Do high mate-value males adopt a less restricted sociosexuality orientation?

A meta-analysis

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Introduction

- Males have a substantially lower obligatory parental investment, relative to females (Trivers, 1972). This differential investment corresponds with sex differences in the optimal mating strategies that are employed by each sex, such that individual males have the potential to benefit more than individual females from short-term, pluralistic mating.
- Yet men can also vary drastically from one-another in the mating strategies that they adopt, ranging from short-term, pluralistic mating to long-term monogamous pair-bonding, even within a particular cultural or environmental context (e.g., Arnocky, Woodruff, & Schmitt, 2016).
- Both Sexual Strategies Theory (SST; Buss & Schmitt, 1993) and Strategic Pluralism Theory (Gangestad & Simpson, 2000) together suggest that mate value is one important individual difference factor that should directly influence the adoption of longer-term versus shorter-term mating (Jackson & Kirkpatrick, 2007).
- In spite of being firmly situated in two widely-accepted evolutionary psychological frameworks, there has only mixed evidence in support of a link between men's mate value and their sociosexual orientation.
- The goal of this research was to conduct a meta-analysis of all the previous literature on males mate value and sociosexuality.

Method

Literature Search.

- First, searches on the databases Google Scholar, PsychInfo, Theses Canada Portal, EthOs, and EBSCO Open Dissertations were implemented using keywords: mate value, sociosexuality, and sociosexual orientation.
- Second, a manual search was conducted by examining all papers that have cited any of the commonly-used mate value measures, as well as work citing the identified articles, and work that the identified articles cited.
- For articles missing some key data needed for analysis, researchers were contacted by email to access information.
- Some of the studies were taken from unpublished data sets from the Human Evolution Laboratory at Nipissing University.

Criteria for inclusion. The studies included must have examined the relationship between self-perceived mate value scales and sociosexual orientation (SOI original or revised) through correlations in a male only sample.

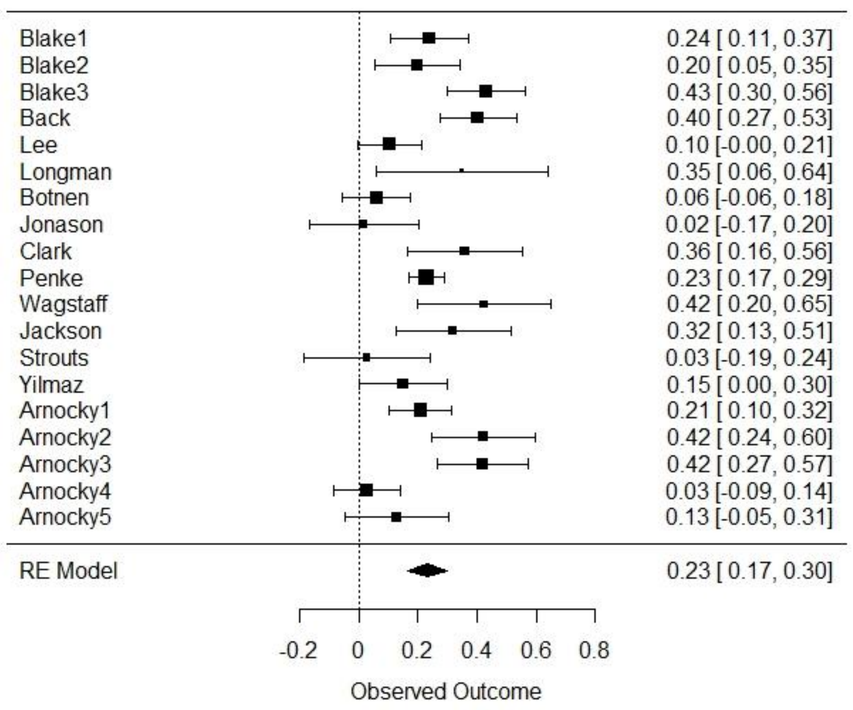
Method (Continued)

Study	Country	Sample	Mate-Value	SOI	Effect
Blake et al 1 (2016; Study 2)	AU	215	CMVS + MVI	SOI-R	$r = .24$, $p < .001$
Blake et al 2 (2016; Study 3)	AU	177	CMVS + MVI	SOI-R	$r = .20$, $p = .008$
Blake et al 3 (2016; Study 4)	AU	185	CMVS	SOI-R	$r = .43$, $p < .001$
Back et al (2011)	GE	190	SPMV	SOI-R	$r = .40$, $p < .001$
Lee et al (2014)	AU	339	CMVS + items	SOI-R	$r = .11$, $p = .052$
Longman et al (2018)	UK	42	SPMV	SOI-R	$r = .35$, $p = .05$
Botnen et al (unpublished, 2017)	NO	290	MVI	SOI-R	$r = .06$, $p = .28$
Jonason et al (2015)	USA	115	MVI	SOI	$r = .017$, $p = .87$
Clark (2006)	CA	89	SPMV	SOI	$r = .36$ $p = .01$
Penke & Asendorf (2008)	GE	1,026	SPMV	SOI-R	$r = .23$ $p < .001$
Wagstaff, et al (2015)	AU	65	MVI	SOI-R	$r = .42$ $p < .001$
Jackson & Kirkpatrick (2007)	USA	94	SPMV	SOI	$r = .32$ $p = .01$
Strouts et al (2017)	USA	86	MVI	STMS	$r = .028$ $p = .804$
Yilmaz (unpublished, 2016)	TU	169	SPMV	SOI-R	$r = .151$ $p = .057$
Arnocky et al 1 (2019)	CA	330	MVI	SOI-R	$r = .21$ $p < .001$
Arnocky et al 2 (2019)	CA	105	CMVS	SOI-R	$r = .42$ $p < .001$
Arnocky et al 3 (2019)	CA	139	CMVS	SOI-R	$r = .42$ $p < .001$
Arnocky et al 4 (2019)	CA	301	MVS	SOI-R	$r = .03$ $p = .065$
Arnocky et al 5 (2019)	CA	162	MVS	SOI-R	$r = .13$ $p = .10$

Table 1. Characteristics of studies. CMVS = Components of Mate Value Scale (22 items; Fisher et al, 2008), SPMV = Self-Perceived Mate Value (Landolt, Lalumiere & Quinsey, 1995), MVI = Mate Value Inventory (17 items; Kirsner et al., 2003), Mate Value Scale (4 items; Edlund & Sagarin, 2014), Sociosexuality Orientation Index (Simpson & Gangstead, 1991), SOI-R = Sociosexual Orientation Inventory – Revised (Penke & Asendorpf, 2008), STMS (Jackson & Kirkpatrick, 2007)

Results

Based on the population effect sizes and their confidence intervals, there was a positive significant correlation between mate value and sociosexual orientations, $r = .23$ (SE = .03, $Z = 6.83$, $p < .0001$) (CI lower = 0.17, CI upper = 0.30)



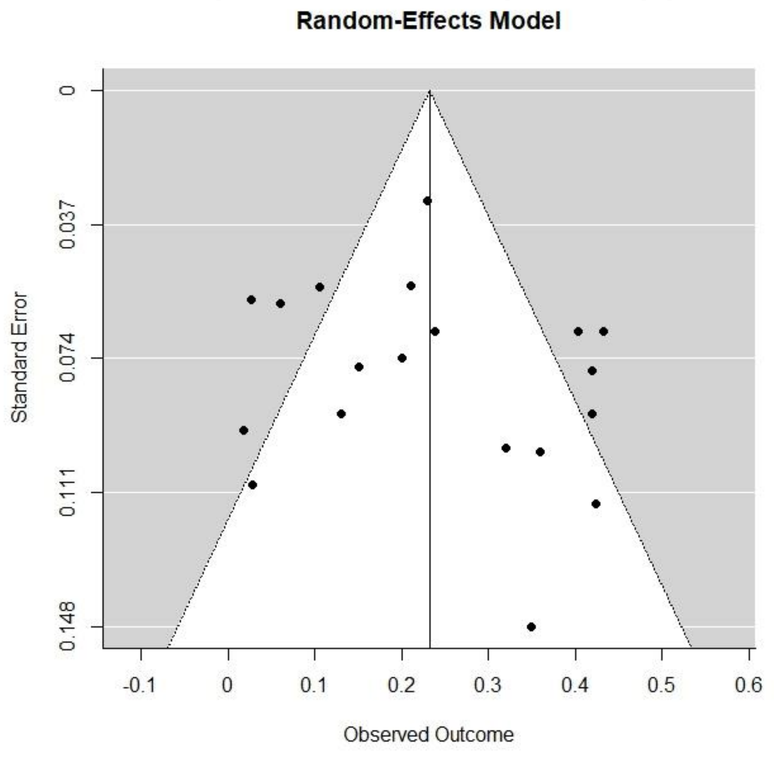


Figure 1. The forest plot indicates all studies found positive relationships, with only a small number (5 out of 18) having a confidence interval that crosses zero.
Figure 2. A funnel plot is a graphical technique used to visually represent the degree of publication bias (Viechtbauer, 2010). The funnel displays the effect sizes plotted against the standard error.

Conclusion

The above findings demonstrate that men's mate-value is an important predictor of the type of mating strategy they adopt. High mate-value men are more likely to adhere to a short-term pluralistic mating strategy, as demonstrated by their higher SOI-R scores.

References

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