

FEMALE SAME-SEX SEXUAL DESIRES: AN
EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE

by

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the evolution and adaptive function of female homosexuality. Biological, sociological, evolutionary, socioecological, and sociobiological theories are discussed. To assess the evolution of female homoerotic behavior, primate and human behavior are examined. Because the purpose of this thesis is to investigate the evolution of female same-sex relations, particular emphasis is placed on chimpanzees and bonobos, species in which these relations have been extensively documented. It is proposed that human females form homoerotic relationships to achieve independence from males and maintain alliances. If sufficient resources are present, aggregates of females can control their most significant resource—sex. Sex is utilized to recruit new females, to maintain alliances within the aggregate, and to distribute to males in exchange for strategic resources. This thesis concludes with several suggestions for future research.