

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY B

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Cooperation among women: evolutionary and cross-cultural perspectives

A theme issue compiled and edited by Stephanie A. Fox, Karen Kramer, Joan Silk and Brooke Scelza

Published November 2022



THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY
PUBLISHING

About this issue

There is growing consensus about the importance of cooperation in the evolution of human sociality, yet empirical research on human cooperation has been biased toward the behavior of men and derived from experimental studies conducted in western, industrialized populations. To address this gap, we provide new data documenting the complexity of women's cooperative behavior from cross-cultural contexts and multi-disciplinary perspectives. This volume challenges narratives about universal gender differences in cooperation, reconsiders access to kin as a constraint on women's cooperation, reviews evidence connecting social support and women's health, and makes comparisons with female non-human apes and other mammals. Collectively, we achieve a more complete and evidence-based perspective on the role of cooperation in women's lives and in building human sociality.

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