# Article information:

Human threat management systems: Self-protection and disease avoidance - ScienceDirect  
<https://www-sciencedirect-com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/science/article/pii/S0149763410001405?casa_token=7QItrVmsIN8AAAAA%3AZomCdwMOrMqIQn5ZR52RwSsL1Eu0l-H4N57JKNMBgGJXdNbKEN1PkEbjkw2C2NCPY5x7d6MQ>

# Article summary:

1. Humans have evolved precautionary systems to minimize threats to reproductive fitness posed by interdependent social living.

2. The self-protection and disease avoidance systems are functionally distinct and domain-specific, attuned to different cues and rooted in different neurobiological substrates.

3. These systems share important features such as functional coherence, risk-averse bias, and functional flexibility, which also characterize other evolved precautionary systems.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Human threat management systems: Self-protection and disease avoidance" provides an overview of the two distinct precautionary systems that humans have evolved to minimize threats to reproductive fitness posed by highly interdependent ultrasociality. The article highlights that each system is functionally distinct and domain-specific, attuned to different cues, engages different emotions, inferences, and behavioral inclinations, and is rooted in somewhat different neurobiological substrates.

The article presents a comprehensive review of research on self-protection and disease avoidance systems. However, it has some potential biases that need to be considered. Firstly, the article focuses solely on evolutionary psychology without considering other perspectives such as social or cultural psychology. This narrow focus may limit the scope of the analysis and lead to incomplete conclusions.

Secondly, the article presents some unsupported claims without providing sufficient evidence. For example, it claims that prejudices against African American men are characterized by fear while prejudices against gay men are characterized by physical disgust. However, this claim lacks empirical evidence and may be based on stereotypes rather than scientific research.

Thirdly, the article does not explore counterarguments or alternative explanations for its claims. For instance, it suggests that women are especially ethnocentric and xenophobic during their first trimester of pregnancy compared to their second or third trimester. However, this claim could also be explained by hormonal changes during pregnancy rather than an evolutionary adaptation.

Fourthly, the article does not present both sides equally when discussing potential risks associated with human threat management systems. While it acknowledges that these systems can lead to prejudice and stigma towards certain groups of people, it does not discuss how these systems can also lead to overgeneralization and stereotyping.

In conclusion, while the article provides a useful overview of human threat management systems from an evolutionary perspective, it has some potential biases that need to be considered. It would benefit from a more balanced approach that considers alternative perspectives and presents both sides of the argument equally.

# Topics for further research:

* Social psychology perspectives on human threat management systems
* Cultural influences on self-protection and disease avoidance behaviors
* Empirical evidence for the relationship between prejudices and emotions
* Alternative explanations for ethnocentrism and xenophobia during pregnancy
* Negative consequences of human threat management systems
* such as overgeneralization and stereotyping
* Neurobiological substrates of self-protection and disease avoidance systems in humans

# Report location:

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