

Men and Women, Gay and Straight

Dr. Jody Davis, Fall 2011

Ch 4

- Quiz grades posted
- Paper due Sept. 22
- Buy *Science of Relationships* book on campus
- New outlines will appear
- Attendance

Sex and Gender

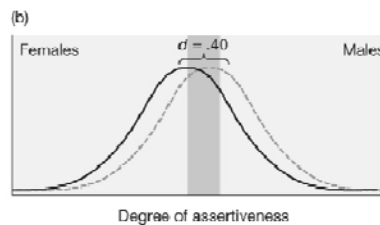
- Thinking Outside the Boxes (read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 153)
- **Biological sex:** physically a man or woman
- **Psychological gender or sex-role orientation:** traits associated with each biological sex

Sex Differences, Sex Similarities

- There are some sex and gender differences, but conventional wisdom overestimates them
- *Meta-analyses* summarize the results of many studies.
 - Males and females show overlapping distributions on traits.
 - Some males are more aggressive than some females, for instance.
 - However, not all males are more aggressive than all females.



"For one million dollars, what have I been talking about for the past ten minutes: the upcoming election, my mother, my job, or an article in the Home section about kitchen makeovers?"



- Males tend to be more:
 - physically aggressive
 - sexually permissive
 - interested in partner's physical appearance
 - assertive
- Females tend to be more:
 - expressive about their emotions
 - interested in partner's social class
 - sensitive to emotions and others' needs

- Men and Women Looking for Love Online (read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 162)

The "Nature" Explanation: Sex Differences from the Inside Out

- The Evolutionary Perspective (note that this is from Ch 3)
 - Goal of human behavior is to maximize transmission of genes
 - "The mind is a set of information-processing machines that were designed by natural selection to solve adaptive problems faced by our hunter-gatherer ancestors."
 - Cosmides & Tooby (1997), p. 1

- Men and women have biological differences
 - **Women:** higher biological investment in offspring b/c limited capacity to reproduce
 - **Men:** unlimited capacity to reproduce
- Biological differences lead to different **strategies** in mate selection

- **Theory of Parental Investment** (Trivers, 1972)
 - The sex that invests more in offspring will evolve to be more choosy about mating
 - Men 1.5 times more likely than women to send a first-contact email after viewing online dating profiles (Hitsch et al., 2009)
- Spotlight on The Scent of a Man (read in Bradbury & Karney, p. 102)

Buss (1989) study

Tested sex differences in 37 cultures

| Women | Men |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • 36/37 earning potential | • 37/37 younger women |
| • 34/37 ambition & industriousness | • 34/37 physical attractiveness |

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Schmitt et al. (2003)

- 52 countries
- Men would like to have more sexual partners
- Men more likely to have sex after knowing partner 1 mon
- Men more likely to seek short-term partners

Clark & Hatfield (1989) 3 Qs Study

- Confederates approached opposite-sex students
 - “I’ve been noticing you around campus . . .”
 - Asked 1 of 3 questions

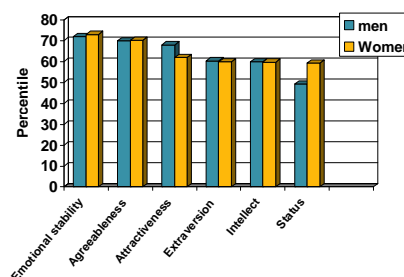
| | Men | Women |
|-----------|-----|-------|
| Go Out | 50% | 50% |
| Apartment | 69% | 6% |
| Bed | 75% | 0% |

Women are more choosy - Why?

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- Conley (2010) – cut from outline, will not be on test
- **Intrasexual Competition** – how to women/men compete with each other for partners?

Minimum standards for marriage partner (Kenrick et al., 1993)



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The “Nurture” Explanation: Sex Differences from the Outside In

- Social Structural Theory (Eagly & Wood, 1999)
 - socialization of what’s “appropriate” for each sex
 - ex. Parents respond more positively to girls who ask for help (compared to boys)

- Empathic Accuracy
 - Women more skilled at interpreting nonverbal behavior.
 - Ability or motivation??
 - With proper *motivation* (payment, told it would increase their romantic appeal), men are just as skilled as women! (Eisenberg & Lemmon, 1983; Thomas & Maio, 2008)

Speed Dating Role Reversal

- Finkel and Eastwick (2009)
 - Norm of men initiating relationships
 - Common finding is that women are more selective than men
 - Speed-dating study
 - IV: Men vs. women in rotating (approaching) role
 - DV: Romantic desire
 - When women were in the approach role, they were less selective in their attraction to potential partners (and men were more selective)

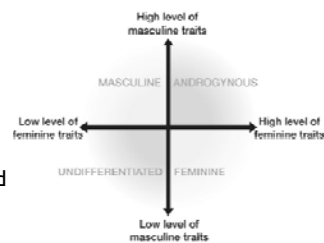
Sex Role Identity: Finding the Individuals in the Categories

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Does not Describe Me Definitely Describes Me

1. Assertive
2. Analytical
3. Independent
4. Loyal
5. Warm
6. Shy

Bem Sex-role Inventory

- Extent to which people have attributes that stereotypically are associated with each sex



- Masculine
- Feminine
- Androgynous
- Undifferentiated

- Androgynous style
 - Greater self-disclosure
 - Higher relationship satisfaction and adjustment
- Peterson et al. (1989) comparison of clinic and non-clinic samples
 - Non-clinic: androgynous-androgynous
 - Clinic: undifferentiated-undifferentiated


Sex, Gender, and Intimacy

- Quality of Interaction (read in Bradbury & Karney, pp. 182-183)
- Relationship Dissolution and its Aftermath
 - Females more likely to:
 - Be attuned to relationship problems
 - End the relationship
 - After dissolution: females more likely to experience financial hardship; men more likely to experience emotional hardship



Gay and Lesbian Relationships

- Similarities and Differences among Gay, Lesbian, & Heterosexual Relationships
 - All relationships more similar than different
 - Homosexual rel's more equitable
 - Context (read in Bradbury & Karney, pp. 191-193)
 - Frequency of sexual behavior inside and outside the relationship (highest in gay relationships, lowest in lesbian relationships)

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- Optional Readings from Lewandowski et al.
 - Q11 *How similar or different are homosexual and heterosexual relationships?*
 - Q30 *How long should I wait before sleeping with my partner?*