Abortion of Spare Resources

Investment based on factors relating to ability to invest: age
- current and future reproductive probability
- status
- condition
- probability of mortality

Fowers-Willard effect

Parental investment is sex biased
- want to produce offspring that will then go on to reproduce; aim for most grandchildren
- males have variable reproductive success, females more stable
- maternal condition will determine bias of investment
  - high rank/ good maternal condition: males
  - low rank/ poor maternal condition: females

Examples
- red deer: kinds to first invest in daughters
- heart and lung in human: approx 50% of women produce richer milk for sons whereas, great majority produce richer milk for daughters
- larger brains of a high caste have more sons/need more as easier to find spouses since males are marriageable but women cannot
- Gypsies: invest more in daughters as they can marry up social scale
- high-caste - cannot afford bride price for sons so invest in daughters and marriage

Costs of Reproduction and Reproductive Decisions

- human infants are obligatory (optimal) at birth; appears to be a result of depredability
- influence on maternal longevity; more offspring can either increase or decrease longevity
  - only have finite resources to allocate before takes a toll on self
  - Lydall (1983): farmers and smallholders benefit and have increased longevity with more offspring as can work the land they have; immisered individual has a decreased lifespan due to this too.