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Does men's mate value predict a less restricted sociosexual orientation?

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Introduction

- Mate value (MV) is defined as the degree to which mating with that particular individual increases an opposite-sex person's reproductive success (Sugiyama, 2005).
- Sexual strategies theory and strategic pluralism theory suggest that high MV men are most able to employ their sex-typical optimal mating strategy (Buss & Schmitt, 2003).
- Males of higher genetic quality should be more likely to enact a short-term mating strategy (Gangestad & Simpson, 2000).
- Yet evidence for a relationship between men's mate value and sociosexual orientation is inconsistent.
- Some studies have found links between self-report MV and unrestricted sociosexual orientation (Back et al., 2011; Gomula et al., 2014; Lalumiere, et al., 1995; Nascimento et al., 2017; Wagstaff, et al., 2015), whereas others (typically unpublished) have not (Botnen, 2017; Raw, 2008; Znoer, 2017), and some have even found the opposite pattern (Strouts et al., 2008).
- A similar pattern of findings has emerged when examining single physiological MV traits, such as facial masculinity.
- This leaves unanswered the question of whether high MV men are more sociosexually-unrestricted than lower MV men.

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: Self-reported high MV men will score higher on unrestricted sociosexual orientation relative to lower MV men.

Hypothesis 2: Men exhibiting physiological cues to high MV (e.g., facial masculinity, dominance, and attractiveness) will score higher on unrestricted sociosexual orientation relative to lower MV men.

Method

Three archival convenience data sets were utilized:

Study 1:

Participants. 105 men aged 16 to 31 (*M* = 21, *SD* = 3.13).

Mate Value. Components of Mate Value Survey (CMVS). 22 items measure diverse mate value dimensions e.g., wealth, physical attractiveness, parenting etc (α = .84).

Method (continued)

Sociosexual Orientation. The Revised Sociosexual Orientation Inventory (SOI-R) (α = .87).

Study 2

Participants. 139 men aged 17–29 years (*M* = 20, *SD* = 2.37). The CMVS (α = .85) and the SOI-R (α = .76) were again completed, with:

Face ratings. Photos rated on physical attractiveness (α = .73) and masculinity (α = .74) by five women.

Social status. MacArthur Subjective Social Status (SSS) Scale

Study 3

Participants. 162 male students (n = 148) and community members (n = 13) aged 18 – 39 (*M* = 22, *SD* = 4.71). SOI-R (α = .84), and the four-item Mate Value Scale MVS) (α = .90).

Face ratings. Rated by eight women on attractiveness (α = .82), short-term mating interest (α = .75), and long-term mating interest (α = .76). Photos were rated by eight men for dominance (α = .71) and status (α = .81).

Results

Study 1

With all mate-value components entered into a simple linear regression model simultaneously, mate value accounted for 29.5% explained variance in SOI-R scores ($R^2_{adjusted}$).

Bivariate correlations	*1*	*2*	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. SOI-R	-----							
2. TOTAL MV	.42***	-----						
3. Desired by females	.48***	.78***	-----					
4. Parenting	-.03	.49***	.10	-----				
5. Wealth	.16	.49***	.17	.27**	-----			
6. Attractive	.26*	.46***	.24*	.25*	.40***	-----		
7. Romantic history	.06	.55***	.44***	.19	.15	.16	-----	
8. Fear of failure	.19	.23*	-.01	.04	.19	.03	.08	-----
9. Sociality	.38***	.75***	.52***	.23*	.19	.28**	.25*	.01

Study 2

With all mate-value components entered into a simple linear regression model simultaneously, mate value accounted for 35% explained variance in SOI-R scores ($R^2_{adjusted}$).

Results and Discussion

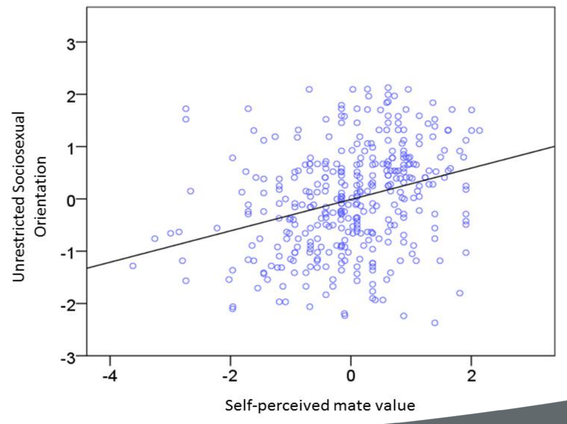
Bivariate correlations	*1*	*2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. SOI-R	-----									
2. TOTAL MV	.42***	-----								
3. Desired by females	.49***	.78***	-----							
4. Parenting	-.02	.58***	..29**	-----						
5. Wealth	.10	.41***	.19*	.18*	-----					
6. Attractive	.36***	.50***	.32***	.32***	.21*	-----				
7. Romantic history	.38***	.73***	.58***	.28**	.31***	.39***	-----			
8. Fear of failure	.21*	.32***	.07	.01	.09	.23**	.23**	-----		
9. Sociality	.24**	.71***	.43***	.32***	.16	.19*	.35***	.12	-----	
10. Face attr.	-.01	-/03	.04	.08	-.07	-.05	-.14	-.16	.02	-----
11. Face Mascu.	.17*	-.03	.02	.06	-.12	-.07	-.05	.01	-.06	.31***

Study 3

Bivariate correlations	*1*	*2*	3	4	5	6
1. SOI-R	-----					
2. TOTAL MV	.13	-----				
3. Face attr.	.28***	.30***	-----			
4. Face STM	.26**	.30***	..91***	-----		
5. Face LTM	.23**	.36***	.90***	.89***	-----	
6. Face Dominant	.29***	.29***	.72***	.67***	.64***	-----
7. Face Soc. Status	.31***	.36***	.82***	.80***	.77***	.75***

Internal Meta Analysis

Self-report total mate-value and SOI-R were standardized within their respective samples for a total sample of 370. A statistically-significant bivariate correlation was observed between mate-value and SOI-R scores, $r = .30$, $p < .001$; thus mate-value was observed to account for approximately 9% of explained variance in sociosexual orientation ($R^2_{adjusted}$). See scatterplot below:



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