

## **Bachelor's thesis review – Supervisor's evaluation**

Title: *Individual differences in necessities and luxuries in mate choice*

Author: Obada Shweiki

Supervisor: Zsófia Csajbók, M.A., Ph.D.

Opponent: Ellen Zakreski, Ph.D.

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Obada Shweiki specifically focused on the influence of individual differences, such as sex, age, relationship status, size of residence, number of short- and long-term relationships, mate value, and self-evaluation, on which characteristics the participants considered as necessities versus luxuries in mate choice. Capitalizing on already collected data, he used the budget allocation method, an already established protocol that can distinguish the necessary, indispensable characteristics from luxurious, “nice to have” characteristics in a potential partner. He explicitly studied questions which have not been investigated on this dataset.

Obada regularly attended meetings to discuss strategy for the analysis and the writing. The topic he chose required a lengthy and tedious work on extensive amounts of tables and diligent and demanding reporting work. He invested a lot of time and energy into the reporting. Despite the novelty of the task he acquired the necessary skills through this experience. He was also attending the Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences course specifically in order to acquire the necessary statistical expertise for the thesis work.

While we regularly discussed the contents, aims, and strategy for the thesis work, and he was relying on my feedback, he was working particularly independently on the Introduction. I praise his speed with which he was able to write up this complex and thorough overview of the mate choice literature. He was quick at learning the APA formatting requirements and he was also very dedicated and laser focused on improving his writing wherever it was necessary. Eventually, while the analyses found generally weak results, Obada was able to highlight and adequately explain the strengths and weaknesses of the study and possible explanations for the sometimes contradictory findings.

In sum, Obada was working on an unstudied question that is whether individual differences can be demonstrated in the budget-allocation discipline as they have been in the already established, more widespread simple rating method. He even compared in some aspects the two methods to examine the differences found when individual differences in mate preferences were studied with different methods. The thesis closely followed the APA formatting requirements and the IMRaD structure. About half of the thesis focused on the literature review and half on the empirical part. His literature review provided sufficient rationale for the research questions. He conducted the analyses following the discussed strategy and he appropriately reported the results. He triaged and organized the results according to relevance. In the discussion, he provided sufficient background for the evaluation of the results and also mentioned some limitations of the study. Therefore, my recommendation for the thesis is to be graded as excellent (1).

In Prague, 3 June 2024

Zsófia Csajbók, M.A., Ph.D.