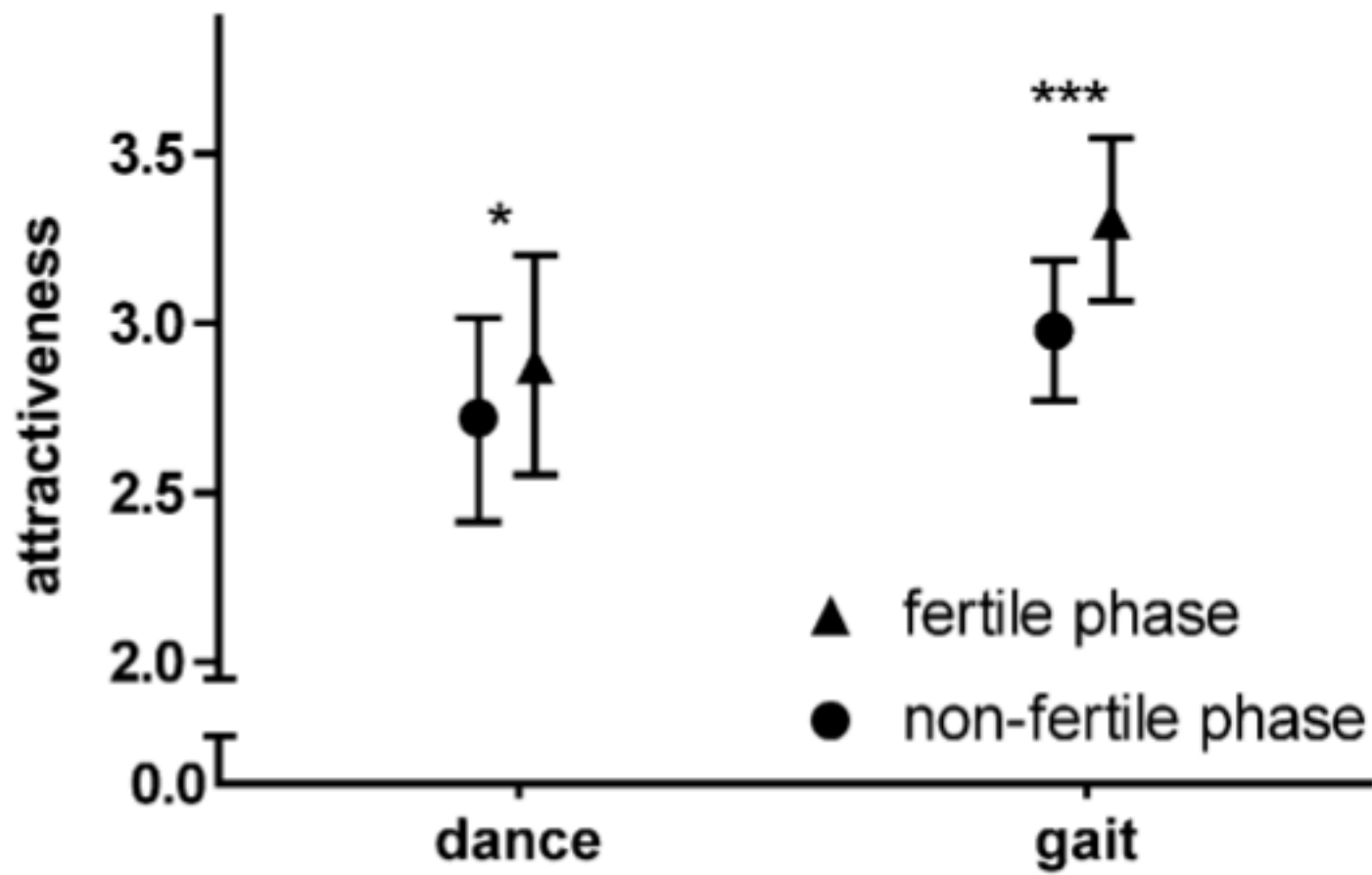
- ❧ **Suggests:** that female body movements may be the primary source of information for men in the initial assessment of female fertility

Methods



- ❧ 48 women
- ❧ Non-professional dancers
- ❧ Recordings of dance and gait
- ❧ Half of women in fertile phase, the other in non-fertile phase
- ❧ Ratings from 200 men on each of them; ranked from a Likert scale of 1-7





Conclusion



Maybe the reason the naturally-cycling ladies doing the lap dances earned more midcycle was due to the dance itself, which, according to the second paper, is deemed more attractive by men during the fertile phase

Citations



- ❧ Miller, G, J Tybur, and B Jordan. "Ovulatory Cycle Effects On Tip Earnings By Lap Dancers: Economic Evidence For Human Estrus?." *Evolution and Human Behavior* 28.6 (2007): 375-381
- ❧ Bernhard Fink, Nadine Hugill, Benjamin P. Lange, Women's body movements are a potential cue to ovulation, *Personality and Individual Differences*, Volume 53, Issue 6, October 2012, Pages 759-763, ISSN 0191-8869, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2012.06.005>.