

1: Courtship and marriage | Gemanalyst

Natural Selection Evolutionary psychologists-women prefer to mate with men who would be good fathers and who would stay around to be good providers -men preferred to mate with women who could bear healthy babies who could feed their children-could apply to any given relationship; especially for men.

Our Culture is obsessed with this topic. This got me thinking, How does one actually find the person who they will spend their life with? Why does what works for one person not work for another? How does one actually become attracted to their significant other and decide.. Like Marries Theory This one is pretty obvious, but lets discuss it anyways. Studies have shown that similar backgrounds are key components to mate selection. People who work together will likely have similar characteristics and opportunities as their coworkers. This is why many coworkers end up together! Also, people tend to marry others with similar ego strength. High self-esteem people are more attracted to other high self-esteem people and vice versa. Evidence for this theory is not as supportive, but does suggest that personality plays an important factor when finding a partner. They tend to be attracted to another that they feel makes up for what they lack. The first filter is endogamy: The Last filter is complementary needs: This is the most narrow and consists of a potential partner having exact personality traits to meet the needs of the other person. Stimulus-Value-Role Theory This is very similar to the filter theory, meaning a partner must pass through these stages. This theory is where people try to find the best mates, given what they have to offer. The closer two people match on these levels, the higher likelihood two people will be attracted to one another. If two people can pass these stages, there is a possibility for marriage and a successful relationship. Dyadic Formation Theory This theory was created by Robert Lewis, and is one of the more complex mate selection theories. He says two people must pass through 6 stages. Establishment and ease of communication, positive evaluations, and validation of self by the other person. She says love develops over 4 different stages. The first stage is rapport and open communication. Feeling comfortable with one another is an important factors. Second stage is self-re-evaluation and being able to share oneself with the other. As two people go through these stages, they get to know each other at deeper levels. Do you agree with one more than the others? Which one did you use?

2: Mate Selection Theories by Sheliza Jamal on Prezi

MATE SELECTION THEORIES. Social scientists who study the family have long been interested in the question "Who marries whom?" On one level, the study of mate selection is conducted from the perspective of family as a social institution.

Mate Selection Choosing a mate is a problem that humans share with most other animals because successful reproduction is central to natural selection. Peahens choose among the most attractive peacocks, female elephant seals pick males who have already attracted large harems, and even promiscuous chimpanzees exercise choice about the other chimps with which they will be promiscuous. Among mammals, however, humans are in a small minority in one important way: Across human societies, though, men and women bond together in marriage Broude ; United Nations Not all human mating occurs within such bonds; within and across societies, polygamous arrangements are relatively common Broude In considering how and why people choose mates, therefore, two points are significant: The discussion below begins with research and theory focused on proximal causes, or immediate psychological triggers of mate choice such as pleasant feelings in response to seeing a physically attractive other , and moves through progressively more distal factors relationship exchange, cultural and historical factors, and evolutionary history. Like the single frames, scenes, and overall plot of a movie, these different approaches are complementary, and all are required to see the "big picture" of mate selection. Factors within the Individual Several theories of mate selection have focused on the psychological responses of the individual to potential mates. The assumption was that a person is attracted to potential mates who make that person feel good. Researchers in this tradition focused on overt characteristics such as physical appearance and the expression of similar attitudes and values Byrne People indeed tend to mate with others who have similar characteristics, including political attitudes, lifestyle values, personality, appearance, or ethnicity Botwin, Buss, and Shackelford ; Keller, Thiessen, and Young Consistent with the theory that such features make the judge feel good, it was found that people do find it pleasant to interact with similar others Byrne There are exceptions to the similarity-attraction principle, however. Women at all ages tend to be attracted to men who are slightly older than themselves, and men shift their preferences throughout the lifespan, such that teenagers find older women most attractive, men in their twenties are most attracted to women their own age, and older men are most attracted to women who are younger than themselves Kenrick et al. Besides this, women tend to emphasize status-linked characteristics in a partner, whereas men do not Sadalla, Kenrick, and Vershure Men, on the other hand, place more emphasis on physical attractiveness Townsend and Wasserman The cues for attractiveness are also slightly different for the two sexes. Although symmetry is attractive in both men and women, small noses and relatively smaller jaws are relatively more attractive in women, and medium noses and large jaws are attractive in men Cunningham, Druen, and Barbee A small waist-to-hip ratio is attractive in a woman, but not in a man Singh Another interesting exception to the similarityattraction rule is that individuals raised in the same home tend not to experience strong sexual attraction and romantic feelings towards one another, even when they are not related Shepher Contrary to the general tendency for marriages to occur between neighbors and acquaintances, in a study of kibbutzim, Joseph Shepher found no instances of marriage among adults who had been born on the same kibbutz and had stayed together in the same peer group without interruption during childhood. Another theory focusing on individual psychological responses suggested that a person decides that he or she is feeling romantic attraction for another when he or she attributes feelings of arousal to that other Berscheid and Walster Findings that people became attracted to others present when they were experiencing arousal due to fear of electric shock, standing on a shaky suspension bridge, or recent exercise were interpreted as support for that theory Dutton and Aron ; White and Kight An alternative interpretation of those findings emphasizes that arousal simply boosts attraction, without any necessary misinterpretation of arousal Allen et al. Another set of factors that affects mate choice involves personality traits. One line of research examined differences between those adopting an unrestricted versus restricted approach to relationships Simpson and Gangestad Unrestricted individuals, inclined to have sex without commitment and to be involved with more than one

partner at a time, choose attractive and outgoing partners; restricted or monogamously oriented individuals favor partners manifesting personality characteristics associated with fidelity and good parenting. Factors in the Relationship Mate selection is a two-way street, involving more than the preferences of a single individual. A second wave of mate selection theories emphasized processes of dyadic exchange of costs and benefits. The most prevalent models emphasize social exchange: I seek a mate who brings a mix of assets and liabilities with comparable value to my own personal portfolio e. Researchers focusing on reciprocal exchange have emphasized naturalistic studies of mate choice in relationships as they unfold over time e. Some of these approaches have suggested that, over the course of time, relationships go through different stages or phases. The earliest dyadic exchange models focused on complementarity Winch So, for example, it was expected that socially dominant partners will seek socially submissive others for relationships. Although support for personality complementarity was not abundant, there is some degree of cross-sex complementarity in preferred traits. For example, females emphasize social dominance in their partners more than males do Sadalla, Kenrick, and Vershure This is not a simple preference for complementarity, however, because dominant females do not seek out submissive males. Support for general exchange theories, on the other hand, has been clearer. For example, there is evidence that physically attractive women tend to marry men of higher status, and that socially successful men tend to marry more attractive women Taylor and Glenn There is also evidence that people of both sexes are attracted to others with personal characteristics that make them easy to get along with in long-term relationships Jensen-Campbell, Graziano, and West ; Green and Kenrick

Sociocultural and Historical Factors Taking still another step back from the isolated individual, some researchers have focused on the cultural and historical context of mate choice e. Adopting this perspective, one can ask both: How do human societies differ with regard to mate choice, and how are they similar? The range of differences is, at first glance, rather dazzling. As Gwen Broude noted, exclusive monogamy, the legally sanctioned form of mating in Europe and North America , is preferred in less than 20 percent of cultures worldwide. Although personal choice is emphasized in Western societies, males marry women chosen for them by third parties in Furthermore, there are cultural variations in norms about desirable features in mates, including amount of body fat desired, preferred size and shape of breasts, and other overt characteristics such as body markings Anderson et al. Looking across recent history, survey data on mate preferences among North American college students in , , , , , and , reveals regional as well as temporal variations. For example, students in Texas were more interested in chastity, religious background, and neatness than were students in Michigan. Over time, the value placed on chastity by both sexes dropped, and the value placed on mutual attraction and love increased Buss et al. In addition to cultural and historical variations in mate choice, there are many commonalities found across human societies. These range from preferred overt characteristics such as clear skin and lack of disfigurement to personality traits making for good parents and agreeable companions Broude ; Ford and Beach A general preference for similarity in a mate is also widespread Botwin, Buss, and Shackelford The preference for older versus younger partners across the lifespan is also found across numerous societies and historical time periods Otta et al. Within the United States , however, there is evidence that women who gain social status do not shift to male-like preferences for relative youth and attractiveness, but instead continue to prefer older and higher status partners Kenrick and Keefe ; Townsend Due to warfare, migration, and random historical and geographic variations, there are sometimes relatively more available females than males in the pool of eligible mates, or the converse. A surplus of men, on the other hand, is associated with more stable relationships and male willingness to commit to monogamous relationships. Other research suggests that polyandry, though rare, is associated with conditions of extreme resource scarcity as found in the high Himalayas in Nepal under which survival rates for children of single males and their wives are low. In Nepal and a few other places, several brothers often combine their resources and marry a single wife, increasing survival rates for resultant children Crook and Crook On the other hand, extreme polygyny harems is correlated with ecological conditions including a steep social hierarchy, a generally rich environment allowing higher status families to accumulate vast wealth, and occasional famines so lower-status families face possibilities of starvation Crook and Crook Under these circumstances, a woman who absorbs the cost of sharing a wealthy husband reaps a survival insurance policy

for herself and any resultant children. Evolutionary Factors Taking a still broader perspective, we can ask, "How does mate selection in humans compare with mate selection in other animals? At the broadest level, the theory of inclusive fitness suggests all animals are selected to behave in ways that, on average, benefit others sharing their genes siblings and cousins as well as their own offspring. Sexual selection refers to a form of natural selection favoring characteristics that assist in attracting mates e. According to differential parental investment theory, the sex with the initially higher investment in the offspringâ€”generally the femaleâ€”has more to lose from a poor mating choice and therefore demands more before agreeing to mate Trivers In species in which males make the larger investment e. In mammals, the normal discrepancy between males and females is especially pronounced, because females carry the young inside their bodies and nurse them after birth. In such species, males tend to be nonselective about their mates, whereas females demand evidence of superior genetic potential before mating and will often mate only with males who have demonstrated superior capabilities. Humans also sometimes have sexual relations within less committed relationships, in the typical mammalian mode. Under those circumstances, males are less selective Kenrick et al. Unlike most mammals, however, humans tend to form long-term pair-bonds, in which males invest many resources in the offspring. Men and women make different contributions to the offspring. Women contribute their bodies, through internal gestation and nursing, and men consequently value indications of fertility including healthy appearance and a waist-hip ratio characteristic of youthful sexual maturity Cunningham, Druen, and Barbee On the other hand, men primarily contribute their genes and indirect resources such as money and shelter. His ability to provide resources could be gauged indirectly by his ambition and directly by his social status and acquired wealth Buss and Barnes ; Daly and Wilson Even with these differential tendencies, humans often cooperate in raising their offspring. Hence a number of characteristics should be and are desired by both sexes, such as agreeableness, kindness, and faithfulness Buss ; Kenrick et al. People are not presumed to consciously calculate their genetic self-interest, but like all animals, to have inherited certain preferences that helped their ancestors reproduce successfully. Conclusion Individual psychological factors that influence mate choice must play out in the context of dyadic interaction, and those dyadic interactions unfold within a broader cultural context. The variations across individuals, dyads, and cultures are in turn affected by the preferences and proclivities inherited from ancestral humans, shaped by ecological forces common to all members of this particular species of social mammal. Thus, mate selection can be understood at several different, yet inter-connected, levels of analysis. The broader ecological factors discussed earlier provide a good example. Cultural variations in mate choice are not completely random, but often fit with general principles applicable to many animal species Crook and Crook ; Daly and Wilson For example, polyandry is more common when the males are brothers in humans and other animals, in keeping with the general principle of inclusive fitness. Polygyny is more common than polyandry in humans and other mammals, as is the female preference for high status males, consistent with principles of differential parental investment female mammals have less to gain from taking additional mates, so will demand more in a mate. Mate selection thus offers insight into fundamental questions about human nature and its interaction with human culture.

3: MATE SELECTION THEORIES

Conclusion Mate Selection Theories What theory would be used to explain an arranged marriage? David Buss, an American anthropologist and evolutionary psychologist summarized several extensive studies on sexual attraction and concluded that individuals select a mate based on who can raise the most successful children.

Courtship process By wksanni Dating: Courtship process Dating or courtship: Dating is patterns of behavior associated with adolescent entertainment and recreation. They are ultimately related to the import business of selecting a marriage mate. The process of selecting a marriage mate starts from dating, then going steady, engagement, and finally marriage. Date is an end to itself with no further commitment. It is primarily recreational and lasts for a short period of time. Functions of dating Serves recreational ends Provides means through which a mutual commitment to marriage may arise. Learning of sex role: Functions as pleasure and recreation: When adolescents go out on a date, it is usually to engage in behavior of pleasurable nature. It is a time of relative irresponsibility. This is achieved by the sheer frequency of dating different individuals and the qualitative dimension lies in the prestige of the individuals dated. Helps in the process of mate selection. They can set the time and frequency of dating. They can give or withhold financial assistance important for successful dating. Due to parents rearing of a child, they instill into him certain values they consider important. So when a child reaches the dating age, the selection of a person to date is often a reflection of the values his parents have passed on him or her. The age peers the adolescent associate with often constitutes his most important reference group. Many aspects of dating behavior determined by the peer-group include individual to be dated, where to go and what to do on a date, degrees of intimacy and style of dress. For many individuals the selection of the person to go out with is determined by an estimate of what the dated can contribute to his need gratification. Exploitation is well illustrated in the area of sexual behavior. The boy tries enhancing the self esteem as a male pushing the sexual relationship as far as possible. The girl might be interested in getting an emotional commitment from the boy. Because the two sets of needs are often incompatible, exploitation results if one decisively scores a victory. Courtship Courtship is the association of unmarried man and woman mutually attracted to each other. It is an explorative comradeship revealing the strength of allurements each other has for the other. It is also an inter active pattern among young unmarried people and or their parental kin with the key function of mate selection. Here there is parental control for they do at times insist on sending their children to certain schools. Mate Selection Traditionally, mate selection is a responsibility of the parents. Mate selection is the process of selecting a mate. The area of operation is restricted and you have to go out of your immediate family or relation to select your mate. Factors determining mate selection Ethnic group or race:

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The Social Exchange Theory and its rational choice formula clarify the selection process even further. Maximize Rewards-Minimize Costs=Date or Mate Choice. When we interact with potential dates and mates we run a mental balance sheet in our heads.

Emphasis is placed on the customs that regulate choice of mates. A counter perspective views the family as an association. This perspective centers instead on the couple and attempts to understand the process of marital dyad formation. Both of these perspectives generate an abundance of knowledge concerning mate selection. Sociological inquiry that sees the family as a social institution in the context of the larger society focuses instead on the evolution of courtship systems as societies modernize. In this respect, it is important to note the contributions of scholars such as Bernard Murstein, who have pointed out the importance of cultural and historical effects on courtship systems that lead to marriage. Historical evidence suggests that, as a society modernizes, changes in the courtship system reflect a movement toward autonomous courtship systems. Thus, parentally arranged marriages diminish in industrialized cultures, since arranged marriages are found in societies in which strong extended kinship ties exist or in which the marriage has great significance for the family and community in terms of resources or status allocation. As societies modernize, arranged marriages are supplanted by an autonomous courtship system in which free choice of mate is the preferred form. Family social scientists have tried to understand the human mate selection process by using a variety of data sources and theoretical perspectives. The most global or macro approaches have made use of vital statistics such as census data or marriage license applications to study the factors that predict mate selection. Attention has been placed on social and cultural background characteristics such as age, social class, race, religion, and educational level. Bargaining and exchange take place in contemporary selection processes, and these exchanges are based on common cultural understandings about the value of the units of exchange. The basis for partner selection plays out in a market situation that is influenced by common cultural values regarding individual resources, such as socioeconomic status, physical attractiveness, and earning potential. But changes in contemporary gender roles suggest that as women gain an economic viability of their own, they are less likely to seek marriage partners. Thus, the marriage market and the units of exchange are not constant but subject to substantial variation in terms of structure and selection criteria. The premise that marital partners are selected in a rational choice process is further extended in the study of the effects of the marriage squeeze. In theory, when a shortage of women occurs in society, marriage and monogamy are valued. But when there are greater numbers of women, marriage as an institution and monogamy itself take on lesser importance. Similarly, when women outnumber men, their gender roles are thought to be less traditional in form. Due to a shortage of African-American men, coupled with greater expectations on the part of African-American women of finding mates with economic resources, the interplay between the marriage squeeze and motivational factors to marry suggest that future research needs to disentangle the individual and structural antecedents in mate selection. These studies also point to the complexity of mate selection processes as they take place within both the social structure and cultural gender role ideologies. The marriage squeeze is further exacerbated by the marriage gradient, which is the tendency for women to marry men of higher status. In general, the trend has been for people to marry within the same socioeconomic status and cultural background. But men have tended to marry women slightly below them in age and education. The marriage gradient puts high-status women at a disadvantage in the marriage market by limiting the number of potential partners. Recent changes in the educational status of women, however, suggest that these norms of mate selection are shifting. As this shift occurs, one can speculate that the importance of individual characteristics such as physical attractiveness, romantic love, and interpersonal communication will increasingly come to play important roles in the mate selection process in postmodern society. Norms of endogamy require that people marry those belonging to the same group. Concomitantly, exogamous marriages are unions that take place outside certain groups. Again, changes in social structures, ethnic affiliations, and mobility patterns have dramatically

affected the modern marriage market. More specifically, exogamy takes place when marriage occurs outside the family unit or across the genders. Taboos and laws regulating within-family marriage i. Recent attempts have been made to legally recognize same-sex marriages, thus suggesting that norms of endogamy are tractable and subject to changes in the overall values structure of a society or social group. In addition to endogamy and exogamy, the marriage market is further defined by norms of homogamy and heterogamy. Mate selection is considered to be homogenous when a partner is selected with similar individual or group characteristics. When these characteristics differ, heterogamy is evidenced. The norm of homogamy continues to be strong in American society today, but considerable evidence suggests we are in a period of change regarding social attitudes and behaviors with regard to interracial and interfaith unions. Recent data suggest that the number of interracial marriages for African-Americans has increased from 2. But African-American mate selection operates along lines of endogamy to a larger degree than do the mate selection processes of Asian-American, Native American, or other nonwhite groups. Similarly, rates of interfaith marriage have increased. For example, only 6 percent of Jews chose to marry non-Jewish partners in the s. Today nearly 40 percent of Jews marry non-Jewish partners Mindel et al. The background characteristics of age and socioeconomic status also demonstrate norms of endogamy. The Cinderella story is more of a fantasy than a reality, and self-help books with titles such as *How to Marry a Rich Man* *Woman* have little basis for success. The conditions of postmodern society are shaping mate selection patterns as they relate to endogamy and homogamy. The likelihood of marrying across social class, ethnic, and religious boundaries is strongly affected by how homogeneous similar the population is Blau et al. In large cities, where the opportunity structures are more heterogeneous diverse , rates of intermarriage are higher, while in small rural communities that demonstrate homogeneous populations, the norm of endogamy is even more pronounced. Again, the complex interplay between the marriage market and individual motives and preferences is highlighted. The factors that operate in the selection process of a mate also function in conjunction with opportunity structures that affect the potential for social interaction. The evidence suggests that propinquity is an important factor in determining who marries whom. Thus, those who live geographically proximate to each other are more likely to meet and marry. Early work by James Bossard shows that at the time of the marriage license application, about 25 percent of all couples live within two city blocks of each other. Propinquitous mate selection does not mean nonmobility, however. It is simply the case that the influence of propinquity shifts as the individual geographically shifts. Thus, one is likely to marry someone who is currently near than someone previously propinquitous. The overriding effect of propinquity is that people of similar backgrounds will meet and marry, since residential homogamy remains a dominant feature of American society. However, changing marriage patterns, such as delaying age of first marriage, will impact the strength of propinquity in the mate selection process by expanding the opportunity structures and breaking down homogenous marriage markets. One interesting area of research that often goes overlooked in discussions of the correlates of mate selection concerns homogamy of physical attractiveness. Based on the equity theory of physical attractiveness, one would expect that persons who are similar in physical attractiveness levels would marry. Many experimental designs have been conducted to test the effects of physical attractiveness on attraction to a potential dating partner. In general, the experimental conditions have yielded the findings that the more highly attractive individuals are the most desired as dating partners. But studies of couples actually involved in selecting a mate or who are already married support the notion that individuals who are similar in attractiveness marry on their own level. Thus, while attractiveness is a socially valued characteristic in choice of a mate, the norms of social exchange dictate that we select a partner who is similar in attractiveness and is thus attainable. It is only when other highly valued factors such as wealth, wit, or intelligence compensate for deficits in attractiveness that inequity of physical attractiveness in mate selection might occur. In review, theories of mate selection are more often applied to the study of personality characteristics or process orientations than to marriage market conditions. It is important to note, however, that the basic assumption is that the marriage market operates in a social exchange framework. Men and women make selections under relative conditions of supply and demand with units of exchange. The market is further shaped by cultural norms such as endogamy and homogamy that can further restrict or expand the pool of eligibles. While value theorists speculated that similarity of values

and personality would lead to great affiliation and propensity to marry, Winch posited that persons select mates whose personality traits are complementary opposite to their own. For example, a submissive person would find it gratifying or reciprocal to interact with a mate who had a dominant personality. Winch developed twelve such paired complementary personality traits, such as dominant-submissive and nurturant-receptive, for empirical testing using a very small sample of recently married couples. Although empirical support for need complementarity is lacking, the concept remains viable in the study of mate selection. The work of Winch set the stage for research commencing in the 1960s that began to examine the processes of mate selection on the dyadic level. Kerckhoff and Davis found empirical support that individuals, having met through the channels of propinquity and endogamy, proceed through a series of stages or steps in the development of the relationship. According to their theory, social status variables such as social class and race operate early on in the relationship to bring people together. The next stage involved the consensus of values, during which time the couple determines the degree of similarity in their value orientations. Couples who share similar values are likely to continue to the third stage, need complementarity. However, the data collected by Kerckhoff and Davis offered only weak support for need complementarity as part of the process of mate selection. Development of process theories of mate selection continued into the 1970s and is exemplified in the work of Ira Reiss, Bernard Murstein, Robert Lewis, and R. While these theoretical perspectives differ in terms of the order and nature of the stages, they have much in common. Melding these theories of mate selection, the following assumptions can be made concerning the stages of dyad formation that lead to marriage: There are predictable trajectories or stages of dyadic interaction that lead to marriage. The social and cultural background of a couple provides the context for the interpersonal processes. Value similarity leads to rapport in communication, self-disclosure, and the development of trust. Attraction and interaction depend on the exchange value of the assets and liabilities that the individuals bring to the relationship. Conditional factors such as age, gender, or marital history may influence the order or duration of the stages, or the probability that the relationship will end in marriage. All the studies of the mate selection process have struggled with methodological difficulties. Most studies have relied on small, volunteer samples of couples. Most have used college-age, never-married couples. Finally, most studies have made extensive use of retrospection in assessing the process of dyad formation rather than collecting longitudinal data. These methodological difficulties may, in part, account for the recent decline in the number of studies examining the process of mate selection. Furthermore, these stages may or may not result in marriage, but the primary focus of the research is on relationships that endure or terminate in marriage. Therefore, relatively little is known about the mate selection process as it pertains to rejection of a potential mate or how such terminations of relationships affect subsequent mate selection processes. More current research has begun to shift away from antecedents that lead to legal marriage and turn instead to disentangling the trajectory of relationship development over the life course. More attention will turn to the formation and development of interpersonal relationships that may move through stages of romance, cohabitation, friendship, marriage, divorce, and so forth. Emphasis on relationship quality and durability, gender role negotiations, commitment processes, and romantic love have recently taken on increased importance in social science studies of mate selection Surra and Hughes; Houts et al. Many of the theories have also overlooked the influence of peer groups and family members in the mate selection process. The theoretical and empirical inquiry that has paid attention to peer and kin influences is restricted to studies of dating.

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mate selection theories Social scientists who study the family have long been interested in the question "Who marries whom?" On one level, the study of mate selection is conducted from the perspective of family as a social institution.

Humans have inherited the innate instinct to survive and reproduce and must do both within the confines of the particular environment where they live, from their animal ancestors. Potential Field of Partners After all filters have been applied, this group of people remains as potential partners. With growing communications and technological advances, proximity is not limited to being geographically nearby. The spreading availability of online dating is increasing the ability to communicate without face-to-face interactions and activities. These family concerns include socioeconomic status, health, strength, fertility, temperament, and emotional stability of the prospective spouse. Yet, the similarities in characteristics between the two partners is consistent in both marriages. These people have a higher chance of common personal tastes, opinions and values with one another, making it easier to establish affinitive relations. Contrary to some belief, the idea that having a common profession is not the strongest bond of compatibility; educational homophily has a trend that confirms cultural differences and similarities are stronger than occupational stratification. This is basically saying that even if working in proximity with someone in a similar work force is does not necessarily lead to a stronger bond than having educational similarities. This allows homogamy between these subgroups of peers and thus creating smaller groups that share two or more similarities. This example of status and educational culture reflects how people meet in the world through social networks. Winch on twenty five couples for the purpose of testing out the theory of the ways in which complementariness appears to function in mate-selection. The theory is both psychological and sociological because it derives from the Freudian tradition, but also concerns the formation of a social group; the marital dyad. It begins with the observation that in the United States, a couple is first formed by the meeting and acquainting of one another, and then by falling in love before deciding to marry. As a result, Winch proposes that, "since meeting appears to be a precondition for falling in love, what observations can we make about whom one meets or is likely to meet? As social psychologist Andrea B. Hollingshead states, "next to race, religion is the most decisive factor in the segregation of males and females into categories that are approved or disapproved with respect to nuptiality". Considerations[edit] While mate-selection has been found to be mostly homogamous in regard to social characteristics, [2]: According to Sigmund Freud, there was a tendency for self-loving people to mate with those who were emotionally dependent and similarly, one may fall in love with a particular person because they represent a perfection which the other has unsuccessfully striven to attain. According to the similarity principle , the more two people perceive themselves to be similar, the more likely their relationship is to grow and succeed. In this, the word perceive holds a lot of significance because one may perceive that they are more similar to someone than they actually are and therefore believe they have more in common than they really do. Additionally, an individual may be inclined to over look differences because importance is held over certain similarities more than others.

6: Sociology Of The Family : 08 Dating and Mate Selection

Free-Choice Mate Selection - two people are attracted to each other, fall in love, and get married! Monogamy - two committed partners get married - a life-long relationship. Serial Monogamy - marriage to several spouses one after another.

Emphasis is placed on the customs that regulate choice of mates. A counterperspective views the family as an association. This perspective centers instead on the couple and attempts to understand the process of marital dyad formation. Both of these perspectives generate an abundance of knowledge concerning mate selection. Beginning primarily in the 1960s, theoretical and empirical work in the area of mate selection has made great advances in answering the fundamental question "Who marries whom?" Sociological inquiry that sees the family as a social institution in the context of the larger society focuses instead on the evolution of courtship systems as societies modernize. In this respect, it is important to note the contributions of scholars such as Bernard Murstein, who have pointed out the importance of cultural and historical effects on courtship systems that lead to marriage. Historical evidence suggests that, as a society modernizes, changes in the courtship system reflect a movement toward autonomous courtship systems. Thus, parentally arranged marriages diminish in industrialized cultures, since arranged marriages are found in societies in which strong extended kinship ties exist or in which the marriage has great significance for the family and community in terms of resources or status allocation. As societies modernize, arranged marriages are supplanted by an autonomous courtship system in which free choice of mate is the preferred form. These autonomous courtship systems are also referred to as "love" marriages, since the prerequisite for selection of a mate has shifted from the need to consolidate economic resources to that of individual choice based on love. Of course, family sociologists are quick to point out that the term "love marriage" is somewhat of a misnomer, since many other factors operate in the mate selection process. Family social scientists have tried to understand the human mate selection process by using a variety of data sources and theoretical perspectives. The most global or macro approaches have made use of vital statistics such as census data or marriage license applications to study the factors that predict mate selection. Attention has been placed on social and cultural background characteristics such as age, social class, race, religion, and educational level. The term "marriage market" refers to the underlying assumption that we make choices about dating and marriage partners in a kind of free-market situation. Bargaining and exchange take place in contemporary selection processes, and these exchanges are based on common cultural understandings about the value of the units of exchange. The basis for partner selection plays out in a market situation that is influenced by common cultural values regarding individual resources, such as socioeconomic status, physical attractiveness, and earning potential. But changes in contemporary gender roles suggest that as women gain an economic viability of their own, they are less likely to seek marriage partners. Thus, the marriage market and the units of exchange are not constant but subject to substantial variation in terms of structure and selection criteria. The premise that marital partners are selected in a rational choice process is further extended in the study of the effects of the marriage squeeze. The "marriage squeeze" refers to the gender imbalance that is reflected in the ratio of unmarried, available women to men. In theory, when a shortage of women occurs in society, marriage and monogamy are valued. But when there are greater numbers of women, marriage as an institution and monogamy itself take on lesser importance. Similarly, when women outnumber men, their gender roles are thought to be less traditional in form. Due to a shortage of African-American men, coupled with greater expectations on the part of African-American women of finding mates with economic resources, the interplay between the marriage squeeze and motivational factors to marry suggest that future research needs to disentangle the individual and structural antecedents in mate selection. These studies also point to the complexity of mate selection processes as they take place within both the social structure and cultural gender role ideologies. The marriage squeeze is further exacerbated by the marriage gradient, which is the tendency for women to marry men of higher status. In general, the trend has been for people to marry within the same socioeconomic status and cultural background. But men have tended to marry women slightly below them in

age and education Bernard The marriage gradient puts high-status women at a disadvantage in the marriage market by limiting the number of potential partners. Recent changes in the educational status of women, however, suggest that these norms of mate selection are shifting. As this shift occurs, one can speculate that the importance of individual characteristics such as physical attractiveness, romantic love, and interpersonal communication will increasingly come to play important roles in the mate selection process in postmodern society Beck and Beck-Gersheim ; Schoen and Wooldredge Norms of endogamy require that people marry those belonging to the same group. Concomitantly, exogamous marriages are unions that take place outside certain groups. Again, changes in social structures, ethnic affiliations, and mobility patterns have dramatically affected the modern marriage market. More specifically, exogamy takes place when marriage occurs outside the family unit or across the genders. Taboos and laws regulating within-family marriage i. Recent attempts have been made to legally recognize same-sex marriages, thus suggesting that norms of endogamy are tractable and subject to changes in the overall values structure of a society or social group. In addition to endogamy and exogamy, the marriage market is further defined by norms of homogamy and heterogamy. Mate selection is considered to be homogenous when a partner is selected with similar individual or group characteristics. When these characteristics differ, heterogamy is evidenced. The norm of homogamy continues to be strong in American society today, but considerable evidence suggests we are in a period of change regarding social attitudes and behaviors with regard to interracial and interfaith unions. Recent data suggest that the number of interracial marriages for African-Americans has increased from 2. But African-American mate selection operates along lines of endogamy to a larger degree than do the mate selection processes of Asian-American, Native American, or other nonwhite groups. Similarly, rates of interfaith marriage have increased. For example, only 6 percent of Jews chose to marry non-Jewish partners in the s. Today nearly 40 percent of Jews marry non-Jewish partners Mindel et al. The background characteristics of age and socioeconomic status also demonstrate norms of endogamy. The Cinderella story is more of a fantasy than a reality, and self-help books with titles such as *How to Marry a Rich Man* *Woman* have little basis for success. The conditions of postmodern society are shaping mate selection patterns as they relate to endogamy and homogamy. The likelihood of marrying across social class, ethnic, and religious boundaries is strongly affected by how homogeneous similar the population is Blau et al. In large cities, where the opportunity structures are more heterogeneous diverse , rates of intermarriage are higher, while in small rural communities that demonstrate homogeneous populations, the norm of endogamy is even more pronounced. Again, the complex interplay between the marriage market and individual motives and preferences is highlighted. The factors that operate in the selection process of a mate also function in conjunction with opportunity structures that affect the potential for social interaction. The evidence suggests that propinquity is an important factor in determining who marries whom. Thus, those who live geographically proximate to each other are more likely to meet and marry. Early work by James Bossard shows that at the time of the marriage license application, about 25 percent of all couples live within two city blocks of each other. Propinquitous mate selection does not mean nonmobility, however. It is simply the case that the influence of propinquity shifts as the individual geographically shifts. Thus, one is likely to marry someone who is currently near than someone previously propinquitous. The overriding effect of propinquity is that people of similar backgrounds will meet and marry, since residential homogamy remains a dominant feature of American society. However, changing marriage patterns, such as delaying age of first marriage, will impact the strength of propinquity in the mate selection process by expanding the opportunity structures and breaking down homogenous marriage markets. One interesting area of research that often goes overlooked in discussions of the correlates of mate selection concerns homogamy of physical attractiveness. Based on the equity theory of physical attractiveness, one would expect that persons who are similar in physical attractiveness levels would marry. Many experimental designs have been conducted to test the effects of physical attractiveness on attraction to a potential dating partner. In general, the experimental conditions have yielded the findings that the more highly attractive individuals are the most desired as dating partners. But studies of couples actually involved in selecting a mate or who are already married support the notion that individuals who are similar in attractiveness marry on their own level. Thus, while attractiveness is a socially valued characteristic in choice of a mate, the norms of social

exchange dictate that we select a partner who is similar in attractiveness and is thus attainable. It is only when other highly valued factors such as wealth, wit, or intelligence compensate for deficits in attractiveness that inequity of physical attractiveness in mate selection might occur. In review, theories of mate selection are more often applied to the study of personality characteristics or process orientations than to marriage market conditions. It is important to note, however, that the basic assumption is that the marriage market operates in a social exchange framework. Men and women make selections under relative conditions of supply and demand with units of exchange. The market is further shaped by cultural norms such as endogamy and homogamy that can further restrict or expand the pool of eligibles. While value theorists speculated that similarity of values and personality would lead to great affiliation and propensity to marry, Winch posited that persons select mates whose personality traits are complementary opposite to their own. For example, a submissive person would find it gratifying or reciprocal to interact with a mate who had a dominant personality. Winch developed twelve such paired complementary personality traits, such as dominant-submissive and nurturant-receptive, for empirical testing using a very small sample of recently married couples. Although empirical support for need complementarity is lacking, the concept remains viable in the study of mate selection. The work of Winch set the stage for research commencing in the 1970s that began to examine the processes of mate selection on the dyadic level. The basic form these theories take follows the "filter theory" of Alan Kerckhoff and Keith Davis. Kerckhoff and Davis found empirical support that individuals, having met through the channels of propinquity and endogamy, proceed through a series of stages or steps in the development of the relationship. According to their theory, social status variables such as social class and race operate early on in the relationship to bring people together. The next stage involved the consensus of values, during which time the couple determines the degree of similarity in their value orientations. Couples who share similar values are likely to continue to the third stage, need complementarity. However, the data collected by Kerckhoff and Davis offered only weak support for need complementarity as part of the process of mate selection. Development of process theories of mate selection continued into the 1980s and is exemplified in the work of Ira Reiss, Bernard Murstein, Robert Lewis, and R. While these theoretical perspectives differ in terms of the order and nature of the stages, they have much in common. Melding these theories of mate selection, the following assumptions can be made concerning the stages of dyad formation that lead to marriage: There are predictable trajectories or stages of dyadic interaction that lead to marriage. The social and cultural background of a couple provides the context for the inter-personal processes. Value similarity leads to rapport in communication, self-disclosure, and the development of trust. Attraction and interaction depend on the exchange value of the assets and liabilities that the individuals bring to the relationship. Conditional factors such as age, gender, or marital history may influence the order or duration of the stages, or the probability that the relationship will end in marriage. All the studies of the mate selection process have struggled with methodological difficulties. Most studies have relied on small, volunteer samples of couples. Most have used college-age, never-married couples. Finally, most studies have made extensive use of retrospection in assessing the process of dyad formation rather than collecting longitudinal data. These methodological difficulties may, in part, account for the recent decline in the number of studies examining the process of mate selection. Furthermore, these stages may or may not result in marriage, but the primary focus of the research is on relationships that endure or terminate in marriage.

7: Mate Selection Theories - [PPTX Powerpoint]

Mate choice, also known as intersexual selection, is an evolutionary process in which selection is dependent on the attractiveness of an individual's phenotypic traits. Evolutionary change is possible because the qualities that are desired in a mate are more frequently passed on to each generation over time.

Today we search for soul mates. Look around you in the classroom. How many potential mates are sitting there? In other words, how many single females or males are there in the same classroom? These are the types of questions and answers we consider when we study dating and mate selection. In the United States there are millions of people between the ages of 18 and 34, which is considered prime dating and mate selection ages. The US Census bureau estimates that 8. Those numbers should be very similar in when the Census is collected. Does that mean that you could have 15 million potential mates out there somewhere? Yes, potential yet no in realistic terms. You see, it would take more time than any mortal has in their life to ever interact with that many people. When we see people we filter them as either being in or out of our pool of eligibles. Filtering is the process of identifying those we interact with as either being in or out of our pool of people we might consider to be a date or mate. There are many filters we use. One is physical appearance. We might include some because of tattoos and piercing or exclude some for the exact same physical traits. We might include some because they know someone we know or exclude the same people because they are total strangers. Figure 1 shows the basic date and mate selection principles that play into our filtering processes. This inverted pyramid metaphorically represents a filter that a liquid might be poured through to refine it; IE: That couple in the bottom right-hand corner is my wife and I on a field trip to the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She and I travel without our children at least twice per year and we have been attending professional conferences together for more than a decade. We met in college in We dated, became engaged and married in the same year. All of the principles discussed in this chapter applied to how my wife and I met, became friends, and chose to marry. They will likely apply to you and yours. Types of Filters Used to Eliminate or Include Potential Dates and Mates Proximity is the geographic closeness experienced by potential dates and mates. Proximity means that you both breathe the same air in the same place at about the same time. Proximity is crucial because the more you see one another or interact directly or indirectly with one another, the more likely you see each other as mates. I often ask my students how they met and when they tell their stories I help them to identify the geography that was involved in the process. Physical appearance is subjective and is defined differently for each individual. Truly, what one person finds as attractive is not what others find to be attractive. There are a few biological, psychological, and social-emotional aspects of appearance that tend to make an individual more attractive to more people. These include slightly above average desirable traits and symmetry in facial features. According to the Centers for Disease Control the average man in the United States is 5 foot 10 inches tall and weighs about pounds. The average woman is about 5 foot 4 inches tall and weighs about pounds. Did you just compare yourself? Most of us tend to compare ourselves to averages or to others we know. This is important to understand that we subjectively judge ourselves as being more or less attractive; because we often limit our dating pool of eligibles to those we think are in our same category of beauty. If you are 6 foot tall as a man or 5 foot 8 as a woman, then you are slightly above average in height. So, here is the million dollar question: Am I excluded from the date and mate selection market? There is a principle that I have found to be the most powerful predictor of how we make our dating and mating selection choices--homogamy. Homogamy is the tendency for dates, mates, and spouses to pair off with someone of similar attraction, background, interests, and needs. This is typically true for most couples. They find and pair off with persons of similarity more than difference. Have you ever heard the colloquial phrase, "opposites attract? One of my students challenged this notion in the case of her own relationship. She said, "My husband and I are so different. He like Mexican food, I like Italian. He likes rap and I like classical music. He likes water skiing and I like camping and hiking" I interrupted her and said, "So you both like ethnic food, music, and outdoors. Do you vote on similar issues? Do you have similar family backgrounds? Do you both come from a similar economic class? Couples are not identical, just similar. And

we tend to find patterns that indicate that homogamy in a relationship can be indirectly supportive of a long-term relationship quality because it facilitates less disagreements and disconnections of routines in the daily life of a couple. I believe that we filter homogamously and even to the point that we do tend to marry someone like our parents. Our mates resemble our parents more because we resemble our parents and we tend to look for others like ourselves. Heterogamy is the dating or pairing of individuals with differences in traits. All of us pair off with heterogamous and homogamous individuals with emphasis more on the latter than the former. Over time, after commitments are made, couples often develop more homogamy. One of the most influential psychologists in the s was Abraham Maslow and his famous Pyramid of the Hierarchy of Needs Google: Maslow sheds light on how and why we pick the person we pick when choosing a date or mate by focusing on how they meet our needs as a date, mate, or spouse. Persons from dysfunctional homes where children were not nurtured nor supported through childhood would likely be attracted to someone who provides that unfulfilled nurturing need they still have. Persons from homes where they were nurtured, supported, and sustained in their individual growth and development would likely be attracted to someone who promises growth and support in intellectual, aesthetic, or self-actualization becoming fully who our individual potential allows us to become areas of life. It may sound selfish at first glance but we really do date and mate on the basis of what we get out of it or how our needs are met. The Social Exchange Theory and its rational choice formula clarify the selection process even further. When we interact with potential dates and mates we run a mental balance sheet in our heads. This while simultaneously remembering how we rate and evaluate ourselves. Rarely do we seek out the best looking person at the party unless we define ourselves as an even match for him or her. More often we rank and rate ourselves compared to others and as we size up and evaluate potentials we define the overall exchange rationally or in an economic context where we try to maximize our rewards while minimizing our losses. The overall evaluation of the deal also depends to a great extent on how well we feel matched on racial and ethnic traits, religious background, social economic class, and age similarities. Truly the complexity of the date and mate selection process includes many obvious and some more subtle processes that you can understand for yourself. If you are single you can apply them to the date and mate selection processes you currently pursue. Bernard Murstein wrote articles in the early s where he tested his Stimulus-Value-Role Theory of marital choice. *Theories and Research in Marital Choice*: New York; Springer, pages. To Murstein the exchange is mutual and dependent upon the subjective attractions and the subjective assets and liabilities each individual brings to the relationship. The Stimulus is the trait usually physical that draws your attention to the person. After time is spent together dating or hanging out, Values are compared for compatibility and evaluation of "maximization of Rewards while minimization of costs is calculated. If after time and relational compatibility supports it, the pair may choose to take Roles which typically include: From the very first encounter, two strangers begin a process that either excludes one another as potential dates or mates or includes them and begins the process of establishing intimacy. Intimacy is the mutual feeling of acceptance, trust, and connection to another person, even with the understanding of personal faults of the individual. In other words, intimacy is the ability to become close to one another, to accept one another as is, and eventually to feel accepted by the other. Intimacy is not sexual intercourse, although sexual intercourse may be one of many expressions of intimacy. When two strangers meet they have a stimulus that alerts one or both to take notice of the other. I read a book by Judith Wallerstein see Wallerstein and Blakesley *The Good Marriage* where one woman was on a date with a guy and overheard another man laughing like Santa Clause might laugh. She asked her date to introduce her and that began the relationship which would become her decades-long marriage to the Santa Clause laughing guy. In the stimulus stage some motivation at the physical, social, emotional, intellectual or spiritual level sparks interests and the interaction begins. Over time and with increased interaction, two people may make that journey of values comparisons and contrasts which inevitably includes or excludes the other. Even though Figure 2 shows that a smooth line of increasing intimacy can occur, it does not always occur so smoothly nor so predictably. As the couple reaches a place where a bond has developed they establish patterns of commitment and loyalty which initiates the roles listed in Figure 2. The list of roles is listed in increasing order of level of commitment yet does not indicate any kind of predictable stages the couple would be expected to pursue. In other words, some couples may take the

relationship only as far as exclusive dating which is the mutual agreement to exclude others from dating either individual in the relationship. Another couple may eventually cohabit or marry. Dates are temporary adventures where good looks, fun personality, entertainment capacity, and even your social status by being seen in public with him or her are considered important. Dates are short-term and can be singular events or a few events. Many college students who have dated more than once develop "A Thing" or a relationship noticed by the individuals and their friends as either beginning or having at least started, but not quite having a defined destination. These couples eventually hold a DTR. A DTR means a moment where the two individuals Define The Relationship openly to determine if both want to include each other in a specific goal-directed destination IE:

This theory was created by Robert Lewis, and is one of the more complex mate selection theories. He says two people must pass through 6 stages. Stage 1: two people must have similar values, backgrounds, interests, and personality.

It is possible that these mechanisms co-occur, although the relative roles of each have not been evaluated adequately. If competitive sex displays an ornamental trait that reliably indicates some direct benefit then strong selection will favor mating bias. Direct benefits are widespread and empirical studies provide evidence for this mechanism of evolution. Male northern cardinals have conspicuous red feathers while the females are more cryptic in coloration. In this example, the females are the choosy sex and will use male plumage brightness as a signal when picking a mate – males with brighter plumage have been shown to feed their young more frequently than males with duller plumage. In the case of the great reed warbler, females tend to be attracted to males with longer song-repertoires – they tend to sire offspring with improved viability. In doing so, they gain indirect benefits for their own young. In the *Utetheisa ornatrix*, females select males based on body size, systemic content of pyrrolizidine alkaloid, and glandular content of hydroxydanaidal. As a result, these females demonstrate direct and indirect phenotypic benefits: Mating call The sensory-bias hypothesis states that the preference for a trait evolves in a non-mating context and is then exploited by one sex in order to obtain more mating opportunities. The competitive sex evolves traits that exploit a pre-existing bias that the choosy sex already possesses. This mechanism is thought[by whom? In this mating system, female guppies prefer to mate with males with more orange body-coloration. However, outside of a mating context, both sexes prefer animate orange objects, which suggests that preference originally evolved in another context, like foraging. The ability to find these fruits quickly is an adaptive quality that has evolved outside of a mating context. Sometime after the affinity for orange objects arose, male guppies exploited this preference by incorporating large orange spots to attract females. Another example of sensory exploitation is the case of the water mite *Neumania papillator*, an ambush predator which hunts copepods small crustaceans passing by in the water column. This would trigger the female prey-detection responses, causing females to orient and then clutch at males, mediating courtship. Proctor found that unfed captive females did orient and clutch at males significantly more than fed captive females did, consistent with the sensory exploitation hypothesis. Fisherian runaway and Sexy son hypothesis These hypotheses refer to a coupled selection for females to be attracted and, likewise, a selection for males to be attractive. This can lead to self-reinforcing coevolution. This model does not predict a genetic benefit; rather, the reward is more mates. In a study done on great reed warblers, models based on the polygyny threshold and sexy-son hypotheses predict that females should gain evolutionary advantage in either short-term or long-term in this mating system. Although the importance of female choice was demonstrated, the study did not support the hypotheses. Such a process shows how female choice could give rise to exaggerated sexual traits through Fisherian runaway selection. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. January Learn how and when to remove this template message Indicator traits signal good overall quality of the individual. Traits perceived as attractive must reliably indicate broad genetic quality in order for selection to favor them and for preference to evolve. This is an example of indirect genetic benefits received by the choosy sex, because mating with such individuals will result in high-quality offspring. The indicator traits hypothesis is split into three highly related subtopics: Therefore, individuals which can handle these costs well cf. This is known as the handicap theory of sexual selection. In doing so, they gain an evolutionary advantage for their offspring through indirect benefit. The Hamilton-Zuk hypothesis posits that sexual ornaments are indicators of parasite- and disease-resistance. Female preference was also evaluated. The researchers found that parasites affected the development and final appearance of ornamental traits and that females preferred males who were not infected. This supports the idea that parasites are an important factor in sexual selection and mate choice. This patch varies in brightness among individuals because the pigments that produce the red color carotenoids are limited in the environment. Thus, males who have a high-quality diet will have brighter red plumage. In a manipulation experiment,

female house finches were shown to prefer males with brighter red patches. Also, males with naturally brighter patches proved better fathers and exhibited higher offspring-feeding rates than duller males. Genetic compatibility[edit] Genetic compatibility refers to how well the genes of two parents function together in their offspring. Choosing genetically compatible mates could result in optimally fit offspring and notably affect reproductive fitness. However, the genetic compatibility model is limited to specific traits due to complex genetic interactions e. The choosy sex must know their own genotype as well as the genotypes of potential mates in order to select the appropriate partner. A controversial but well-known experiment suggests that human females use body odor as an indicator of genetic compatibility. In this study, males were given a plain T-shirt to sleep in for two nights in order to provide a scent sample. College women were then asked to rate odors from several men, some with similar MHC major histocompatibility complex genes to their own and others with dissimilar genes. MHC genes code for receptors that identify foreign pathogens in the body so that the immune system may respond and destroy them. Since each different gene in the MHC codes for a different type of receptor, it is expected that females will benefit from mating with males who have more dissimilar MHC genes. This will ensure better resistance to parasites and disease in offspring. They concluded that the odors are influenced by the MHC and that they have consequences for mate choice in human populations today. As long as a heritable component exists in expression patterns, natural selection is able to act upon the trait. Therefore, gene expression for MHC genes might contribute to the natural selection processes of certain species and be in fact evolutionarily relevant. However, there are some examples of sex role reversals where females must compete with each other for mating opportunities with males. Species that exhibit parental care after the birth of their offspring have the potential to overcome the sex differences in parental investment the amount of energy that each parent contributes per offspring and lead to a reversal in sex roles. Male fish typically display high levels of parental care see pipefish , scissortail sergeant , and seahorses. This is because females will deposit their eggs in a special brooding pouch that the male possesses. The male then has the burden of raising the offspring on his own which requires energy and time. Thus, males in these species must choose among competitive females for mating opportunities. Surveys across multiple species of pipefish suggest that the sex differences in the level of parental care may not be the only reason for the reversal. Male poison-arrow frogs *Dendrobates auratus* take on a very active parenting role. Females are lured by the males to rearing sites where they deposit their eggs. The male fertilises these eggs and accepts the burden of defending and caring for the young until they are independent. Because the male contributes a higher level of parental investment, females must compete for opportunities to leave their eggs with the limited available males. Bird species are typically biparental in care, and may also be maternal like the Guianan cock-of-the-rocks. However the reverse may also hold true. Male wattled jacanas provide all parental care after the eggs have been laid by the females. This means that the males must incubate the eggs and defend the nest for an extended period of time. Since males invest much more time and energy into the offspring, females are very competitive for the right to lay their eggs in an established nest. There are no confirmed cases of sex role reversed mammals but female spotted hyenas have peculiar anatomy and behaviour that has warranted much attention. The increased male hormones during development contribute to an enlarged pseudopenis that is involved in mating and birth. Speciation by this method occurs when a preference for some sexual trait shifts and produces a pre-zygotic barrier preventing fertilisation. These processes have been difficult to test until recently with advances in genetic modelling. There is evidence of early speciation through mate preference in guppies. Guppies are located across several isolated streams in Trinidad and male colour patterns differ geographically. Female guppies have no coloration but their preference for these colour patterns also vary across locations. In a mate choice study, female guppies were shown to prefer males with colour patterns that are typical of their home stream. There is a similar trend shown in two species of the wood white butterfly, *L.* This female mate choice has encouraged speciation of the two wood whites. Asymmetric recognition of local and non-local songs has been found between two populations of black-throated blue warblers in the United States, one in the northern United States New Hampshire and the other in the southern United States North Carolina. In contrast, southern males respond equally to both local and non-local songs. The fact that northern males exhibit differential recognition indicates that northern females tend not to mate

with "heterospecific" males from the south; thus it is not necessary for the northern males to respond strongly to the song from a southern challenger. A barrier to gene flow exists from South to North as a result of the female choice, which can eventually lead to speciation. Mate choice in humans[edit] In humans, males and females differ in their strategies to acquire mates and focus on certain qualities. The strategies that each gender uses differs in regards to whether they are long-term or short-term. Human mate choice depends on a variety of factors, such as genes , negative traits, and parasite stress. Female mate choice[edit] Although, in humans, both males and females are particular in terms of whom they decide to mate with, as is seen in nature, females exhibit even more mate choice selection than males. For example, male traits such as the presence of beards, overall lower voice pitch, and average greater height are thought to be sexually selected traits as they confer benefits to either the women selecting for them, or to their offspring. Experimentally, women have reported a preference for men with beards and lower voices. The ultimate traits most salient to female human mate choice, however, are parental investment, resource provision and the provision of good genes to offspring. Many phenotypic traits are thought to be selected for as they act as an indication of one of these three major traits. The relative importance of these traits when considering mate selection differ depending on the type of mating arrangement females engage in. Human women typically employ long-term mating strategies when choosing a mate, however they also engage in short-term mating arrangements, so their mate choice preferences change depending on the function of the type of arrangement. This is evidenced by factors such as the evolved male tendency to seek out multiple sexual partners " a trait that could not have evolved if women were not also historically engaging in short-term arrangements " and by the tendency of some women to pursue affairs outside of their long-term couple pairings. Women may engage in short-term mating in order to gain resources that they may not be able to gain from a long-term partner, or that a long-term partner may not be able to provide consistently. These resources may be food, protection for the woman and her children from aggressive men who may capture or sexually coerce them, or status, by providing the woman with a higher social standing.

9: Theories of Attraction and Mate Selection by Titi Odunlami on Prezi

Psychology Definition of MATE SELECTION: is the process of choosing an appropriate partner for reproduction within a population. Where the male to female ratio dictates, females may become more.

There are several theories that try to explain why we chose the mates we do. Parent Image Theory is a psychodynamic theory supported by Sigmund Freud. He called it the Oedipus or Electra complex " when a person married someone like his or her mother or father. Mothers and fathers are generally our first love objects, and this theory suggests that sons and daughters model after the parents of the same sex by selecting partners similar to the one the parent selected i. Another psychodynamic theory is the Ideal Mate Theory. In this theory, one marries an ideal mate based on early childhood experiences. We choose someone who meets our every need and responds quickly and totally. The problem is when this mate does not live up to our expectations after marriage, which can certainly cause a lot of disappointment in a relationship. Needs Theory is another psychodynamic theory which states that we select a partner who will fulfill our needs. Winch promoted the Complementary-Needs Theory stating that we pick those whose needs are opposite, but complementary to, our own " the opposites attract theory. Also, couples may have similar needs but at different levels or times during a relationship. You both want to do advanced study, but your levels of energy and aspiration are different. The Exchange Theory is another theory of mate selection. In this theory one will get at least as much from the relationship as it will cost. The aim is to maximize the rewards of marriage. The costs are the unpleasant aspects of a relationship. A woman might identify the costs associated with being involved with her partner as: Unless the couple referred to above derive a profit from staying together, they are likely to end their relationship and seek someone else that could yield them a higher profit margin. Loss occurs when the costs exceed the rewards. Another reason one might stay in a relationship even if there is no profit is because there is no alternative " no one currently available who offers a higher profit margin. Once you identify the person who offers you a good exchange for what you have to offer, other bargains are made about the conditions of your continued relationship. What other things are you willing to compromise on? This is when the Principle of Least Interest comes in. The person who has the least interest in continuing the relationship can control the relationship. If you have the least interest then you have nothing to lose, while the person with the most interest has everything to lose if the relationship does not last. Another type of mate selection theory is the Developmental Process Theory. This theory is a process of filtering out ineligible and incompatible people until one person is selected using family background factors, propinquity, and attraction. Filters " we begin with a wide range of eligibles who then go through a series of filters propinquity, attraction, homogamy, compatibility so that the numbers are reduced each time, then cohabitation or engagement, and if they make it through this filter, they get married. Couples vary in the emphasis they place on different filters. Field of Eligibles " shortage or abundance of the opposite sex available to marry. During World War II so many men were away at war that there was not much choice left. Propinquity " geographic nearness or the tendency to marry someone who lives and works in the same social context. Living, working, or going to school near someone provides an opportunity to see that person regularly. In addition, being at the same school, working at the same job, worshipping at the same place, or living close to another person may be related to sharing similar interests, frustrations, values, and life experiences. Attraction " people are drawn to those whom they find attractive, both physically and to specific personality traits. Homogamy " choosing a mate who shares personal and social characteristics, such as race, age, ethnicity, education, socioeconomic class, and religion. Heterogamy " choosing a mate different from oneself. Blacks are more likely than Whites to report that they are open to involvement in an interracial relationship. This may be because there are more benefits for a Black to join the majority than vice versa. There may be more Whites available to Blacks and a greater exposure of Blacks to White culture than Whites to Black culture. In Black families, the mothers are more likely to determine acceptance of a partner of another race and in White families, it is more likely the father that determines acceptance. College students are more accepting of cohabitation and interracial relationships, than non-college age people. Those who have dated interracially were more open to doing so

again. Age – the median age of first married females and males are The older one is when they first get married, the greater the chances that they will remain married. Men generally tend to marry younger women. Education – the very pursuit of education becomes a value to be shared. The older the woman the more likely she is to marry a partner with less education. The Mating Gradient is the tendency of husbands to be more advanced than their wives with regard to age, education, and occupational success, although this is changing in our society today. This can cause some high-status women to remain single. These women sometimes only receive approval from their parents and peers if they marry someone of equal status, so instead of dropping their standards, they remain single. Conversely, if you improve your educational and economic opportunities, it also improves your likelihood of marrying a man of means. Religion – a specific fundamental set of beliefs and practices. This is generally agreed upon by a number of persons or sects. Religion is a major force in marital stability. The more regularly a couple attends church, the higher the marital satisfaction, with shared beliefs they are more likely to try everything possible to make their marriage work. Another reason that religion is a large factor in marriage is the basic tenet of religion is forgiveness. This forgiveness becomes incorporated into the marriage and helps sustain it over time. Marital Status – singles tend to marry singles, divorced people tend to marry other divorced people, and those widowed tend to marry others who are widowed. Mental Health – spouses with panic disorders, phobias, generalized anxiety, and drug dependence are more likely to select other spouses with the same disorders. Personality – similar personalities report high well-being. For example, conservatives with other conservatives, liberals with liberals, risk-takers with risk-takers tend to have higher marital satisfaction. Time Perspective – another filter is whether a person is past, present, or future-oriented. We tend to choose those that are similar or opposite in this regard. Compatibility – temperament, attitudes and values, needs, role conceptions and enactment, and personal habits. We want people who are compatible in these areas. Role expectations should be discussed before marriage, and to overcome troublesome habits, open communication between spouses is essential. I was thinking this morning that the toothpaste industry has eliminated one major source of behavior that made compatibility difficult. They have attached the tops to the tubes of toothpaste and you no longer have to deal with a partner who always leaves the top off! There are still other issues though, do you squeeze from the end or the middle of the tube of toothpaste, do you put the paper forward or backward on the toilet paper holder, or do you leave the seat up or put it down after use? So much to consider!

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