

《经济学家》读译参考：袍泽之情 - 哥哥多少影响男孩性取向 PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/254/2021_2022__E3_80_8A_E7_BB_8F_E6_B5_8E_E5_c67_254418.htm Brothers in arms袍泽之情RAY BLANCHARD, a researcher at Torontos Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, was reviewing some data a few years ago when he noticed something odd: gay men seemed to have more older brothers than straight men. 几年前，多伦多毒瘾与心理健康中心研究员雷布朗夏尔在回顾一些数据时注意到一个奇怪的现象同性恋男子的哥哥似乎比异性恋男子多。Intrigued and sceptical he decided to investigate. He recruited 302 gay men and the same number of heterosexual controls and inquired about their families. How many siblings[1] did they have, _____ what sex, and how had the births been spaced? How old had their parents been when they had had them? Dr Blanchard found that only one detail seemed to predict sexual orientation: the more elder brothers a man had, the more likely he was to be gay. (1) Neither elder sisters nor younger siblings of either sex had any effect, but each additional elder brother increased his chance of being gay by about 33% from the population average of one man in 50. 由于对此感到好奇和怀疑，他决定做个调查。他招募了302名同性恋男子和一样多的异性恋男子，并问及一些与家庭有关的问题：有几个兄弟，几个姐妹，前后出生间隔多长时间？出生时父母多大年龄？布朗夏尔博士发现，预示性取向的似乎只有一个细节：哥哥越多，成为同性恋的可能性就越大。姐姐以及弟妹的数量对某人的性取向没有任何影响。一般而言，平均50个男人中就

有1人可能成为同性恋，每多一位哥哥，此人成为同性恋的可能性就增加33%左右。（译者注：这句有些费解，我的理解是：from the population average of one man in 50中的“from”与前面的“increase”相对应，也就是在此基础上增加了33%。这个基础就是指“平均每50个男人中就有一人可能成为同性恋”，这是一般而言的，如果这“一个”人多一位哥哥，他成为同性恋的可能性就增加33%，也就是这个“50分之一”发生的可能性增加33%。有点乱，仅供参考。）It was a rather perplexing discovery. It implied either that being brought _____ with a lot of elder brothers affects a boys sexual orientation, or that a mothers body is somehow able to keep count of how many sons she has conceived, and that this count affects the orientation of future children. (2) Hard as it was to explain, though, the finding was replicated again and again, across different cultures, eras and even psychiatric groups.这一发现很是令人费解。它意味着和许多哥哥一起成长会影响某个男孩的性取向，抑或是指母体有可能计下了其曾经孕育的男孩数，而这一计数过程则会影响后出生男孩的性取向。这一现象虽难解释，但是在不同文化、不同时期甚至不同心理状况的人身上都得到了反复再现。Those who argued for a social explanation suggested that having lots of elder brothers makes a boy more likely to engage _____ same-sex play, and might also increase the chance he is a victim of sexual abuse. But, regardless of whether either of these conjectures[2] is true, neither playing with other boys nor sexual abuse has been scientifically linked to homosexuality. 那些认为应该从社会学角度解释这一现象的人指出，哥哥多会

使得一个男孩与同性别的人在一起玩耍的可能性加大，也更有可能是成为不正当性行为的受害者。不过，不管这两个猜测哪一个正确，从科学的角度看，同别的男孩一起玩耍或者不正当性行为都与同性恋毫无关联。Anthony Bogaert of Brock University in St Catharines, Ontario, therefore decided to examine the other hypothesis that the phenomenon is caused by something that happens in the womb. He has just published his results in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. 因此，安大略省圣卡他林斯布罗克大学的安东尼博加尔特决定验证一下另一个假说，亦即此现象是由子宫中发生的某种情况所引起的，其验证结果刚刚发表在《国家科学院学报》上。Dr Bogaert reasoned that if the effect were social, elder brothers would wield[3] the same power even if they had not been born _____ the same mother. Lots of half- or step-siblings, or adopted brothers, for instance, would also cause their younger brothers to be gay. On the other hand, if the effect were really due to birth order, biological brothers would make their younger brothers more likely to be gay even if they did not grow up together. indeed, even if the younger boy grew up without any older boys around at all. 博加尔特推论，如果影响来自社会生活，哥哥们即便不是出生自同一个母亲，也会对其弟弟造成同样的影响。例如，许多同父异母或被收养的哥哥也能导致其弟弟成为同性恋。从另一点看，如果影响来自出生顺序，那么嫡亲哥哥更可能使其弟弟成为同性恋，就算他们不是在一起长大，亦即年纪小的男孩成长过程中周围没有任何年长男孩。Dr Bogaert collected a new sample of several hundred men, this time specifically

recruiting those who had grown up with “ brothers ” to whom they were not biologically related. He collected information on how long they had been reared with each sibling, as well as about biological siblings _____ whom they had been separated. 博尔加特集中研究了另外700名男子，此次专门招募了那些未曾和与自己有血缘关系的“哥哥”一起成长的人。他收集了他们与每一个兄弟共同被抚养的时间以及是否有亲兄弟但被隔离开来等有关资料。 He found that only the number of biological elder brothers had an impact on a later-born boys sexual orientation. non-biological siblings had no effect. This was true even when a boy had grown up surrounded by an enormous gaggle[4] of non-biological elder brothers. (3) By contrast, elder brothers raised in a separate household “ influenced ” their younger brothers sexual orientation in exactly the same way as they would have done had they been living with them. 他发现，仅亲哥哥的数量对后出生男孩的性取向有影响，而非亲兄弟则没有。就算一个男孩成长中周围有一大群嬉笑打闹的非亲哥哥也是如此。相比之下，生在兄弟彼此分离的家庭环境中的哥哥对其弟弟性取向的影响，实际上同与之共同生活时一样。 Like many of the best pieces of research, this one raises questions, as well as answering them. One is, how does the mothers body keep count of how many sons she has conceived? A second is, how does that change the environment in the womb? A third is, how does that change affect sexual orientation? And a fourth is, is this an accidental effect, or has it evolved for some reason?像众多杰出的研究一样，这一研究在提出问题的同时也解决了问题。第一个问题是，

母体如何数怀孕过男孩的数目？其二是，这样会造成子宫发生何种改变？其三是，这种改变如何影响性取向？第四个问题是，这种影响是偶然性的，还是出于某种发育进化上的原因？To these questions, Dr Bogaert has no answers, though in some cases he has his suspicions. He speculates that, for reasons as yet unknown, a mother's immune system takes note of the number of male offspring and that each succeeding male fetus is subjected to increased levels of antibodies. These somehow affect its development. (4) Clearly, something strange is going on, because things other than sexual orientation are also affected by birth order. Boys with elder brothers are also likely to have larger-than-normal placentas while in the womb. And despite that apparent nutritional advantage (for a larger placenta should be able to draw more food from the mother's bloodstream), they are also likely to have lower birth-weights than would otherwise be expected. 博加尔特博士并没有回答这些问题，但就某些个案提出了自己的猜想。他推测，由于一些尚不为人知的原因，母体免疫系统可监测男性子代的数量，并且升高的抗体水平会影响每一个后孕男胎。这些对胎儿的发育会有一些影响。不过显然，出生顺序并不单单会影响性取向，因此奇怪的现象层出不穷，比方说，有哥哥的男孩在子宫中的胎盘可能比正常大，而且，尽管具有明显的营养优势（因为大胎盘能从母体血流中摄取更多的养料），他们出生时的体重仍可能比预计的要轻。(5) Dr Blanchard, meanwhile, calculates that about one gay man in seven can chalk his orientation up to having elder brothers. But _____ the question of whether there is some evolutionary advantage for a

mother who has many sons to include a gay one among them, neither he nor Dr Bogaert has an answer. 与此同时，布朗夏尔统计发现，大约七分之一的同性恋男子认为其性取向与自己有哥哥有关。（译者注：chalk sth. up to是指“把……记在……”，引申为“把……归因于”）但是，至于是否存在某种进化优势而使得多子母亲的儿子中出现一个同性恋，无论他还是博尔加特博士，均未给出答案。[QUIZ]1. 选择适当的介词或副词填入文中空白处： a. from b. with c. of d. by a. about b. forth c. out d. up a. in b. on c. with d. for a. by b. from c. to d. in a. by b. from c. to d. with a. for b. with c. on d. to 2. 汉译英（根据译文提示和上下文，在空白处填入相应英文）：[NOTES]1. sibling n. 兄弟姐妹 2. conjecture n. 推断；臆说；猜测 3. wield v. 行使权力，施加影响；挥舞 4. gaggle n. （吵闹的）一群人；鹅群 [KEY TO QUIZ] 1. c (of what sex 性别) ; d (bring up 抚养长大) ; a (engage in 从事于) ; c (to) ; b (be separated from) ; d (an answer to) 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com