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 compared 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 of 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.

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 sexually attraction from group members after getting to know them over ten weeks.

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.

Examples of Intelligence Tests

1) Ravens Progressive Matrices

2) Otis IQ test

3) Vocabulary test

References

“Smart and Pretty People are Nice,” College of Liberal Arts; School of Psychological Science

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