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Choosing Mates Who Look Like Ourselves

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CHOOSING MATES WHO LOOK LIKE OURSELVES

by

ALYSE GRUBER

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ABSTRACT

Some research suggests that the reason men and women choose mates who are physically similar to them, is because though they may be genetically similar (given the physical characteristics), the fact that there is no kinship allows for genetic stability. Some researchers believe this is a product of evolutionary forces, therefore allowing possible mates to find those whom they would see as compatible and fertile.

Researchers have found that as children we imprint our parent's facial features, which helps develop the normal facial recognition later. With this knowledge it is suggested that we subconsciously use our parent's facial imprint as our standard for beauty when it comes to finding a mate. As children share a resemblance to their parents, it is not unlikely that as adults, men and women then choose mates who are physically similar to themselves.

The current study examined whether men and women look for mates who are physically similar, even if they do not realize it. This study looked at a range of physical characteristics from hair color to height to body type. The wide range of physical characteristics allowed participants to be very specific about the ideal physical features they desire in a mate. It also allowed participants to be specific about their own physical characteristics. The survey was distributed through an online link that was distributed by upper and lower level sociology professors as well as social media sites. The results of this study are important because most research on heterosexual relationships focus on what characteristics each partner are looking to find. However, there is very little research on the phenomena of heterosexual partners choosing a mate who are physically similar.

For my father, who has pushed me to be the best person I can be, even when I did not want to budge,

For my boyfriend and friends, who have encouraged me and have given me advice for life and for school, and who helped me release my stress and refocus my energy,

And especially for my mother, for without her support, I surely would have crumbled; I would not be the same woman standing here today, I owe her so much.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Donley, Dr. Gay, and Dr. Matejowsky for being such an amazing committee to work with on this project. Thank you Dr. Donley for believing in me while not only writing this paper, but also through presenting at a major conference. I don't think I would have made it through without you. Thank you Dr. Gay for helping me as I head into the next chapter of my life: graduate school. Thank you Dr. Matejowsky, you're advice for my current project and future research is invaluable. I would also like to thank Jessica Kleinberger for giving me perspective and being such influential role model without even realizing it.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Many studies done on mate selection focus on the characteristics desired in a potential mate. Though personalities have an important impact on how long any given relationship will last, usually the physical qualities a person possesses carries the initial impact. Studies have focused on the Darwinian approach to mate selection, meaning they focus on the biological information that one can acquire just from studying a potential mate's physical characteristics (Penton-Voak and Perrett 2000).

We know from early childhood studies that humans develop facial recognition skills from gazing at their parents. Without learning those skills children suffer because they cannot process the small amount of variance in some faces (Brent, LeGrand, Maurer, Monloch, 2001). When children do develop their facial recognition skills correctly, it seems that the skills they develop from watching their parents plays a role in the mates they choose later in life. Children who have developed in this way may be more inclined to find a mate attractive if they carry some resemblance to their parents. Interestingly, studies have also shown that as couples age, their facial features begin to look more similar. Though couples looking more physically similar as they age may be connected to the facial recognition skills, it has not been researched extensively as to why that phenomenon occurs. However it has been suggested that similar diets and daily routines may play a large part in that similarity (Hinsz 1989) .

This study is strictly examining select physical characteristics of males and females then comparing the results of each sex. The aim is to determine whether males and females look for a mate who is physically similar to them (whether conscious or unconscious). This study gave

participants general physical characteristics in an attempt to not overwhelm the participants with choice. This way, participants could still find an answer for each physical characteristic without having to try to justify their real choice into a category that does not actually fit.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Researchers have found that as children we imprint our parent's facial features, which helps develop the normal facial recognition later (Brent, LeGrand, Maurer, Monloch, 2001). It is suggested that we subconsciously use our parent's facial imprint as our standard for beauty when it comes to finding a mate. As children share a resemblance to their parents, it is not unlikely that as adults, men and women then choose mates who are physically similar to themselves (Alvarez and Jaffe, 2004; Little, Penton-Voak, Perrett, 2002; Bereczkei, Bernath, Gyuris, Koves, 2001). There are researchers who suggest that the reason men and women choose mates who are physically similar to them, is because though they may be genetically similar (given the physical characteristics), the fact that there is no kinship allows for genetic stability (Alvarez and Jaffe, 2004; Penton-Voak, Perrett, and David 2000). The competition for the most attractive partner may also increase the likelihood of couples having similar characteristics (Buston and Emlen, 2003).

The current study examines whether men and women look for mates who are physically similar to themselves, even if they do not realize that they have this preference. This study focuses on college aged students, aged 18-26 and includes a variety of desired physical characteristics from hair color to height to body type. The wide range of physical characteristics allows participants to be very specific about the ideal physical features they desire in a mate. The results of this study are important because most research on heterosexual relationships focus on what characteristics each partner is looking to find. There are also many research articles focusing on traditional gender roles, role compromising, and knowing one's own mate value in

relation to a possible partner. However, there is very little research on the phenomena of heterosexual partners choosing a mate who is physically similar.

<u>Early Childhood and Parental Influence</u>

It has been suggested that some couples look similar is because males and females look for mates who resemble their opposite sex parent. These couples then share similar physical qualities because of the genes shared with that opposite sex parent. This concept is shown by Bereczkei et al. (2001) as they researched whether there was a physical similarity between spouses, but also whether there was a physical similarity between the wife and the mother-in-law. The judges of the study matched wives to their mother-in-laws much higher than chance and matched the husbands to the wives significantly higher than chance as well. However, the judges ranked the wives first on the similarity scale three times more than the controls. This study illustrates that though there is a similarity between wives and their husbands, the imprinting of the opposite sex parent in childhood creates a stronger physical similarity to the wife and the mother of the husband.

Brent et al. 2001 tested whether "deprivation of patterned visual input" in the first few months of life would damage a person's face processing later in life. They found that their hypothesis was correct, which would most likely hinder a person's ability to imprint on parents face. The lack of imprinting would not allow those affected to acquire "mate choice criterion templates from exposure to their parents" (Bereczkei et al., 2001) which has a strong stabilizing effect on sex (Alvarez and Jaffe, 2004). Miller and Todd (1993) do express that there are different types of imprinting. Sexual imprinting is when exposure to another individual (usually a

parent) elicits sexual preferences later in life. Filial imprinting is when a child manifests the parent's behavior through following behavior. Both types manifest in the beginning of a child's life, but only the sexual imprinting has an effect on mate preferences.

Though it may be assumed that if children form imprints from their parents, then they would likely be attracted to other family members- thus causing incest. A man named Westermarck believed that children "have an innate tendency to develop a sexual aversion to individuals with whom they live closely in infancy and early childhood", therefore they would not be enticed to engage in incest (Penton-Voak et al., 2000). However, a more common belief is that of a balance between inbreeding and outbreeding. With the balance, individuals would imprint the characteristics of close family members, but would look outside of their family tree to seek mates who appear slightly different, therefore achieving balance (Bereczkei et al., 2001).

<u>Assortative Mating</u>

Assortative mating is when individuals mate with an opposite sex partner who is similar to themselves. This similarity can be within the genes, physically, or both. Assortative mating can increase the likelihood of the offspring forming "good genes" without involving inbreeding (Alvarez and Jaffe, 2004; Miller and Todd, 1993). When an individual has mate preferences that are slightly dissimilar to that individual's parents, the most adaptive offspring will form. Assortative mating affects the evolutionary dynamics of the mates and offspring(s) while staying evolutionary stable. The more mates who utilize assortative mating and have an offspring(s), the more likely it is for future generations to take part in assortative mating while looking for a mate, thus spreading it further (Alvarez and Jaffe, 2004).

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According to Penton-Voak, Perrett, and Pierce (1999), when individuals looked at a series of photographs, those individuals always rated the morphed photograph of his/herself higher than all the other photographs available. DeBruine (2002) also ran a similar study in which participants had the option to trust an opposing player; however the opposing player was a morphed picture of the participant. The participant almost always chose to trust the opposing player. Both of these studies illustrate that individuals have a preference for self-similar faces.

Adelmann, Murphy, Niedenthal, and Zajonc (1987) has found that after 25 years of being together couples look more similar to each other than within their first year of being married. Participants either viewed a picture of one spouse when they were first married and had to match the other spouse, or participants viewed a picture of one spouse after 25 years of marriage. No participant had the same couple, but overall, the pictures of the couple after 25 years of marriage was correctly matched far more than the first year of marriage.

Theoretical Framework

Repeated exposure explanation in regard to physical likeness to one's partner is when an individual is exposed to a particular stimulus repeatedly, which eventually leads to positive attitude towards that particular stimulus. In the study, the more the respondent sees his/her parents as a child, the more physically similar he/she will be to his/her ideal mate (Hinsz, 1989).

Self-perception in regard to mate selection influences how an individual perceives him/herself in a courting situation. The higher self-perception an individual has, the more selective that individual will be when choosing a mate. Self-perception will then contribute to an individual choosing a mate of the same attractiveness, which then that mate has a higher chance

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of having similar physical features as the individual who is choosing said mate (Buston and

Emlen, 2003).

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Sample and Sampling

The data from this study came from voluntary online anonymous surveys that examined participants' physical preferences for a mate compared to participant's physical self-description. IRB approval was obtained for this study (Appendix A). All participants were given an Explanation of Research as the opening page of the survey and they had to agree to continue with the survey. Participants had to be 18 or older to participate in the study. Participants could easily exit the survey any time they wished and they were also able to skip any questions they did not feel comfortable answering. There are a total of 261 participants in this study.

Data Collection

The survey was distributed by utilizing the online surveying system Qualtrics. The link, generated from Qualtrics, was also given to willing professors to post the links to the survey on webcourses (UCF's online class program). Emails were sent to past professors explaining the purpose of the survey and asking for their help to gain respondents. The survey was explained to the students in the classes of the professors that agreed. Though the students did not receive specific details about the survey, they understood that they could exit at any time and that the survey was completely anonymous. The link to the survey was also posted on different social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Once the participant opened the link to the survey, the participant was asked to give consent to take the survey and to confirm participants were 18 years of age or older. The consent page also included the contact information of the principal investigator and the co-investigator.

The participants were then asked questions about their preferences in regards to the physical characteristics of their ideal mate. These questions included hair color, skin tone, eye color, etc. Utilizing the same physical characteristics, participants were asked which of the characteristics best matched how they perceive themselves.

Measurements

For the dependent variables respondents were given a list of physical attributes to describe his/her ideal mate. These physical attributes include: eye color, hair color, hair type, body type, height, and skin tone. For the independent variables respondents were then given the same list of physical attributes to describe how he/she sees his/herself. Respondents were then asked their sexual orientation, sex, and age. Respondents have the option of choosing 'heterosexual' or 'homosexual' for sexual orientation. If respondents choose 'homosexual' their survey was over. For sex, respondents have the option of choosing 'male' or 'female'. Respondents were asked to fill in their age. The control variables for this study were respondent's marital status and family income in high school. For marital status participants have the option of choosing 'single', 'open relationship', 'closed/committed relationship', 'married', or 'divorced/separated'. For economic status in high school the respondents have a range to choose from starting with 'lower-income' to 'upper-income'.

Data Analysis

Data was collected through Qualtrics.com and then analyzed through the statistical analysis program SPSS. I ran frequencies on the demographic data to obtain a better idea of the current sample. After I analyzed the demographic data, I began running cross tabulations

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between each of the different physical traits. The physical traits ranged from eye color to body type and the cross tabulations were between the traits of the participant and the traits the participant would like in a partner.

<div align="center">Hypotheses</div>

I believe that male participants will describe their ideal mate as physically similar to how they physically describe themselves. I also believe that female participants will describe their ideal mate as physically similar to how they physically describe themselves.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

After analyzing the data collected online, the results indicated that there is a strong correlation between the physical characteristics participants were looking for in a mate, and the physical characteristics the participants possessed. Before running the cross tabulations, frequencies were ran on all of the demographic data collected to get an idea of the type of sample that was collected (Table 1). The majority of the participants in this study were female (70.5%), compared to men (28.4%). In regards to race and ethnicity, the majority of participants were White (70.5%), followed by Hispanic/Latino (10.0%), then African American (7.3%). Those participants who were single or in a committed relationship (but not married) were the two most common relationship status' among the participants. The amount of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and graduate students were fairly even; however seniors and those participants not in college had percentages twice as high. The mean age of participants was 26, with the oldest participant at the age of 72 and the youngest age of 18.

Table 1. Demographics

Sex		
	Male	28.4
	Female	70.5
Age		
	Minimum Age	18
	Maximum Age	72
	Mean Age	26
Employment		
	Employed	67.4
	Unemployment	29.9
Family's Economic Status		
	Lower Income	7.3
	Lower-Middle Income	24.1
	Middle Income	39.4

	Middle-Upper Income	23.0
	Upper Income	4.6
Religious Affiliation		
	Catholic	19.9
	Methodist	2.7
	Christian	41.0
	Jewish	1.9
	No Affiliation	33.0
Class Standing		
	Freshman	12.6
	Sophomore	12.3
	Junior	13.4
	Senior	25.3
	Graduate Student	11.1
	Not In College	24.1
Race/Ethnicity		
	African American	7.3
	White	70.5
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3.4
	Hispanic/Latino	10.0
	Native American	0.4
	Multi-Racial	5.7
Relationship Status	Single	42.1
	Open Relationship	2.7
	Closed/Committed Relationship	27.2
	Engaged	3.1
	Married	21.1
	Separated/Divorced	2.7

Note: Figures are percentages except for age demographic.

<u>Height</u>

Cross tabulations were run and it was discovered that there was a substantial significance in all categories except for height. Once the results for height were separated by sex, it became clear that women seemed to prefer men who were taller than participants and men prefer women who are shorter. Interestingly, there was not a single participant who preferred a mate who were

5' or under; even those participants who were 5' or under wanted a mate who was over 5'

(illustrated in Table 2).

Table 2. Cross Tabulation Between Participant and Participant's Height Preference

Cross Tabulation	5' and under	5'1"-5'3"	5'4"-5'6"	5'7"-5'9"	5'10"-6'	6'1" and over
5'1"-5'3"	0.0	3.6	5.6	1.6	17.0	20.0
5'4"-5'6"	11.1	5.5	9.9	17.7	23.4	40.0
5'7"-5'9"	44.4	36.4	32.4	17.7	21.3	33.3
5'10"-6'	33.3	38.2	38.0	40.3	12.8	0.0
6'1" and over	11.1	16.4	14.1	22.6	25.5	6.7

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

*$\chi^2 = 51.42$, p<.000

Body Types

Looking at the cross tabulation between body types of participants and the preferred body type participants would like in a mate it was interesting to see that though 'slender athletic' was chosen the most all around, the next largest percentage was a match for most of the body types. For example, though those participants who considered their body type 'bulky athletic', 69.6% of those participants chose 'slender athletic' as their ideal mate's body type. However, 17.4% chose 'bulky athletic' as their ideal mate's body type which was by far the next highest percentage. Table 3 illustrates the percentages for all responses for body types. The respondents who chose 'skinny' as their body type chose 'bulky athletic' as the second highest percentage. It seemed to make sense that if more women chose 'skinny' as their body type, they may want a man who was bigger than them which would match the same results as the height. Cross tabulations were then run on how many men and how many women chose skinny as their body type and 10.8% of men said they were 'skinny' and 21.9% of women said they were skinny. It is also likely that the

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reverse is true for respondents who chose 'stocky' as their body type. More men (20.3%) and less women (9.3%) chose 'stocky' as their body type which would indicate that men may want a women who is smaller than them, thus making sense as to why 'soft' was the second highest choice after 'slender athletic'.

Table 3. Cross Tabulation Between Participant and Participant's Preferred Body Type

	Slender Athletic	Bulky Athletic	Soft	Stocky	Skinny
Slender Athletic	65.6	69.6	41.0	30.3	62.5
Bulky Athletic	24.7	17.4	16.4	12.1	12.5
Soft	8.6	4.3	21.3	27.	6.3
Stocky	1.1	4.3	14.8	21.1	8.3
Skinny	0.0	4.3	6.6	9.1	10.4

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

$*\chi^2 = 49.90$, p<.000

Skin Tone

According to Table 4, all except those participants who chose their skin tone as 'light-fair' chose the same skin tone for their ideal mate. Those whose skin tone was chosen as 'light-fair' chose 'fair/medium' (54.3%) as the most ideal for a mate. However 'light-fair' was by far the next highest percentage (29.5%). Those who chose 'fair-medium' as their skin tone chose their skin tone preference of 'fair-medium' at 74.5%, the highest percentage of all categories. Those who chose 'medium-dark' chose the same skin tone preference for their mate's skin tone at 47.5% and 'warm-dark brown' chose 'warm-dark brown' the most as well (47.1%).

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Table 4. Cross Tabulation of Skin Tone of Participant and Participant's Preferred Skin Tone

	Light-Fair	Fair-Medium	Medium-Dark Brown	Warm-Deep Brown
Light-Fair	29.5	4.1	7.5	5.9
Fair-Medium	54.3	74.5	40.0	17.6
Medium-Dark Tan	12.4	20.4	47.5	29.4
Warm-Deep Brown	3.8	1.0	5.0	47.1

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

*χ^2 = 108.61, p<.000

Hair Type

According to Table 5, there is a strong connection between the hair type of participants and their preference for the mate's hair type. Participants who chose 'wavy' and 'Straight' hair types were clearly interested in partners who had the same hair type (52.0% and 52.3% respectively). The 'curly-very curly' option was not chosen the most for those who chose 'curly-very curly' as their hair type. 'Curly-very curly' was chosen the second most at 30.0% (compared to 42.0% 'wavy'). This could be accounted for by varying definitions of the amount of curl 'curly-very curly' would have compared to the definition of 'wavy'. It also seems that the next largest category for both 'straight' and 'wavy' hair was 'wavy' and 'straight' hair respectively. However for 'curly-very curly' the options of 'curly-very curly' and 'straight' were very close in percentages (30.0% and 28.0% respectively). This may indicate that participants, who did not want their mate with the same type of hair, wanted something somewhat similar to their hair type.

Table 5. Cross Tabulation Between Participant and Participant's Preferred Hair Type

	Curly/Very Curly	Wavy	Straight
Curly/Very Curly	30.0	8.0	7.3
Wavy	42.0	53.0	40.4
Straight	28.0	39.0	52.3

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

*χ^2 = 24.07, p<.000

<u>Hair Color</u>

In regards to hair color, only 'light brown-dark blonde', 'brown', 'dark brown', and 'black' had a definite high percentage. For each of these hair colors, participants and participant's preferred hair color on a mate matched exactly. 'Light brown-dark blonde' was 32.4%, 'brown' was 29.9%, 'dark brown' was 32.4%, and 'black' was 38.7%. However, 'blonde', 'red', and 'artificial color' did not have a definite high percentage as stated earlier, and only 'artificial color' had one of the tied percentages as 'artificial color' ('artificial color' meant colors like blue, purple, green, etc. not meaning dyed a natural color). Table 6 illustrates the percentage placement of all given hair colors.

Table 6. Cross Tabulation Between Participant and Participant's Preferred Hair Color

	Blonde	Light Brown/ Dark Blonde	Brown	Dark Brown	Black	Red	Artificial Color
Blonde	6.4	2.9	10.4	5.9	6.5	0.0	0.0
Light Brown/ Dark Blonde	25.5	32.4	19.4	10.3	29.0	33.3	33.3
Brown	27.7	26.5	29.9	32.4	6.5	33.3	33.3
Dark Brown	27.7	29.4	23.9	29.4.	19.4	22.2	0.0
Black	4.3	5.9	10.4	11.6	28.7	0.0	0.0
Red	8.5	2.9	3.0	8.6	0.0	11.1	0.0
Artificial Color	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	33.3

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

*χ^2 = 70.55, p<.001

<u>Eye Color</u>

In regards to eye color, participants were given the option of 'light blue', 'blue', 'green', 'hazel', 'light brown', and 'brown'. These options were then recoded in SPSS to the categories of 'blue', 'green', and 'brown'. Participants with 'blue' eyes chose their mate's preferred eye

color to be 'blue' as well (56.5%). Participants with 'brown' eyes chose their mate's preferred eye color to be 'brown' as well (38.5%). However, those participants with 'green' eyes chose their mate's preferred eye color to be 'blue' (44.4%) instead of 'green' (30.9%), though 'brown' had the least responses with 24.7%. 'Green' was the second highest percentage and this could be accounted for because of the recoding that was done. 'Hazel' also accounts for multiple shades in the eye, so the definition may be different for each individual person. Table 7 illustrates the recoded variables.

Table 7. Cross Tabulation Between Participant and Participant's Preferred Eye Color

	Light Blue/Blue	Green/Hazel	Light Brown/ Brown
Light Blue/Blue	56.5	44.4	33.0
Green/ Hazel	29.0	30.9	28.4
Light Brown/ Brown	14.5	24.7	38.5

Note: Figures are percentages. Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding errors.

*χ^2 = 14.80, p<005

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION

While there were some respondents who did not choose the same characteristics for their mate as they did for themselves, the majority of respondents did follow the trend of previous research and the hypotheses of the researcher. All physical categories except for height had two or more characteristics that matched both the participant and the preferred mate. It is interesting that even though most of the participants were in college (74.8% in college compared to 24.1% not in college) there was still the same trend that followed previous research, even the research done on married couples.

As most of the respondents chose that they preferred a mate who was 'slender athletic', is it because they want their mate to conform to societal standards of beauty? Society pressures men and women to look a particular way every day through print and TV ads. The participant's response of 'slender athletic' may be as a result of being bombarded with images of fit and slender people all of their life instead of what they may feel is more natural. They may desire to stay with the socially constructed ideal body type to fit in and feel more normal. This study did look at the idea of an ideal mate, so the participants may end up with someone who generally has a similar body type instead of the desired 'slender athletic'.

When it came down to analyzing the participant's skin tone compared to the skin tone they desired in a mate, though most of the respondents matched the researcher's hypothesis, it is curious whether participants stay within racial lines because they feel more comfortable being with someone of the same race/ethnicity. Participants may find someone of another race/ethnicity attractive, but whether they would branch out and attempt to date that person is a

different matter. Participants may just like to stay in their comfort zone; however there is the possibility that they do not want to defy societal pressure or they may have a racial prejudice. Though our society is gradually becoming more accepting of interracial couples, there is evidence in everyday life that racial prejudice is alive and well in the greater society. Both racial distinctions and body type preferences begs the question whether these physical preferences are socially constructed or if they are biological. Though we may imprint from our parents as Bereczkei et al. suggests, we may stay within that comfort zone because of societal pressure.

Limitations

This study did not differentiate between homosexual and heterosexual participants; therefore preferences between each sexual orientation may differ. If there is a difference between heterosexual and homosexual participant's preferences, it could have skewed some of the results though there were very few overall homosexual participants. There is a definite overall lack of research regarding physical homosexual preferences. Theoretically homosexual participants would have had the same opportunity to imprint on their parents and therefore would prefer mates who look similar to themselves; however there is very little research to suggest whether this is true.

With regards to the body type of the participant and the preferred body type, there may have been some confusion on the side of the participant. Though it was attempted to give categories that were general enough to fit all body types, participants may have been confused about what each category meant. A definition of what each body type category could have meant might have helped participants see more clearly and make a more definitive choice.

Future Research

Future research could have participants describe a select amount of participants- that way there is less bias when the participants would judge themselves. Participants may have answered questions with a slight bias as to what they wish they looked like. If other participants judge a select few, the select few could then answer the questions about their ideal mate. The results could possibly indicate a stronger relationship between the physical appearance of the participants and ideal mate.

APPENDIX A: IRB APPROVAL LETTER

Approval of Exempt Human Research

From: **UCF Institutional Review Board #1**
             FWA00000351, IRB00001138

To: **Amy M. Donley** and Co-PI: **Alyse M. Gruber**

Date: **January 27, 2014**

Dear Researcher:

On 1/27/2014, the IRB approved the following activity as human participant research that is exempt from regulation:

Type of Review:	Exempt Determination
Project Title:	Are heterosexual college students most attracted to people who are physically similar to them
Investigator:	Amy M Donley
IRB Number:	SBE-14-10018
Funding Agency:	
Grant Title:	
Research ID:	N/A

This determination applies only to the activities described in the IRB submission and does not apply should any changes be made. If changes are made and there are questions about whether these changes affect the exempt status of the human research, please contact the IRB. When you have completed your research, please submit a Study Closure request in iRIS so that IRB records will be accurate.

In the conduct of this research, you are responsible to follow the requirements of the Investigator Manual.

On behalf of Sophia Dziegielewski, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., UCF IRB Chair, this letter is signed by:

Signature applied by Joanne Muratori on 01/27/2014 11:26:27 AM EST

IRB Coordinator

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APPENDIX B: ONLINE SURVEY

I. You are being invited to take part in a research study. Whether you take part is up to you.
* The purpose of this research is to study the characteristics males and females use while on the dating scene to find a long term mate.
* The participant will be asked to complete and anonymous online survey
* The survey should take around 5-7 minutes
You must be 18 years of age or older to take part in this research study.
Study contact for questions about the study or to report a problem: If you have questions, concerns, or complaints Alyse Gruber, Undergraduate Student, Sociology Department, College of Sciences email address amgruber@knights.ucf.edu or Dr. Amy Donley, PI, Department of Sociology at (407)-823-1357 or by email at Amy.Donley@ucf.edu.
IRB contact about your rights in the study or to report a complaint: Research at the University of Central Florida involving human participants is carried out under the oversight of the Institutional Review Board (UCF IRB). This research has been reviewed and approved by the IRB. For information about the rights of people who take part in research, please contact: Institutional Review Board, University of Central Florida, Office of Research & Commercialization, 12201 Research Parkway, Suite 501, Orlando, FL 32826-3246 or by telephone at (407) 823-2901.

    a. Agree

1. What skin tone do you prefer in a mate?

    a. Light-Fair

    b. Fair-Medium

    c. Medium-Dark Tan

    d. Warm-Deep Brown

2. Which body type do you prefer in a mate?

    a. Slender Athletic

    b. Bulky Athletic

    c. Soft

    d. Stocky

    e. Skinny

3. What is your ideal height for a mate?

   a. 5' and under

   b. 5'1"-5'-3"

   c. 5'4"-5'6"

   d. 5'7"-5'9"

   e. 5'10"-6'

   f. 6'1" and higher

4. Which eye color do you prefer in a mate?

   a. Light Blue

   b. Blue

   c. Hazel

   d. Green

   e. Light/Medium Brown

   f. Dark Brown

5. What type of hair do you prefer in a mate?

   a. Curly/Very Curly

   b. Wavy

   c. Straight

6. What hair color do you prefer in a mate?

   a. Blonde

   b. Light Brown/Dark Blonde

   c. Brown

   d. Dark Brown

   e. Black

f. Red

g. Artificial Color (Blue, Purple, etc)

7. What is your skin tone?

    a. Light-Fair

    b. Fair-Medium

    c. Medium-Dark Tan

    d. Warm-Deep Brown

8. What body type best describes your body?

    a. Slender Athletic

    b. Bulky Athletic

    c. Soft

    d. Stocky

    e. Skinny

9. Which height range most accurately describes your height?

    a. 5' and under

    b. 5'1"-5'-3"

    c. 5'4"-5'6"

    d. 5'7"-5'9"

    e. 5'10"-6'

    f. 6'1" and higher

10. Which hair type best describes your hair?

    a. Curly/Very Curly

    b. Wavy

    c. Straight

11. What is your hair color?

    a. Blonde

    b. Light Brown/Dark Blonde

    c. Brown

    d. Dark Brown

    e. Black

    f. Red

    g. Artificial Color (Blue, Purple, etc)

12. What is your eye color?

    a. Light Blue

    b. Blue

    c. Hazel

    d. Green

    e. Light/Medium Brown

    f. Dark Brown

13. What is your sex?

    a. Male

    b. Female

14. What is your current relationship status?

    a. Single

    b. In an open relationship

    c. In a closed/committed relationship

    d. Engaged

    e. Married

f. Separated/Divorced

15. Are you currently employed?

    a. Yes

    b. No

16. What was your family's economic status in high school?

    a. Lower income

    b. Lower-Middle income

    c. Middle income

    d. Middle-Upper income

    e. Upper income

17. What is your religious affiliation?

    a. Catholic

    b. Methodist

    c. Christian

    d. Jewish

    e. No Affiliation

18. What is your class standing?

    a. Freshman

    b. Sophomore

    c. Junior

    d. Senior

    e. Graduate Student

    f. Not in college

19. How old are you?

a.

20. Roughly, what is your weight in pounds?

a.

21. What is your race/ethnicity (check all that apply)?

a. African American/Black

b. White

c. Asian/Pacific Islander

d. Hispanic/Latino

e. Native American

f. Prefer not to say

22. What is your sexual orientation?

a. Homosexual

b. Heterosexual

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