

Smart and Pretty People are Nice

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Who do you think is more attractive?



Background

Do physically attractive and intelligent people judge others more harshly with respect to beauty or do they rate others as being more attractive because they are secure with their own good looks?

We sought out to compare how naturally physically attractive is a particular person after their sexiness has been removed in relation to other men (women) his (her) age?

Tennis and Dabbs (1975) conducted an experiment to determine whether males and females' attractiveness influenced their ratings of targets' attractiveness using a range of pictures.

Just like in their experiment, we studied the influence of the judge's own attractiveness on their ratings of attractiveness for targets. However, we used undergraduate students who rated people they interacted with after a brief face-to-face conversation.

In addition, we also determined how one's own intelligence affects their ratings of other's attractiveness, which had not been done before. Intelligence was measured using 3 different tests.

References

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"Hannah Murray." - Rotten Tomatoes. N.p., n.d. Web.
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Raven, J., Raven, J.C., & Court, J.H. (2003). Manual for Raven's Progressive Matrices and Vocabulary Scales. Section 1: General Overview. San Antonio, TX: Harcourt Assessment.
Tennis, G. H., and J. M. Dabbs. "Judging Physical Attractiveness: Effects of Judges' Own Attractiveness." Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin 1.3 (1975): 513-16. Print.

Hypotheses

H1: Self-rated physical attractiveness would correlate positively with mean ratings of attractiveness across a set of targets being judged.

H2: Intelligence scores of judges will correlate positively with their mean ratings of attractiveness across a set of targets.

Method

Participants were 161 undergrads at Oregon State University (57 male and 104 female) who were randomly assigned into groups of 5-7 students.

After a five-minute conversation with complete strangers, participants were asked to rate how attractive all group members were.

The judges rated both male and female targets on their attractiveness after sexy/hot has been removed.

In addition, self-perceived attractiveness was found by participants predicting anticipated sexual attraction from group members after getting to know them over ten weeks

Natural Beauty

Natural beauty is described as what is left after sexiness and hotness have been removed. A rating of 72 means this person is high in natural beauty, 1 indicates this person is low in natural beauty, 36 is average.

O _____ P _____ Q _____ R _____ S _____ T _____ U _____

Above is the score sheet for rating attractiveness

Predicting Relationships
Please answer the following questions regarding your potential relations with the other members of your group. Some of the questions may have an intimate/personal connotation, and we ask that you please answer the questions as honestly as possible. The members of your group will not know how you rate them.

CIRCLE 1 - 8

On the last day of class... Not At All Very Much

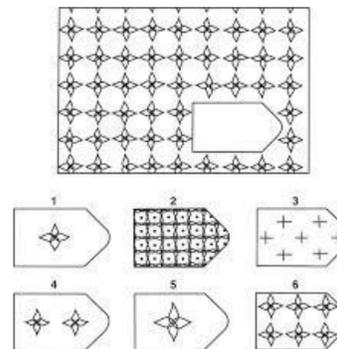
7) How sexually attracted will I be to you? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

The above image comes from a section of the 5 minute interaction given to the group members

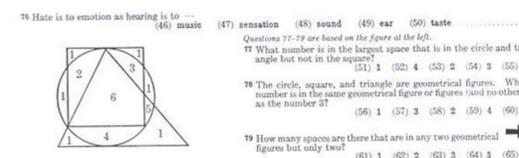
- To measure intelligence, participants took 3 intelligence tests. The Ravens Progressive Matrices examines analytic skills nonverbally, the Otis Quick Scoring Mental Ability Test is a general IQ test, and the vocabulary test assesses verbal aptitude. Scores on these tests were standardized and combined.

Examples of Intelligence Tests

1) Ravens Progressive Matrices



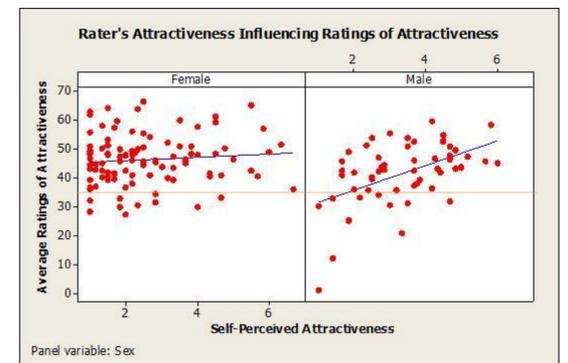
2) Otis IQ test



3) Vocabulary test

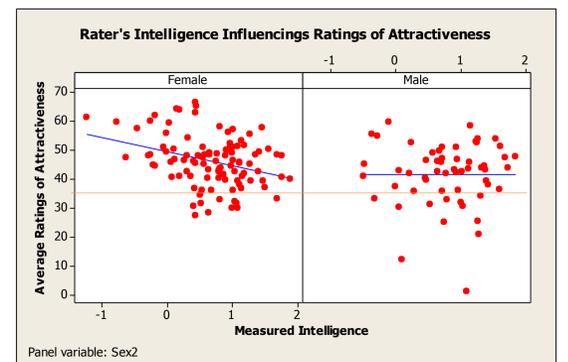
Sample:	LARGE	red	big	silent	wet
1. TALK	draw	cat	sleep	sleep	sleep
2. PERMIT	allow	sew	cut	drive	drive
3. PARDON	forgive	pound	divide	tell	tell
4. COUCH	pin	eraser	sofa	glass	glass
5. REMEMBER	swim	recall	number	defy	defy

Results



H1 was partially supported in that males had a significant correlation between their self-perceived attractiveness and their ratings of other's attractiveness ($r = .51$; $p < .001$), whereas females did not ($r = .09$, $p > .10$).

H2. Contrary to what we predicted, there was a negative relationship between female intelligence and their mean ratings of attractiveness of others ($r = -.33$, $p < .001$). The more intelligent the woman the harsher were her ratings of another's physical attractiveness. There was no relationship between intelligence of male raters and their ratings



Discussion

Overall, females who perceive themselves as unattractive tend to judge other unattractive females kindly, males who perceive themselves as unattractive tend to judge others harshly. We also found that female who were more intelligent rated others as less physically attractive.