

Genetics may explain tendency towards violence in our evolutionary history

Humans are predisposed to murder each other, new research suggests, although it remains unclear if it's down to genetics or other factors.

Researchers from Spain have found that a tendency to bump off members of the same species is particularly common among primates, and have estimated that around 2% of human deaths at the origin of our species were down to such lethal spats.

“What it is saying, in the broadest terms, is that humans have evolved strategies for solving problems with violence,” said Mark Pagel, professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Reading, who was not involved in the research.

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Pagel believes it is important to emphasize that genetic adaptations could be at play. “Humans emerged from a very long lineage of species...that all expressed relatively high levels of lethal violence,” he said. “When you immerse an animal in a particular environment, it evolves genetic-based strategies for dealing with that environment. There is good reason to believe this reflects a real genetic or innate tendency to solve problems with violence.”

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Natural born killers: humans predisposed to murder, study suggests](#)