In the space of one generation major changes have begun to take place in the field of human reproduction. A rapid increase in the control of fertility, and the understanding and treatment of sexual health issues, has been accompanied by an emerging threat to reproductive function linked to increasing environmental pollution and dramatic changes in lifestyle.

Organised around four key themes, this book provides a valuable review of some of the most important recent findings in human reproductive ecology. Major topics include the impact of the environment on reproduction; the role of physical activity and energetics in regulating reproduction; sexual maturation and ovulation assessment; and demographic, health and family planning issues. Both theoretical and practical issues are covered, including the evolution and importance of the menopause and the various statistical methods by which researchers can analyse characteristics of the menstrual cycle in field studies.

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Reproduction and Adaptation

Edited by

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The Second Parkes Foundation Workshop
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The Second Parkes Foundation Workshop was held in Cambridge in September 2007. The Foundation is a charity formed to promote the study of the biosocial sciences, i.e. the interdisciplinary area between biology and sociology, the publication of the results of such studies and to support related charitable activities of an educational or scientific nature. Each year it supports six to eight Masters and PhD students in their field studies.

The theme of the First Parkes Foundation Workshop was Human Adaptability. Here in the second volume the focus is on Reproduction and Adaptation in which four themes are explored: reproduction and the environment, energetics and adaptation, sexual maturation and ovulation assessment, and demography, health and fertility.

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