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## Testosterone, facial symmetry and cooperation in the Prisoners' Dilemma

**Citation for published version:**

Sanchez-Pages, S & Turiegano, E 2010, 'Testosterone, facial symmetry and cooperation in the Prisoners' Dilemma', *Physiology & Behavior*, vol. 99, no. 3, pp. 355-361. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2009.11.013>

**Digital Object Identifier (DOI):**

[10.1016/j.physbeh.2009.11.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2009.11.013)

**Link:**

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

**Document Version:**

Peer reviewed version

**Published In:**

Physiology & Behavior

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1 Testosterone, Facial Symmetry and Cooperation in the Prisoners' Dilemma

2

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13 **Abstract:**

14 Recent research has analyzed how individual characteristics, like the exposure to  
15 different hormones and symmetry, affect decision-making and strategic behaviour. The  
16 present article investigates the effect of symmetry, of exposure to testosterone (T) in  
17 utero and during puberty and of current T on cooperation in a Prisoners' Dilemma  
18 Game (PDG). T is a hormone with well known effect on males' behaviour, and that  
19 promotes activities that seek to increase reproductive success. Fluctuating Asymmetry  
20 (FA) reflects the ability of the organism to maintain a stable development and it is  
21 usually employed as a variable reflecting genetic quality (low FA values are thought to  
22 signal higher genetic quality). Our results show that subjects with intermediate levels of  
23 second to fourth digit ratio (a proxy of exposure to T in utero) and with high FA  
24 cooperate more often in the PDG. We also observe that the latter effect is due to the fact  
25 that FA has an impact on subjects' expectations about the behaviour of their counterpart  
26 in the game. These results reinforce the described link between markers related to  
27 genetic quality and cooperative behaviour. This possible linkage of individual condition  
28 and pro-social behaviour in humans clearly merits further attention.

29

30 *Keywords:* Testosterone, Cooperation, Prisoners' dilemma, Fluctuating asymmetry,

31 Facial masculinity, 2D:4D.

32

## 33 **1. Introduction**

34 Testosterone (T) is a steroid hormone which determines in males of different  
35 species their development, their reproductive physiology and several behaviours [1-4].  
36 In general, T affects males by promoting behaviours that seek to increase reproductive  
37 success, like an increased territorial aggressiveness [5,6], competitiveness [7] or a  
38 stronger status-seeking drive [8].

39 In mammals, T exerts organizational effects on the brain during foetal sexual  
40 differentiation [9] and during puberty [10]. These critical periods of exposure may  
41 affect adult male behaviour, in addition to the current level of T. Thus, in order to fully  
42 understand the influence of T in adult male behaviour, it is essential to take into account  
43 the exposure to the hormone during these critical periods. There are some measures in  
44 adult men that can proxy for T exposure in utero and during puberty. These are,  
45 respectively, the second to fourth digit ratio (2D:4D; the ratio between the length of  
46 index, or second digit, and ring finger, or fourth digit) and facial masculinity. Plenty of  
47 evidence indirectly suggests that 2D:4D negatively correlates with foetal T [11-13] and  
48 the existence or a significant negative association between 2D:4D and fetal  
49 testosterone/estradiol ratio (T/E ratio) [14]. On the other hand, many masculine facial  
50 features develop during puberty under the influence of T [15,16]. Most studies have  
51 found no correlation between these variables and the current T level, although some  
52 controversy remains. 2D:4D seems unrelated to current T in normal adults [17] and to  
53 facial metric measures of masculinity [18,19]. Sexually dimorphic facial traits are not  
54 associated either with current T [20], but there is some evidence of a link between  
55 perceived masculinity and current T [21,22] and 2D:4D [23].

56 There is also a wide body of literature linking these three variables with typically  
57 masculine features and behaviours. 2D:4D is a predictor of the degree of expression of

58 sexually dimorphic and other sex-hormone mediated traits, like visuo-spatial ability or  
59 left hand preference, and some behaviors like increased aggressiveness or  
60 competitiveness [24-27]. In men, circulating T has been linked to behaviours like  
61 acquisition of status, aggression, sensation-seeking or interest in sex [8,28-30]. Finally,  
62 the degree of masculinity has been shown to have an effect on male behaviour [20,31]  
63 but, above all, it has been described as a good predictor of male attractiveness [32-34].  
64 Evidence shows that more attractive people behave differently [35-39]. However, it is  
65 important to bear in mind that masculinity is not the only factor determining male  
66 attractiveness [40-42].

67         Fluctuating asymmetry (FA) is a departure from symmetry in traits that are  
68 symmetrical at the population level [43]. It is considered to be the result of  
69 developmental instability. It thus reflects the ability of the organisms to maintain a  
70 stable development of their morphology and to overcome possible perturbations. This  
71 ability is thought to be affected by genetic and environmental factors. Many studies  
72 show a link between symmetry and genetic quality [44]. In humans, facial symmetry  
73 has been proposed as a cue for heritable fitness benefits [45,46], and it is widely  
74 considered as attractive [47,48]. Some studies have found that FA positively correlates  
75 with facial masculinity [49-51]. This suggests that both characteristics subtly indicate  
76 genetic quality. Still, many other studies find no correlation between them [52-54]. FA  
77 can be thus related to human behaviour in many different ways, since it is expected that  
78 the genetic quality of individuals has an impact on behaviour [55-58]. In general,  
79 symmetrical men (with low FA) tend to be less cooperative and more competitive. This  
80 behavior is believed to be due to their superior phenotypic quality, which increases their  
81 likelihood of winning conflicts and reduces their need to receive help from others [58].

82           In this study, we examine the effect of proxies for T exposure in utero and  
83 during puberty, of current levels of T and of FA on how human males play a one-shot  
84 symmetric Prisoner Dilemma Game (PDG). The effects of some of these variables have  
85 been previously tested in different economic experiments, like the ultimatum game [58-  
86 60], public good games [61], the dictator game [62] and risk-taking in an investment  
87 game [31]. Formally, the symmetric PDG is a special case of the public good game with  
88 two players and two available actions: “Cooperate” (equivalent to a full contribution)  
89 and “Defect” (equivalent to no contribution). The outcome obtained by the players  
90 when both defect is worse for each of them than the outcome they would have obtained  
91 if both of them had cooperated. When the players choose different actions, the one who  
92 cooperated receives a very low payoff, while the defector obtains a very high payoff.  
93 “Defect” is thus a dominant strategy in this game, that is, it is the best strategy for both  
94 participants regardless of whatever their opponent does. However, it is well known that  
95 humans tend not to follow this rule. There is substantial experimental evidence showing  
96 that humans are willing to cooperate and trust others in the one-shot PDG [63,64].

97           We expect high FA males to cooperate more in the PDG, in line with some  
98 previous results [38,58,60]. As FA is a marker of genetic quality, high symmetric  
99 people have less need for receiving help from others, reducing their interest in mutual  
100 reciprocity. In the same line, as high T is also considered to be a marker of genetic  
101 quality, we expect the three T-related variables (2:4 finger ratio, Facial Masculinity and  
102 current T level) to have a positive impact on defection rates. Effects in this direction  
103 have been previously observed in other games [61]. However, it has been pro-social  
104 behaviour has also been observed in people with low 2D:4D [61,62]. Because of this, it  
105 is difficult to predict specifically what will be the sign of the effect on the PDG of the

106 exposure to high T at these three different stages [31], although it is likely that 2D:4D  
107 will display some effect [61].

108

## 109 **2. Methods**

### 110 *2.1. Participants*

111 The experiment was carried out in Edinburgh and Madrid. 160 students  
112 participated in the experimental sessions. We discarded answers from non-white  
113 students because we calculated facial masculinity by comparing each student  
114 photograph with an average image obtained from 50 photos of white female students  
115 (the most common racial group in our subject pool). In total, we employed 147 self-  
116 reported white students, 78 in Spain and 69 in Scotland. They were aged from 17 to 30,  
117 with the Spanish students ( $21.04 \pm 2.45$ ; mean  $\pm$  SD) being significantly older ( $t_{145} = 4.534$ ,  
118  $p < 0.001$ ) than the Scottish ( $19.52 \pm 1.39$ ). Based on self reports, 139 subjects were  
119 heterosexuals and 8 were homosexual. Written consent was obtained from all  
120 participants and the collection of photographs, hand-scans and saliva was approved by  
121 the relevant ethics committees at each institution.

122

### 123 *2.2. Experimental procedure*

124 The experiments were performed employing the z-Tree 3.2.10 software for  
125 Economics Experiments [65]. The experiments were run in sessions with less than 20  
126 subjects. In order to avoid unexpected effects on participants' behaviour [59] all the  
127 experiments were tracked by the (male) authors. Before each session, all subjects were  
128 carefully instructed about the experiment and their photographs, hand-scans and saliva  
129 samples were taken. All the subjects filled a questionnaire asking their age, ethnicity,  
130 sexual orientation and degree. This study was part of a larger one that included several

131 other items. Apart from the show-up fee (£5 in Edinburgh, 5€ in Madrid), subjects were  
132 told that their final payment would depend upon their choices in several but not all of  
133 the items in the questionnaire. They were informed of which ones counted for payment  
134 only after the experiment concluded. Each experimental session took about an hour.  
135 Subjects were paid privately in cash after the session and after they filled the  
136 corresponding official receipt.

137         The PDG that subjects played was a one-shot game with two available strategies,  
138 “Cooperate” and “Defect”. If the two players choose “Cooperate” they both get 90  
139 points, if both defect they both get 30 points. If they choose different actions, the one  
140 who cooperates gets 10 points and the one who defects obtains 160 points. Hence both  
141 players choosing “Defect” constitutes the unique Nash Equilibrium of the PDG. This  
142 strategy profile is also a Dominant Strategy Equilibrium, since “Defect” is a dominant  
143 strategy for both players. Subjects were asked which strategy they believed that their  
144 hypothetical counterpart would choose and also which action they would take.

145

### 146 *2.3. Masculinity and FA Measurement*

147         Full frontal facial colour photographs were taken of all participants with an  
148 Olympus E-500 digital camera with resolution 3264x2448 in JPEG format under  
149 standardized light conditions. The camera distance was kept constant at 3m and the  
150 zoom was completely opened to avoid slight optical distortion of true facial shape.  
151 Participants were asked to remove any facial adornment, to pose with a neutral  
152 expression and to look directly into the camera. We took three images of each  
153 participant in order to choose the best one for our purposes. Facial measures, as  
154 masculinity or FA, were calculated from the photographs using geometric  
155 morphometric tools [66]. The shape of each face was defined by manually setting 39



156 predetermined points called landmarks (LM). These 39 points (Figure 1) were chosen  
157 because they can be unambiguously identified in every photo. This ensures that they  
158 mark positions which rigorously correspond, in a biological or perceptual ground, to the  
159 same position in every face [67]. The LMs were placed twice, once by each author,  
160 which makes possible to assess any measurement error.

161 We employed these LMs to calculate the Procrustes distance between pairs of  
162 rotated and scaled images [67] using the TPS software package (by F.J. Rohlf, see  
163 <http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/morph/>). To calculate the asymmetry of each image, we  
164 compared the LM position of each face and a mirror-image of the same one, measuring  
165 the Procrustes distance between both LM positions [68]. FA can be understood as a  
166 deviation of the “perfect” symmetry or, as it is commonly considered, as an individual  
167 deviation from the average (directional) asymmetry. In this context the asymmetry of a  
168 bilateral object is attributable partially to directional asymmetry (differences in the  
169 population between average right and left size) and partially to fluctuating asymmetry  
170 (deviation of each individual’s asymmetry from the overall average asymmetry). We  
171 obtained FA by decomposing the Procrustes distance between each image and its mirror  
172 reflecting in directional and fluctuating asymmetry by employing the Procrustes  
173 ANOVA method. The latter method characterizes the shape of an object (the faces) as a  
174 single geometric object. Because calculation of Procrustes coordinates is based on the  
175 algebra of sums of squares, individual deviations from the average shape can be  
176 partitioned in different components, as happens in the conventional ANOVA [69]. The  
177 classic ideas of fluctuating and directional asymmetry are applied using this alternative  
178 approach [70], where directional asymmetry corresponds to the variation introduced by  
179 the variable “side of the object”, while FA corresponds to the variation explained by the  
180 interaction between side and individual. To compute the FA of each individual we

181 employed Morpho J software (by C. P. Klingenberg. See  
182 [http://www.flywings.org.uk/MorphoJ\\_page.htm](http://www.flywings.org.uk/MorphoJ_page.htm)). The FA values obtained correlate  
183 strongly with the total asymmetry calculated for each face ( $r=0.982$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

184

185         The masculinity of the faces was measured calculating the Procrustes distance  
186 between the LMs of the male half-faces (where only 22 LM keep placed) and the LMs  
187 of a female half-face obtained by averaging 50 images of female students. With this  
188 protocol, each male presented two masculinity distances, one for each hemi-face. The  
189 measure of masculinity employed in the analyses is the average of these two distances.  
190 We employed hemi-faces to calculate the masculinity in order to avoid incorporating the  
191 measure of the symmetry of the face indirectly (given that the female average image is  
192 completely symmetrical). To perform this protocol we randomly chose one of the two  
193 possible sets of LMs (one placed by each author). Both LMs configurations are strongly  
194 correlated ( $r=0.998$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). Masculinity understood as the difference in shape  
195 between standard male and female faces has been widely employed in order to generate  
196 feminized and masculinized faces [71,72].

197

#### 198 *2.4. Digit Ratio Measurement*

199         Participants' right hands were scanned with an Hp psc 2110 scanner with a  
200 resolution of 600x1200 ppi. The second and fourth digits were measured from the  
201 centre of the flexion crease proximal to the palm to the top of the digit. This is a  
202 commonly accepted way to calculate 2D:4D [31,61,67]. To measure the fingers both  
203 authors independently placed a LM in each of the described positions and both lengths  
204 were measured afterwards. The placing of LMs and the measures were done with the  
205 appropriate utility of the TPS morphometric free software package. The two

206 measurements of 2D:4D were highly correlated ( $r = 0.96$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ,  $N = 147$ ). The  
207 measure employed in the analysis was their average. In some cases, it was necessary to  
208 repeat the hand scanning because the image was unsuitable for correct measuring. We  
209 measured lengths in pixels up to two decimal places.

210

### 211 *2.5. Salivary T Measurement*

212 Current T was measured from saliva provided only by the subjects in Madrid,  
213 following the protocol suggested by previous studies [73]. Saliva samples were taken  
214 from each participant 30 minutes upon arrival in order to be sure that they have not  
215 eaten, drunk or brushed their teeth just before saliva sampling. All samples were  
216 collected between 11:00 and 13:00, and participants were asked to spit through a straw  
217 into a saliva sampling device (SALI-TUBES 100, DRG). No significant differences in T  
218 concentrations were found between subjects as a function of the hour in which the  
219 samples were collected. Saliva samples were immediately centrifuged, frozen and stored  
220 at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . At the end of the collection period, all samples were assayed employing T  
221 assays commercially available kits (Salivary T ELISA kit from DRG Diagnostics). Two  
222 kits were employed successively, and the sample concentrations used in the analyses are  
223 the averages of the duplicates. Inter-assay coefficients of variation were 14.26% and the  
224 intra-assay coefficient of variation was 10.87%. One of the saliva samples was  
225 discarded because it presented visible blood contamination. We were unable to obtain  
226 measures from two other subjects because there was not enough volume of sample to  
227 duplicate the measure.

228

### 229 *2.6. Statistics*

230 We tested the normality of all our variables with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.  
231 Salivary T and 2D:4D are normally distributed, but we had to log transform FA and  
232 masculinity after multiplying them by 100 (in order to avoid negative values that could  
233 interfere with the interpretation of their effects). To analyze the results we employed  
234 two-tailed Student-t tests. We also employed logistic regressions to analyze the effect of  
235 several independent variables on our dichotomous dependent variable (“Cooperate” or  
236 “Defect”). We employed SPSS12 for all the statistical analyses.

237

### 238 **3. Results**

239 Table 1 presents descriptive statistics for each variable. The t tests show that  
240 participants in each city do not differ in 2D:4D ( $t_{145}=0.263$ ,  $p=0.793$ ), FA ( $t_{145}=0.657$ ,  
241  $p=0.512$ ) or facial masculinity ( $t_{145}=1.426$ ,  $p=0.156$ ). There exist age differences  
242 between both groups (see methods). We have found that Spanish subjects cooperate  
243 more often (62.82%) than the Scottish (42.03%;  $\chi^2_1=6.355$ ,  $p=0.012$ ). City was therefore  
244 used as a control variable in all further analyses.

245 No correlation was found between any combination of the three variables (FA,  
246 masculinity and 2D:4D) and age, except for a significant correlation between  
247 masculinity and FA ( $r=0.320$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

248 Table 1 provides average measures of participants depending on whether they  
249 chose “Cooperate” or not, and the significance of the differences across these two  
250 groups. Participants who cooperated had significantly higher FA values than those who  
251 did not.

252 In order to simultaneously evaluate the effect of all the variables on cooperative  
253 behaviour we built a logistic regression model including City as a control variable, FA,  
254 and Masculinity. We also included 2D:4D and its second order term, in order to

255 correctly account for the non-linear effect of this variable [61]. The resulting model  
256 was significant (see Table 2). We found a highly significant effect of FA on  
257 cooperation. That is, men with higher FA levels tend to cooperate more in the PDG. We  
258 also found a significant effect of 2D:4D and its second term, positive and negative  
259 respectively, implying that men with intermediate values of 2D:4D are more likely to  
260 cooperate. Moreover, the model including solely 2D:4D and its second order term was  
261 also significant (see Table 2). These both effects can be roughly observed if we divided  
262 the sample into blocks. When we divide the sample in two equal-sized blocks according  
263 to FA, participants who presented high values of FA cooperated more often (61.12%)  
264 than low FA participants (45.34%). On the other hand, if the sample is divided in three  
265 equal-sized blocks according to 2D:4D, it is possible to observe that participants who  
266 showed an intermediate value of 2D:4D (the intermediate third of them) tend to  
267 cooperate more often (67.35%), whereas participants with low or high values cooperate  
268 less frequently (45.10% and 46.81% respectively).

269       As FA and masculinity correlates, we built a model excluding masculinity given  
270 that we found no differences in masculinity between those participants who cooperated  
271 and those who did not (see Table 2). In order to account for possible interactions  
272 between the variables (FA, 2D:4D, masculinity), we run several models including  
273 interacting terms but none of them were significant (not shown).

274

275       Another variable that can affect cooperation is the expected behaviour of the  
276 counterpart (EB). This variable is strongly significant (see Table 2) and its inclusion in  
277 our model renders City and FA insignificant, implying that these two variables are  
278 somehow related to EB. The participants who thought that the other part will cooperate

279 show higher FA than the rest ( $t_{145}=2.011$ ,  $p=0.046$ ) while no differences were found in  
280 City ( $\chi^2_1=3.183$ ,  $p=0.074$ ).

281 Salivary T levels were only measured for the Spanish subjects, and not for all of  
282 them ( $n=75$ ). Salivary T did not correlate with 2D:4D ( $r=-0.146$ ,  $p=0.210$ ), facial  
283 masculinity ( $r=0.069$ ,  $p=0.555$ ) nor FA ( $r=-0.087$ ,  $p=0.465$ ). We found no differences  
284 in Salivary T levels between participants who cooperated and those who did not (see  
285 Table 1). A model including only these 75 participants displays exactly the same  
286 features as the model that included all the participants, that is, the positive effect of FA  
287 on cooperation and that subjects with intermediate 2D:4D values tend to be more  
288 cooperative (see Table 2). The model that includes Salivary T is also statistically  
289 significant, but not the variable itself.

290

#### 291 **4. Discussion**

292 The objective of this study is to analyze the relationship between cooperative  
293 behaviour in the PDG and a set of individual characteristics, some of them related to the  
294 exposure to T during life. Our results show a link between two of these characteristics,  
295 FA and 2D:4D, and cooperative behaviour. Participants who showed an intermediate  
296 value of 2D:4D tend to cooperate more often, while the participants with high FA also  
297 cooperate more. These results are in line with the results obtained in other studies  
298 [38,58-60]. We found no relationship between cooperation in the PDG and current  
299 (salivary) T nor facial masculinity (our proxy for T exposure during puberty).

300 No previous studies have attempted to explore the link between FA and  
301 cooperation, although the relevance of FA in other behaviours is well known [55-58].  
302 On the other hand, very few studies have analyzed the effect of T on cooperation,  
303 although its effects on human behaviour have been extensively investigated

304 [8,24,28,31,74]. The closest contributions to ours have studied the effect of these two  
305 variables on the Ultimatum Game [58-60,75]. The Ultimatum Game (UG) is not  
306 normally considered as a game of cooperation because it does not contain a fundamental  
307 tension between social and private incentives. Still, some authors have used it as an  
308 approximation to the cooperative interactions that occur during hunting [76]. Under this  
309 interpretation, a dominant individual tries to obtain the cooperation of another one in  
310 order to hunt, and proposes a division of the expected catch. The non-dominant  
311 individual can accept or reject that proposal. Rejection means that no catch is obtained.  
312 Note that, contrary to what happens in the PDG, social and private incentives are  
313 aligned when the second individual has to make a choice.

314         In the UG, males with low 2D:4D (presumably exposed to high T/E ratio in  
315 utero) have higher minimum acceptable offers, although there is no described relation  
316 between this variable and the offers made [59,60]. On the other hand, males with low  
317 FA (that is, more symmetric) make lower offers, although there is no described relation  
318 between this variable and the likelihood of rejection [58]. Our results are in line with  
319 these studies, as FA affects males' behaviour in the PDG by influencing the estimation  
320 that players have about the choice of the other player, similarly to what occurs in the  
321 UG (where symmetry affects offers, which in turn are an indirect measure of the  
322 expected probability of acceptance). Symmetric males thus tend to believe that their  
323 counterpart will defect and behave accordingly. This is in line with previous studies that  
324 have observed that symmetric males tend to cooperate less frequently because of their  
325 superior phenotypic quality [58]. Given their higher ability in obtaining resources,  
326 males with low FA do not need to be, nor look as cooperative as males with high FA,  
327 and then cooperate less. This is however at odds with other experiments in which more  
328 attractive subjects trust others more in a Trust Game [39]. This can be explained if we

329 bear in mind that attractiveness does not only depend on FA [34] and that in that  
330 experiment the subject pool was composed by males and females, and they tend to  
331 evaluated attractiveness attending to different features [77]. In any case the PDG and the  
332 Trust Game are very different games. In the Trust Game, as the second players acts after  
333 the first have trusted (or not), “leading by example” can have an important effect. This  
334 is not possible in the PDG because it is simultaneous. Symmetric males may then trust  
335 because of their self-confidence and because they may attempt to obtain higher status by  
336 leading cooperation.

337         We also find that individuals with lower 2D:4D, (exposed to higher T level in  
338 utero) tend to defect more, in the same line as in the UG [59,60]. This does not coincide  
339 completely with the results obtained in studies that explored the relationship between  
340 individual characteristics and contributions in a public good game [61]. They find that  
341 individuals which did not cooperate or behaved altruistically (that is, they contributed  
342 more than what the social norm dictates) show high 2D:4D, although these effects were  
343 not statistically significant in men. In our experiment, cooperation is just a dichotomous  
344 variable while in the public good game cooperation is a spectrum (i.e., the amount of  
345 the contribution). Our experimental design is thus simpler and can offer cleaner results  
346 but this comes at the price of limiting the richness of possible behaviours. We find, as  
347 these authors do, that low 2D:4D subjects are less likely to behave altruistically (tend to  
348 cooperate less often in our game). However, their conjecture that subjects with low  
349 2D:4D tend to adhere to social norms cannot explain our results, since defecting is  
350 unlikely to be the social norm in PDG. In our case, self-sufficiency in obtaining  
351 resources can explain the behaviour of subjects with low 2D:4D. This point of view is  
352 in line with another study on cooperation in which more attractive males tended to  
353 cooperate less [38]. As we have already mentioned, we cannot assume that our more



354 symmetric or masculine subjects will be identified as the more attractive because this is  
355 a trait affected by many other variables [34]. In any case, our results go in the same  
356 direction as those.

357         Another interesting result is that individuals with high 2D:4D, that is, those less  
358 exposed to T in utero, tend to cooperate less often. This result has not been observed in  
359 any previous analysis and it is thus difficult explain within the domain of usual  
360 explanations. Unlike FA, 2D:4D has no impact on the behaviour that players expect  
361 from their counterparts. Hence, the lack of cooperation of these subjects cannot be  
362 attributed to their beliefs. This is an interesting result that we plan to explore properly in  
363 our future research. The significant differences in cooperation rates between Edinburgh  
364 and Madrid show that behaviour in PDG, as most human behaviours, is strongly  
365 affected by cultural constraints. But the biological features also have an important  
366 effect. Biological individual characteristics remain strongly significant after we control  
367 for cultural differences in our logistic model, and also when we restrict the analysis to  
368 only the Spanish subjects (see Table 2).

369         In our study, two other variables that could potentially affect cooperative  
370 behaviour, like facial masculinity and current T, display no effect. It is well known that  
371 the current level of T is linked to aggressiveness and status-seeking behaviour [8,28]. In  
372 addition, facial masculinity might have shown an effect as it is considered as a signal of  
373 genetic fitness according to the “immunocompetence handicap hypothesis” [79]. We  
374 have found no relationship between these variables and cooperation in the PDG. Hence,  
375 based on these lacks of effect we conclude that cooperation in PDG is not understood as  
376 a challenge [29,80] and that the aversion to a possible breakdown of cooperation cannot  
377 be equated to the standard concept of risk aversion [31]. It is interesting that the  
378 exposure to T in some periods of life seems to have an impact on certain types of

379 behaviour, like risk aversion [31], but not in others, like the ones we investigate in this  
380 study. This suggests that exposure to T influences behaviour in very diverse ways. The  
381 different effects of the levels of T during development and the links between the  
382 behaviours that seem to be affected by the hormone also deserve further experiments.  
383 To perform such studies it would be necessary to test the same pool of subjects in  
384 different economic experiments after controlling for all these variables. In the same line,  
385 to ensure that developmental instability is behind facial FA, it will be necessary  
386 complement further data on cooperation and FA with measures in some others bilateral  
387 traits. In addition, it would be necessary to extend the experiments by employing  
388 women and non-students as subjects, enlarging thus the range of age and occupations.

389

#### 390 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

391

392 The authors acknowledge the financial support of the Abbey/Santander Research Fund  
393 and thank I. Monedero, M. Pita and M. Losada for their help with the experiments, J.  
394 Marugan and C.P. Klingenberg for their help with Geometric Morphometry and FA  
395 measures and to R. Forshaw for her constructive comments on the paper.

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575

**Tables**

576

	<b>TOTAL<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Defect</b>	<b>Cooperate</b>		
<b>Age (yr)<sup>b</sup></b>	20.327±2.115	20.014±1.898	20.603±2.337	$t_{145}=-1.661$	p=0.099
<b>2:4 finger ratio<sup>b</sup></b>	0.962±0.030	0.965±0.036	0.959±0.025	$t_{145}=1.097$	p=0.274
<b>Fluctuating Asymmetry<sup>b</sup></b>	0.035±0.013	0.032±0.012	0.037±0.014	$t_{145}=-2.473$	p=0.015
<b>Facial masculinity<sup>b</sup></b>	0.098±0.022	0.098±0.024	0.098±0.020	$t_{145}=-0.055$	p=0.956
<b>Salivary T (pg/ml)<sup>c</sup></b>	135.997±26.124	132.322±28.057	138.186±24.954	$t_{73}=-0.940$	p=0.351

577

578 **Table 1.**579 ***Mean values of variables in the total population and according to participants' choice***580 <sup>a</sup> Data are the mean (±SD)581 <sup>b</sup> In our whole population, 69 individuals defected and 78 cooperated.582 <sup>c</sup> Salivary T was only measured in the experimental sessions performed in Madrid, where 28

583 individuals defected and 47 cooperated.

584

Variables in the model	MODEL				VARIABLE				
	-2LL	Likelihood Ratio Test	df	p	variables	coef	Wald	df	P
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup></i>	193.048	10.186	2	0.006	Constant	-414.551	7.308	1	0.007
					2D:4D	865.059	7.392	1	0.007
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-450.728	7.466	1	0.006
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup>, FA, Masculinity, City</i>	179.952	23.282	5	<0.001	Constant	-441.869	7.101	1	0.008
					2D:4D	921.353	7.198	1	0.007
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-480.065	7.287	1	0.007
					FA	1.464	7.048	1	0.008
					Masculinity	-0.806	0.892	1	0.345
City	0.859	5.593	1	0.018					
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup>, FA, City</i>	180.858	22.376	4	<0.001	Constant	-447.523	165.366	1	0.007
					2D:4D	929.505	342.558	1	0.007
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-484.184	177.413	1	0.006
					FA	1.317	0.528	1	0.013
					City	0.810	0.357	1	0.023
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup>, FA, City, EB</i>	120.438	82.796	5	<0.001	Constant	-557.024	7.007	1	0.008
					2D:4D	1165.062	7.122	1	0.008
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-607.991	7.220	1	0.007
					FA	0.959	2.444	1	0.118
					City	0.672	2.111	1	0.146
					EB	-3.307	41.259	1	<0.001
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup>, FA</i>	90.766	12.179	3	0.007	Constant	-582.708	5.329	1	0.021
					2D:4D	1208.706	5.379	1	0.020
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-627.815	5.446	1	0.020
					FA	1.709	5.781	1	0.016
<i>2D:4D, (2D:4D)<sup>2</sup>, FA, Current T</i>	86.483	12.623	4	0.013	Constant	-572.817	4.432	1	0.035
					2D:4D	1181.555	4.426	1	0.035
					(2D:4D) <sup>2</sup>	-612.624	4.459	1	0.035
					FA	1.860	6.514	1	0.011
					Current T	0.014	1.884	1	0.170

ALL PARTICIPANTS

MADRID

585

586 **Table 2.**587 *Logistic models for the whole sample and for the Spanish subjects.*

588 The variables included are 2D:4D (second to fourth finger ratio) FA (fluctuating

589 asymmetry), Masculinity (facial masculinity), Current T (current salivary T) and EB

590 (expected behaviour of the counterpart).

591 **Figures**

592

593 **Figure 1.**

594 *Landmarks placement .*

595 A) An average face with the 39 landmarks placed. B) All 147 landmarks configurations

596 superimposed after Procrustes Fit. These coordinates are the basis for all FA

597 calculations.

598