

FEEDING COMPETITION IN LOMAKO PYGMY CHIMPANZEES: VARIATION IN SOCIAL ORGANIZATION WITH PARTY SIZE. Frances J. White, Department of Biological Anthropology & Anatomy, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Pygmy chimpanzee social organization was examined in small, medium and large parties using interactions, proximity, and membership in parties. Vocalizations among parties were recorded and preceded fission, fusion, avoidance, or no change. Party size, party composition, proximity, and interactions showed high female-female affiliation. Male-female affiliation increased with party size. Female-female affiliation reflected association in parties whereas female-male did not. Party size and composition was dependent on size of food patches. Amount of female genito-genital rubbing, male-female grooming, and mating increased with size of food patch. Male-male aggression occurred at the start of feeding (when most matings occur). Food patches contained either limited or superabundant food. Calling (by both males and females) from underutilized patches resulted in fusion. Calling from "full" patches resulted in avoidance. Female-female affiliation varied with feeding competition, whereas male-female affiliation varied with the feasibility of monopolization of cohesive females.

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Symposium organizer: Toshisada Nishida