

Abstract

Mate preferences play an important role in an actual mate choice. However, preferred and actual characteristics of mates could differ in some extent. There is discrepancy between ideal partner preferences and actual mate choice. This study is following study conducted in 2013 which was focused on mate preferences and actual mate discrepancy in physical characteristics. The main aim of this study is to investigate, a) how can mate preferences differ over time, b) whether are mate preferences influenced by actual partner, c) whether has discrepancy between preferred and actual partner influence on dyadic?? adjustment and d) whether **has** discrepancy influence on relationship stability.

The final sample of this study consisted of 113 heterosexual women in the age of 18 – 43 (mean age = 29,28, SD = 5,744). Respondents completed an online survey which consisted of sociodemographical informations, informations about experience with long-term partners, revise dyadic adjustment scale (R-DAS) and standardized stimuli of physical characteristics of ideal and actual partner (if respondents were in relationship). Results have showed that partner preferences changed over the first test (2013). In the case of influence of actual partner on the ideal partner preferences was shown significant result only in the case of body hair. The impact of discrepancy between ideal and actual partner on dyadic adjustment has only been shown in BMI. No influence of discrepancy was found in the case of relationship stability.

According to our results, the preferences for physical characteristics are relatively stable over time, with the influence of the actual partner being negligible. This may indicate that partner preferences can be shaped by different mechanisms, e.g. in early childhood or earlier, or may be subject of inheritance. The results also showed only a slight impact of discrepancy on dyadic adjustment and no effect on relationship stability. In this case, stability of the relationship was a crucial because it was not limited to subjective evaluation. This suggests that discrepancies in the physical characteristics could play more significant role in men for whom physical characteristics are more important in mate choice. A bigger effect could also have discrepancies in personality traits.