



Mate Preference Perception Accuracy among Gay Men and Lesbians

Emily A. Graham, Charles A. Bakalars, & Angela G. Pirlott
Department of Psychology, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire



Introduction

The ability to accurately perceive the mate preferences of those with whom one desires to mate acts as a valuable preferred mate acquisition strategy. The current study examined the accuracy of gay men and lesbians' perceptions of other gay men and lesbians' mate preferences relative to their actual preferences. Gay men and lesbians could be *more* accurate in perceiving the mate preferences of their desired mating targets, given they are members of that mating pool, or they could be *less* accurate, given lesser cultural knowledge about LGB mating behavior.

Method

Participants:
163 Amazon Mechanical Turk Gay/ Lesbian participants
Design & Procedure:
Participants rated the importance of 19 mate characteristics for long- and short-term relationships and estimated the importance of these traits to people with whom they were interested in mating. One-sample *t*-tests compared participants' perceptions with their mating targets' preferences.

Results & Discussion

Overall, gay men and lesbians were largely accurate in estimating the mate preferences of targets with whom they were interested in mating. Specifically, gay men accurately perceived all of other gay men's short-term preferences, but fewer long-term mate preferences. This greater accuracy in perceiving short-term mate preferences relative to long-term could be due to their enhanced interest in short-term mating. Similarly lesbians were largely accurate at perceiving other lesbians' short- and long-term relationship preferences. However, these keenly accurate perceptions for both gay men and lesbians potentially strive from both groups assuming their own preferences match those of other gay men and lesbians. Therefore, our future research will match the mate preference perceptions of one sample to the mate preferences of a different sample.

Figures

