January Issue
Part One

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Health

Does childhood misfortune raise the risk of acute myocardial infarction in adulthood?

*Social Science & Medicine* | [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.11.026](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.11.026)

**Childhood stress-smoking could lead to higher rate of heart attacks**

There are a number of factors which can lead to the incidence of a heart attack. This study, published in *Social Science & Medicine*, investigated the link between childhood misfortune and the risk of heart attack later in life. Childhood misfortune included predictors such as being financially worse off than other families, parental divorce, death of a parent and physical or emotional abuse. Results showed an association between childhood misfortune and risk of heart attack. Researchers believed this result may be caused by an increased chance of smoking as a coping mechanism in those who are misfortunate.
Television use and binge eating in adults seeking weight loss treatment

*Eating Behaviors* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eatbeh.2013.10.001

**Ditch the TV for diet success**

Diet, exercise and media are among some of the factors which can influence one's ambition to lose weight. This study, published in *Eating Behaviors*, looked at the impact watching TV has on binge eating in adults that were seeking to lose weight. Higher rates of watching television were associated with binge eating, internalised weight stigma, depression and decreased body satisfaction.

Still childless at the age of 28 to 40 years: A cross-sectional study of Swedish women’s and men’s reproductive intentions

*Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.11.026

**Why do many women remain childless?**

This study, published in *Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare*, explored the reasons why some women decide to wait before having children. Results showed that the most (85%) women between 28 and 32 years old still plan to have children, compared to only 32% of women who are over 36 years. The most prominent reasons for remaining childless in this latter group were: lack of partner, no desire for children, feeling of not being mature enough and wanting to do other things before starting a family.

Science and Technology

Brothers and sisters are stabbing each other in the back: long-term effects of sex of siblings on barn swallow offspring

*Animal Behaviour* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2013.10.030

**Birds of a feather affect each other**

Many of us have been affected by the behaviour of siblings at some point in life. This study, published in *Animal Behaviour*, looked at the effect of family composition on breeding success in barn swallows. Results showed that both sexes had different effects on opposite-sex siblings. For example female offspring with an increasing proportion of male siblings showed a decline in breeding success and male offspring with more sisters had shorter wing length.

Impact of weather conditions on macroscopic urban travel times

*Journal of Transport Geography* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2012.11.003

**How much travel time is wasted by the weather?**

Weather conditions can certainly have an impact on our everyday activities. This study, published in the *Journal of Transport Geography*, aimed to investigate the impact of different intensities of rain, snow and temperature levels on travel times in the Greater London area over a three month period. Results showed that rain increased travel time by up to 6% (depending on intensity) and snow by up to 11%. However, temperature has a nearly negligible effect on urban travel time.