

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG FACIAL ATTRACTIVENESS, BODY HEIGHT AND VOICE IN YOUNG MEN

Sanita Kecko¹, Ilona Skrinda¹, Tatjana Krama¹, Inese Kivleniece¹, Indriķis Krams¹

¹University of Daugavpils, Institute of Systematic Biology

Adress: Vienības 13, LV-5401, Daugavpils, Latvia

e-mail: sunny-sanita@inbox.lv

Sexual selection plays a crucial role in human evolution. Mate choice has been found to be important because there are direct relationships between offspring health and future resource holding potential. Many studies have revealed that female choice strongly depends on the phenotype of potential partners (Roberts *et al.* 2005). Mate choice in humans is based on a wide range of phenotypic traits. Hearing, vision and smell ability are used to gather information on sex partners. It has been shown that body height, facial attractiveness and voice pitch of potential mates are among the most important parameters (Hodges-Simeon *et al.* 2010).

Relationships among facial attractiveness, facial masculinity, body height and vocal attractiveness were examined in this study.

To test whether there is any relationship among the traits, we tape-recorded and photographed 77 young Latvian men (mean age = 22.10, SD = 1.01). Young Latvian women (n = 40) rated the facial and vocal masculinity of the samples. Facial photographs were taken in standardized lighting conditions against a common background. All participants read the same story about mountains in their normal speaking voice which took 20 s. Ethnic Latvian women participate as voluntary raters to rate masculinity of the faces in the fertile phase of their menstrual cycle. Pictures and tape-records were presented in random order. Masculinity was scored according to a 8-point scale (0= not masculine, 7 = very masculine). We averaged the rating scored from all female's together to yield one single attractiveness rating for each male.

It is commonly assumed that tall men have more attractive voice because of their larger body and larger vocal tract which is sufficient to produce lower – more masculine sounds. However, we found that in young Latvian men vocal masculinity decreased as they reached the body height of 180 cm. Facial masculinity also decreased in men taller than 180 cm. It may be too costly to build up large body and produce masculine voice and face. We concluded that each sexually important trait may have its benefits and also costs of development and maintenance.

References:

Roberts, S. *et al.* (2005). MHC-heterozygosity and human facial attractiveness. *Evolution And Human Behavior* 26, 213-226

Hodges-Simeon, C. R., Gaulin, S. J., & Puts, D. A. (2010). Different vocal parameters predict perceptions of dominance and attractiveness. *Human Nature*, 21, 406–427