Self-esteem and the Matching Hypothesis in Mate Selection

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Couples tend to have correlated attractiveness
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>Murstein (1972)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>Price &amp; Vandenberg (1979)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>Feingold (1981)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>Citelli &amp; Waid (1980)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In making a realistic social choice, an individual would choose a partner similar in attractiveness (Walster et al. 1966).
In making a realistic social choice, an individual would choose a partner similar in attractiveness (Walster et al. 1966) Based on Levels of Aspiration Theory (Lewin et al. 1944)
Dating studies show that people pursue attractive mates irrespective of their own attractiveness (Huston, 1973). These results point to *market forces* as an explanation for mate choice.
Matching Hypothesis

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Market Forces

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Accuracy of Attractiveness Ratings

- Attractiveness ratings are remarkably accurate across raters
  - Correlation of 0.9 between a single rating and the average rating of an individual (Cunningham & Wu 1995)
  - Consistent across cultures

Cunningham & Wu 1995
Accuracy of Self-Attractiveness

- The same cannot be said of self attractiveness ratings (Hall 1983)
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Women have a 0.5 correlation between their self-perceived attractiveness and the ratings of judges
The same cannot be said of self attractiveness ratings (Hall 1983

Women have a 0.5 correlation between their self-perceived attractiveness and the ratings of judges

Men have a 0.1 correlation between their self-perceived attractiveness ratings and the rates of judges
Internal Representation?

Self-evaluation and self-esteem in mate selection
Our model is based on sociometer theory (Leary 2005).
Our model is based on sociometer theory (Leary 2005) and mediates self-perceived attractiveness (Fleming & Courtney 1984).
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Mediates self-perceived attractiveness (Fleming & Courtney 1984)

Changes based on acceptance or rejection during the initiation of relationships and by dissolution of relationships (Pass et al. 2010)
Relationship dissolution depends on differences in perceived attractiveness (Walster et al. 1978)
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Supported by observations of real-world relationships (Hill et al. 1976)
Our Model

- Use market forces for coupling

Our Model

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- Successes and failures in dating modulate self-esteem
Our Model

- Use market forces for coupling
- Successes and failures in dating modulate self-esteem
- Stability of relationship based on matching hypothesis using self esteem to modulate self-perceived attractiveness
Simulation Steps

1. Existing couples are examined for a potential breakup

Agents from dissolved couples are reintegrated into the singles pool.

New couples are formed from the pool of singles.

Self-esteem changes are incorporated instantly.
Simulation Steps

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2. Agents from dissolved couples are reintegrated into the singles pool
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3. New couples are formed from the pool of singles
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2. Agents from dissolved couples are reintegrated into the singles pool
3. New couples are formed from the pool of singles
4. Self esteem changes incorporated instantly
Results

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Conclusions and Discussion

- Introducing self esteem creates more reasonable intra-couple correlations
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- Explains courtship actions and the matching effect
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- Simulation creates testable hypotheses for empirical study

Future directions:
- Evolutionary basis
- Relationship stability based on available mates in pool
- Sex specific parameters
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