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## Evolution and Human Behavior

Volume 28, Issue 1, January 2007, Pages 60-65

Original article

# Elevated ethnocentrism in the first trimester of pregnancy

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.06.002>

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## Abstract

Recent research employing a disease-threat model of the psychology of intergroup attitudes has provided preliminary support for a link between subjectively disease-salient emotional states and ethnocentric attitudes. Because the first trimester of pregnancy is a period of particular vulnerability to infection, pregnant women offer an opportunity to further test this association. We explored the expression of intergroup attitudes in a sample of pregnant women from the United States. Consistent with the predictions of the disease-threat model, results from our cross-sectional study indicate that favoritism toward the ingroup peaks during the first trimester of pregnancy and decreases during the second and third trimesters. We discuss this finding in light of the possible contributions of cultural and biological factors affecting ethnocentrism.



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## Keywords

Intergroup relations; Pregnancy; Ethnocentrism; Disease avoidance

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<sup>†</sup> Research was supported by a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (#SES-0409798) awarded to the first author.

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