A02: Research support – Predictions concerning mate retention techniques and female-directed violence have been tested by Shackelford et al. Study shows a clear relationship between sexual jealousy, mate-retention strategies by males, and violence towards women. Buss and Shackelford found men who suspected their wives were unfaithful over the next year exacted greater punishment for a known or suspected infidelity than men who didn't anticipate future infidelities. Finding is consistent with the claim in evolutionary psychology that mate retention strategies are evoked when a particular adaptive problem is face - wives infidelity is likely.

Practical applications – particular tactics of mate retention used by males can be an early indicator of violence against the female partner. Findings from these studies can potentially be used to alert friends and family members to the danger signs, specific acts can lead to future violence in relationships. At this point help can be sought/offered before the violence ever happens.

Uxoricide – Daly and Wilson's suggests most cases are unintended consequences of spousal violence linked to jealousy – challenged by Shackelford, analysed half a million homicides, selecting 13,670 where a man killed his wife. Found younger women had a greater risk of uxoricide regardless of the age of their partner. Fact that men kill their wives when they are most reproductively valuable contradicts the evolutionary theory. Alternative explanation – the evolved homicide module theory, can explain these findings. Partners infidelity carries a double loss for the male, particularly when the female is still of reproductive age. Not only does he lose a partner, but another man gains a partner increasing his own fitness. By killing wife he prevents competitor form gaining the reproductive stakes.

Likely we evolved to have anti-homicide defences, able to read signs of homicide and killing in self defence.

Shackelford et al: Independant studies
461 men, 560 women, US universities/surrounding communities from heterosexual relationships. Study 1: Mean age - 24.2 years, mean age of partners - 23.2, mean length of relationship - 37.3 months. Male PP's completed a male retention inventory (MRI) concerning 104 mate-retention strategies in previous month, form 0-3, asked how often they perform 26 violent acts, partners sustained 20 different injuries.

Study 2: Mean age - 21.5 years, mean age of partners - 23.7, mean length - 28.8 months. Femal PP's answered questions about partners use of mate-retention strategies with them, degree to which their partner is violent. Found study 1 - use of two broad types of mate-retention strategy, positively correlated with violence scores. Strategies - Intersexual negative inducements and direct guarding. Men who used manipulation more prone to violence.

Found study 2 – confirmed validity of findings from study 1, women stated male partners who use manipulation likely to use violence.

Buss et al: measures stress levels in US students, males had higher levels when viewing photos of sexual infidelity, females had higher levels when viewing emotional infidelity, different environmental cues trigger aggression in males/females.

Harris: results, choice studies about males being more stressed by sexual infidelity and females by emotional infidelity to be true of imagined scenarios, males/females threatened by emotional fidelity. Results-explained-males being aroused by images of sexual infidelity rather than feeling threatened.

Buss & Shackelford: 214 individuals, compared to women men report higher use of debasement and intra-sexual threats. Women-use of verbal possession signals and threats of punishing infidelity, men married to younger women greater effort, mate retention techniques, commitment manipulation, violence, threats.

Buss: human aggression across cultures, genetically determined, not by socialisation. Aggression innate in human reproductive behaviour, determined by our genes.