Skeletal biology and individual life history of Gombe chimpanzees

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Skeletons of Gombe chimpanzees representing both sexes and ages from infancy to old age are examined in detail by a variety of techniques. The combination of biological and lifetime behavioural data presents an integrated view of individuals which make up a local population. These skeletons reflect species-patterned growth, development and ageing. Furthermore, individual variation is related to lifetime experiences: for example, the impact of nutrition, injury and disease on survival and reproduction in the physical and psychosocial environments. Size, shape and internal structure of bones and teeth record life-history features associated with both primary and secondary life-history characters. These case studies emphasize the role of the individual in the evolutionary process.

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