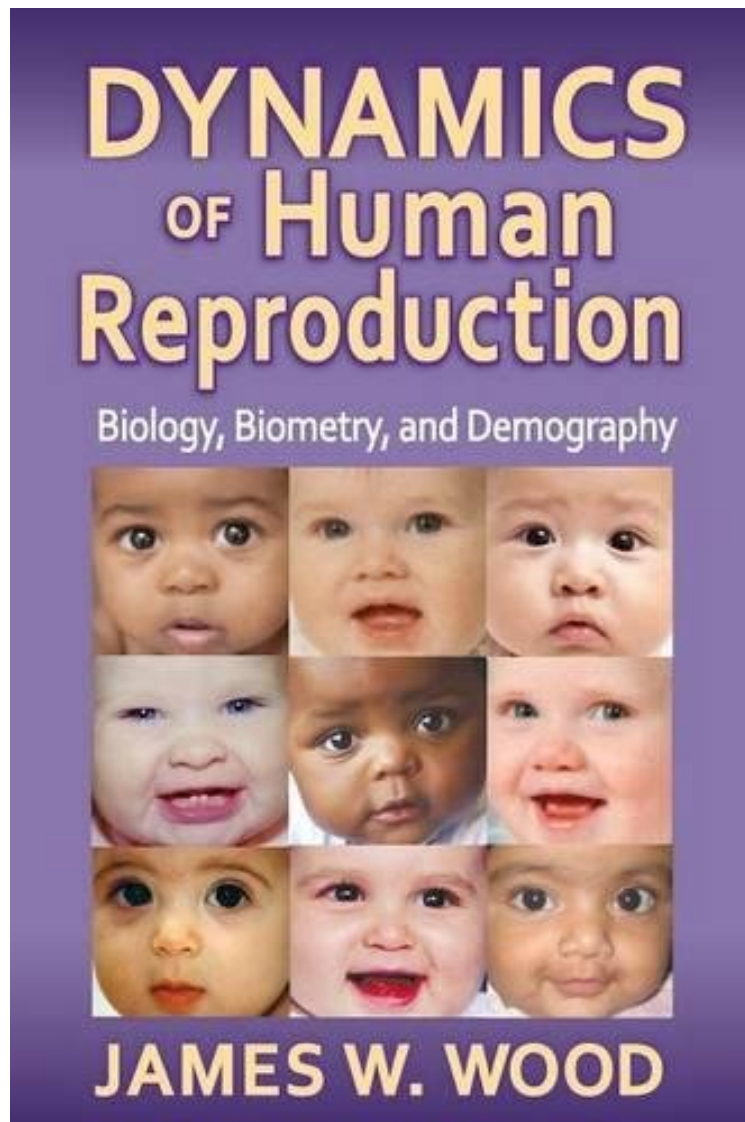


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Dynamics of Human Reproduction: Biology, Biometry, Demography (Foundations of Human Behavior)

James W. Wood

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James W. Wood : Dynamics of Human Reproduction: Biology, Biometry, Demography (Foundations of Human Behavior) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dynamics of Human Reproduction: Biology, Biometry, Demography (Foundations of Human Behavior):

Awarded the W. W. Howells Award for the Outstanding Book in Biological Anthropology, this volume presents a comprehensive, integrated, and up-to-date overview of the major physiological and behavioral factors affecting human reproduction. In attempting to identify the most important causes of variation in fertility within and among human populations, Wood summarizes data from a wide range of societies. Trained as an anthropologist as well as a demographer, he devotes special attention to so-called "natural fertility" populations, in which modern contraceptives and induced abortion are not used to limit reproductive output. Such an emphasis enables him to study the interaction of biology and behavior with particular clarity. The volume weaves together the physiological, demographic, and biometric approaches to human fertility in a way that will encourage future interdisciplinary research. Instead of offering a general overview, the focus is to answer one question: Why does fertility and the number of live births vary from couple to couple within any particular population, and from population to population across the human species as a whole? Topics covered include ovarian function, conception and pregnancy, intrauterine mortality, reproductive maturation and senescence, coital frequency and the waiting time to conception, marriage patterns and the initiation of reproduction, the fertility-reducing effects of breastfeeding, the impact of maternal nutrition on reproduction, and reproductive seasonality. This unique combination of comprehensive subject matter and an integrated analytical approach makes the book ideally suited both as a graduate-level textbook and as a reference work.

"A must-have reference text for any researcher interested in the biocultural determinants of human fertility and is appropriate as a textbook at the graduate level. I expect it to remain a standard in the literature of demographic anthropology and reproductive ecology for many years to come." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*

The Dynamics of Human Reproduction is a splendid, comprehensive classroom text for graduate students studying demography, growth and development, human variation, and medical anthropology. It is also a rich reference for teachers of undergraduate courses in biological anthropology or for researchers in the field of reproduction. . . . Dynamics of Human Reproduction is a necessary text for the shelves of biocultural medical anthropologists. James wood . . . successfully demonstrates how a lifespan perspective can enrich the ecological approach in biocultural research. Lynnette E. Leidy, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*

About the Author James W. Wood is professor of anthropology and demography at Pennsylvania State University. His books include, *Human Reproductive Ecology: Interactions of Environment, Fertility, and Behavior*, and *The Biodemography of Subsistence Farming: Population, Food and Family*.