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Abstract

Mate preference criteria of reproductive women can be explained by the evolutionary requirements of a possible or actual motherhood. As this situation no longer applies to post-reproductive women, their criteria could be different. However, research on mate preference criteria for older women is scarce, although the topic is certainly of socio-political relevance.

Therefore, this work focused on post-reproductive women's preferences concerning the male characteristics of sociability, status, and attractiveness as the literature shows that these three criteria subsume the most important characteristics in human mate choice.

In addition to analysing responses to a questionnaire, we assessed partner trait preferences via visual preference measured by eye tracking for the first time. We used the electrooculography technique (EOG) and were able to show that it is indeed a suitable tool for investigating intuitive partner preferences. 68 women over the age of 50 participated in the study.

The study resulted in the following findings: The tested post-reproductive women place the same demands on their mates as young women do; at least as far as the traits of sociability, status, and attractiveness are concerned. The criterion of sociability is valued most in mates, followed by status and attractiveness. Life in a relationship is a concept that the tested women desire for physical and social reasons. Financial considerations do not influence mate preferences. Participants desire a partner with personality traits similar to their own. Women of the generation 50+ do not lower their standards for a potential mate. As they regard a romantic partner as non-essential for their happiness, they rather choose to stay single than to make substantial compromises with regard to the demands placed on a desired partner. The ideal mate's desired age is about the same as their own or is regarded irrelevant.

This work is the first empirical evaluation of women's preferences for male characteristics that focuses exclusively on the desires of post-reproductive women. As life expectancy increases, post-reproductive relationships gain importance. Therefore, additional research with this group of people is desirable.

Zusammenfassung

Partnerwahlkriterien reproduktiver Frauen lassen sich durch die evolutionären Anforderungen einer möglichen oder tatsächlichen Mutterschaft erklären. Da diese Situation für postreproduktive Frauen nicht mehr gilt, könnten sie potentiell andere Kriterien haben. Forschungsergebnisse zu Partnerwahlkriterien älterer Frauen sind aber spärlich, obwohl sie sicherlich von gesellschaftspolitischer Relevanz sind.

Daher konzentriert sich diese Arbeit auf die Präferenzen postreproduktiver Frauen bezüglich der männlichen Eigenschaften soziale Verträglichkeit, Status und Attraktivität, da die Literatur zeigt, dass diese drei Kriterien die wichtigsten Eigenschaften bei der menschlichen Partnerwahl zusammenfassen.

Neben der Auswertung von Antworten auf einen Fragebogen maßen wir erstmals bevorzugte Partner-Eigenschaften direkt mittels Eye-Tracking (Blickverfolgung). Dazu verwendeten wir die Elektrookulographie-Technik (EOG) und konnten zeigen, dass diese tatsächlich ein geeignetes Instrument zur Untersuchung intuitiver Partnerpräferenzen darstellt. 68 Frauen im Alter von über 50 Jahren nahmen an der Studie teil.

Die Studie führte zu folgenden Erkenntnissen: Die getesteten postreproduktiven Frauen stellen die gleichen Anforderungen an ihre Partner wie junge Frauen, zumindest was die Merkmale soziale Verträglichkeit, Status und Attraktivität betrifft. Das Kriterium soziale Verträglichkeit wird bei Partnern am meisten geschätzt, gefolgt von Status und Attraktivität. Das Leben in einer Beziehung ist ein Konzept, das diese Frauen aus physischen und sozialen Gründen anstreben. Finanzielle Überlegungen haben keinen Einfluss auf die Partnerwahl. Sie wünschen sich einen Partner mit Persönlichkeitsmerkmalen, die ihren eigenen ähneln. Frauen der Generation 50+ senken ihre Ansprüche an einen möglichen Partner nicht. Da sie angeben, keinen Partner zu brauchen, um zufrieden zu sein, entscheiden sie sich eher dafür, alleinstehend zu bleiben, als erhebliche Abstriche bei den Ansprüchen an einen Wunschpartner zu machen. Das Wunschalter des idealen Partners entspricht in etwa dem eigenen Alter oder wird als unbedeutend bezeichnet.

Diese Arbeit ist die erste empirische Auswertung der Präferenzen von Frauen für männliche Eigenschaften, die sich ausschließlich auf die Wünsche von postreproduktiven Frauen konzentriert. Mit steigender Lebenserwartung gewinnen postreproduktive Beziehungen an Bedeutung. Daher ist zusätzliche Forschung mit dieser Personengruppe wünschenswert.

Mate preference criteria of women over 50

1. Introduction

The aim of mate selection is to find the best possible partner from a given population. The criteria by which a partner is chosen are based on adaptations that humans have acquired in the course of evolution. The basic principle of the evolutionary theory of mate choice is that the associated social cognitions and behaviours of all species have evolved to focus on and exploit the reproductive potential and investment of members of the opposite sex to ensure that their own genes are passed on to the next generation. Certain biologically relevant characteristics, whether morphological, physiological or psychological, which ensure successful reproduction, played a decisive role in human mate choice not only in the past but even today, although circumstances of human life have changed. (Buss, 1989; Tooby & Cosmides, 1990; Buss & Schmitt, 2019).

The biological hypothesis for understanding the function of a long-term partnership is the joint rearing of offspring by mother and father. The phenomenon of male and female adults forming associations can also be observed in other species. Especially in species with highly dependent offspring, pair bonding improves the survival of the children. This is of course especially true for humans. The pair bond was created on the one hand to ensure the paternity of a man to his partner's offspring and on the other hand to bind the father socially to the mother in order to involve him in parental care (Weisfeld & Weisfeld, 2002).

1.1. Sex differences in mate preferences

Studies show some mate selection criteria which are stable over many generations regardless of culture and lifestyle: Values that can be subsumed under "sociability", such as understanding, reliability or good character traits, have the highest priority for both men and women (Buss & Barnes, 1986; Buss, 1989; Buss, 2001).

However, due to the "relative parental investment of the sexes" (parental investment theory, Trivers, 1972), male and female values are not identical in all points when selecting a (sexual) partner:

Female gametes (eggs) are larger and more costly to produce than male gametes (sperm). In mammals, this situation is aggravated by long-term pregnancy and lactation - leading to a significant difference between male and female investment in their offspring. Consequently, more women than men prefer partners with high earning potential and a good education. Due to the big investment in their children, women are very vulnerable. In particular, it should be their strategy to choose a high-status partner who has the ability to acquire resources and is able to care for and protect them and their offspring (Buss, 1989; Kenrick et al., 1990; Bokek-Cohen et al., 2007). As a result women are attracted to men with high socioeconomic status.

In contrast, not only do personal observations but a whole body of literature point out that men, more so than women, favour mates who are physically attractive. Physical attributes (beauty) are strong cues for youth and health (Symons, 1979; Buss & Barnes, 1986; Ben Hamida et al., 1998), and hence for the reproductive capacity of women.

Since humans have acquired these preferences evolutionarily, they are still universally present today (Tooby & Cosmides, 1990), even though life circumstances have changed, and individual

life plans differ. With regard to female preferences when choosing a partner, women today, for example, would often not be dependent on male resources or have no desire to have children at all. Moreover, an unexpected pregnancy becomes unlikely with effective contraception.

According to the theory of the relative parental investment of the sexes, the sex that invests more in offspring should be choosier with whom it mates (Trivers, 1972; Symons, 1979). In mammals, females usually invest more than males, which is why females of hundreds of mammal species, including humans, have been found to be more selective (Trivers, 1985). Due to the asymmetric parental investment, it is not only the characteristics that men and women, respectively, prefer in a partner, but also the tendency towards selectivity (rating more traits as important to them when choosing a mate) that differ. As a result, women are more demanding and place higher standards on their partner than men (Ben Hamida et al., 1998; Buunk et al., 2002). According to Bokek-Cohen et al. (2007), there is no evidence of women under operational sex-ratio bias toward females (i.e. more females than males on the partner market in a given population) becoming less selective than women under normal circumstances.

1.2. Three major dimensions in mate choice

The Ideal Standards Model, introduced by Fletcher & Simpson (2000), suggests three main dimensions that can define what people use as standards for evaluating ideal partners: the capacity of potential partners for warmth-trustworthiness (intimacy and commitment), their attractiveness, vitality and general health, and their social status/resources. Each dimension represents a different way to promote one's own reproductive fitness (Fletcher et al., 1999; Fletcher & Simpson, 2000).

According to the Sexual Strategies Theory (Buss & Schmitt, 1993), human partner preferences and mating decisions are assumed to be strategic products of selection pressures exerted during evolutionary history (see also e.g. Buss, 1989 and Tooby & Cosmides, 1990). Also from this evolutionary point of view, the above mentioned three dimensions make sense when considering which traits should have been most important for successful human reproduction in the ancestral environments: (a) co-operative and committed, so as to be able to establish a good parental relationship; (b) healthy and with a high degree of viability, also in order to be able to pass on these qualities to children; and (c) possession or the ability to acquire the status and resources necessary to maintain and support a family (Fletcher et al., 1999). In the present study, the three dimensions are subsumed under the terms (a) "sociability", (b) "attractiveness", and (c) "status".

For the registration of persons in a dating agency, they indicated the valence of the desired characteristics of their preferred partner. Both genders gave the highest scores of 7 out of 7 for characteristics that express sociability, such as "nice" and "tolerable". Women attached more importance to the status of their preferred partner (6 out of 7 points) than to attractiveness (5 out of 7 points) and men found (with 6 out of 7 points) the attractiveness of their preferred partner more important than her status (with 4 out of 7 points) (Kropil, 1998). These results are consistent with findings from previous studies, such as Buss & Barnes (1986) or Buss (1989).

In this study, we focused on these three dimensions in human mating procedures, especially since – as explained in chapter 1.1. – there is a great amount of literature on gender differences in mate preferences. According to this, sociability is very important to both genders, for women the status of a partner is very important; attractiveness ranks third (e.g. Buss & Barnes, 1986).

1.2.1. Sociability

Characteristics like kindness, understanding, and trustworthiness (specifically with regard to themselves and their family) are placed at or near the top of partner preferences by men and women in all cultures. Women prefer as long-term partners men who are friendly, understanding, and intelligent, and with whom a compatible, cooperative, and emotionally satisfying relationship can be built. These patterns suggest that women prefer partners who not only have the resources, but also the personal and social qualities that signal their willingness to actually invest them in a family (Buss, 1989; Buss et al., 1990; Buss & Schmitt, 2019).

The importance of the property of sociability is undisputed in the relevant literature. Nevertheless, or precisely because of this, few studies deal with it in detail. But a recent study indicated that this theoretical preference is also reflected in the practice of actual mate choice: Valentine et al. (2019) showed an actual preference for this trait for young singles in a speed dating event as well as a higher satisfaction of newlywed couples with their marriage in correlation with the sociability of the spouses.

The test subjects in the relevant studies were mostly young, usually undergraduate students, and certainly of reproductive age. An exception is the diploma thesis of Kropil (1998), which shows the importance of sociability (expressed by the characteristics "nice" and "compatible" desired by the partner) also for persons over the age of 48. Although these characteristics were ranked first by men and women, women put significantly more emphasis on them than men.

1.2.2. Status

Numerous studies show that women prefer men with social status and economic resources. This partner preference extends universally across cultures with different mating systems (monogamy versus polygamy), different levels of economic gender equality (e.g. Iran versus Sweden) and different religious orientations (e.g. Christian, Muslim, Jewish, atheistic) (Buss, 1989; Ben Hamida et al., 1998; Buss & Schmitt, 2019).

This gives women a material short-term advantage and a genetic long-term advantage (Buss, 1989; Buss & Schmitt 1993): the direct, immediate benefit is that they themselves have increased access to resources due to the position of their partner, and their children also benefit from social and material contributions. In the long run, their offspring may also develop a genetic advantage if the trait of asserting oneself in the competition for status and resources is at least partially hereditary.

Since the full resource potential of the counterpart is not immediately evident when getting to know them, attention is paid to character traits that indirectly indicate this. For women, for example, career orientation, ambition, diligence, and education are indications of high status in a potential partner (Grammer et al., 1999).

Economic resources are important for the success of pair bonding. Still, a partnership is not simply an economic alliance in which success correlates with family income. Rather, the success of a marriage is strongly dependent on which spouse earns more: women are rarely willing to marry a man who earns less than they do (Weisfeld & Weisfeld, 2002). Women also express hypergamic selectivity regarding education and socio-economic status - on average, they prefer partners who are superior to them in these characteristics (Bokek-Cohen et al., 2007).

Recent studies conducted worldwide, e.g. in India, China, and Norway, do not provide any indication that these priorities have changed, although gender equality has increased in some

countries. Female partner preferences for economic resources and social status with a long-term male partner are not only theoretical; they are also reflected in actual mating behaviour, from selective speed-dating decisions to real fertility outcomes and the causes of divorce (Buss & Schmitt, 2019).

Women with a high income want a man with a high income more than women with a low income, even though they need it less. A high socio-economic status of a woman does not eliminate the traditional gender differences in the criteria for partner selection. Raising the personal income and socioeconomic status of women even tends to raise the importance of earning capacity and socioeconomic standards for potential partners (Ardener et al., 1960; Buss, 1989; Townsend, 1989; Wiederman & Allgeier, 1992; Gil-Burmann et al., 2002; Fales et al., 2016) which may lead to a reduction in the number of acceptable partners (Townsend, 1989).

One could assume that there would be no reason for women after their menopause to prefer men of high status as they no longer need protection or support for raising offspring in this phase of life. However, several research activities suggest that women's preference for higher status is a robust phenomenon, regardless of age (e.g. Ben Hamida et al., 1998; Buunk et al., 2002; Fales et al., 2016). Grammer et al. (1999) even found that the importance of the status of a preferred partner increased slightly with the age of the women. That is why we hypothesized for our study that the status of a potential partner would continue to play a major role for women over 50.

DeWall & Maner (2008) used an eye-tracking study to demonstrate that photos of men with high socioeconomic status attract the attention of female undergraduates, especially under conditions of limited attention (i.e. short viewing time). A study conducted by Lens et al. (2012) with female students showed that they not only preferred men with status, but also spontaneously paid attention to any symbol that signals high male status (like a fancy car, a luxury watch, ...). For future research, the authors suggested direct measurement using an eye-tracking methodology to assess visual attention to status products. As in almost all other studies, in these two studies, too, no importance was attached to the young age of the test persons and it was assumed that these results would apply to women of all ages.

Therefore, an eye tracking study with photos symbolizing the attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness seemed appropriate to test the preferred traits in post-reproductive women.

1.2.3. Attractiveness

Of course, women's mate choices are also influenced by the men's attractiveness. The physical characteristics that women find attractive in men are indicators of male physical and genetic health.

The basic characteristics of human beauty in faces and bodies are symmetry, averageness, and sex hormone markers - characteristics that are directly related to optimal reproduction, as these markers reflect the sex-prototype design of traits, developmental stability, and immune-handicaps. These basic processes are biological universals for humans, animals, and even plants (Grammer et al., 2003). As characteristics of masculinity and symmetry in human male faces are indications of hereditary fitness advantages, they are regarded as attractive by women. Young women who perceive themselves as very attractive place higher demands on these visual characteristics in male faces. (Little et al., 2001).

DeWall & Maner (2008) found that while attention to female attractiveness seems to be stable for both sexes, attention to male attractiveness seems to be more flexible and may depend on the specifics of the situation, the stimuli, and the particular cognitive process under

investigation. And indeed, the available study results are inconsistent. In their evolutionary theory, Gangestad & Simpson (2002) suggested that women may have developed a kind of trade-off behaviour by deciding between a man's ability and willingness to invest in offspring against his genetic fitness, depending on the nature and quality of their local environment. When the local environment is difficult and requires biparental care, women put more emphasis on the investment potential (i.e. status) of prospective mates. If, on the other hand, the environment heightens the importance of genetic fitness of their offspring, women place more weight on indicators of genetic fitness (i.e. attractiveness) of future partners.

According to Fales et al. (2016), attractiveness loses importance with increasing age of people as both men and women shift their efforts away from direct reproduction and towards parenthood, grandparenthood, and building social status.

The study by Grammer et al. (1999) showed more differentiated age-related results for women. The attractiveness of men was most important to women under 30, but the importance of attractiveness declined continuously with increasing age, only to rise again for those over 50. It is interesting to note that in the over-50 age group, there was a large difference depending on whether women had children or not. A particularly strong increase in the importance of male attractiveness was observed among those women who had children, whereas this effect did not occur among childless women.

In summary, women's ratings of men's physical attractiveness are complex and influenced by various social processes (Geary et al., 2004).

1.3. The role of mate value

The most important regulatory factor on the partner market is one's own mate value. People can judge their own mate value and make a realistic estimation of their respective chances among possible desired partners with surprising certainty. Individuals adapt their preferences according to their own mate value. As a result, people with higher mate value place higher demands on prospective mates than those with lower mate value (Buss & Schmitt, 1993; Gilbert et al., 1995; Miller & Todd, 1998; Gil-Burman et al., 2002; Tadinak & Hromatko, 2007).

For evolutionary reasons – due to the asymmetric parental investment (Trivers, 1972) and the resulting different weighting of the preferred characteristics of a favoured partner (Tadinak & Hromatko, 2007; Conroy-Beam & Buss, 2018) – the mate value is defined primarily by status for men and by age for women: While the mate value increases for men with higher status, it is highest for young women. Here, youthfulness is to be interpreted as an expression of the reproductive value and thus also as attractiveness (Symons, 1979; Buss, 1989; Buss & Schmitt, 2019).

Most people ideally desire partners who perform well in all partner characteristics (Fletcher et al., 1999). But in general, women must make compromises in long-term mating along the dimensions of "good gene indicators" (displaying a mate's genetic fitness) and "good investment indicators" (displaying his ability to help in child-rearing) (Gangestad & Simpson, 2000). Yet, women with high mate value do not have to trade between these indicators. They therefore raise their standards in mating for all desirable traits, such as indicators of good genes, investment, parenthood, and partner qualities (Buss & Shackelford, 2008).

By evaluating the files of a dating agency (Kropil, 1998), the weighting of the selection criteria and the influence of one's own partner value on the selection procedure could be confirmed on the basis of the information provided by the registered persons. For women over 48 years, however, opposite tendencies were observed:

Women and men with high mate value were chosen significantly more often and were tested for longer periods of time by the persons they were matched with. They in turn tested more potential partners and for a shorter time than people with low mate value. The number of candidates who were screened after the person they later selected as a (marriage) partner ("search overhang") was generally lowest among people with a low mate value – with the exception of women over 48, who had a long partner test period (a median of 35 days; the youngest age group up to 28 years tested a median of 10 days) and a large search overhang; they tested 8 more after the finally selected partner, while the next younger age group of 38-48 year old women tested only 2 more men in the median. Kropil (1998) suggests that these women are more cautious in their choice of partners because of their experience. Moreover, since they are already beyond reproductive age, they can take more time to find the optimal partner.

1.4. Favoured age of a partner of choice

Age preferences are among the most robust findings of cross-cultural studies on mate preferences. Women prefer men who are a few years older than they are (Buss 1989; Gil-Burmann et al., 2002; Conroy-Beam & Buss, 2018).

It is argued that women prefer older men, because men are able to invest more in offspring with increasing age and age might therefore be a cue to male socioeconomic status and dominance (Buss, 1989; Kenrick & Keefe, 1992). Fieder & Huber (2007) found out that marrying a man who is 4 years older than oneself is associated with maximum fertility in women. They conclude that this age preference brings a fitness advantage and may therefore be an evolutionarily acquired trait.

Women show no shift in their age preferences with increasing age. Teenage women prefer older mates, and this preference seems to remain relatively unchanged throughout their life span (Kenrick & Keefe, 1992; Conway et al., 2015). There are, however, also findings that the age difference to a desired partner decreases slightly with increasing age of a woman (Kenrick & Keefe, 1992; Gil-Burmann et al., 2002; Fieder & Huber, 2007).

Grammer et al. (1999) came to different findings when evaluating data from a dating agency. According to their study, the desired age of a potential partner falls significantly with increasing age of the women seeking a partner. Whereas the desired age of a partner is higher than their own for women under 30 (on average by 0.39 years), it is already below their own age for the age group of 30 to 40 year-old women, and for women over 50 it is furthest below their own age (on average by 2.7 years). For women who have children, the preferred age decreases even more drastically (on average from +0.55 to -4.83 years).

1.5. Similarity (positive assortative mating)

The Five Factor Model – also known as the Big Five Personality Factors (Norman, 1963; Goldberg, 1993) – is a model of personality psychology. According to this model, there are five main dimensions of personality, and each person can be classified on the following scales:

- Openness (inventive/curious vs. consistent/cautious)
- Conscientiousness (efficient/organized vs. easy-going/careless)
- Extraversion (outgoing/energetic vs. solitary/reserved)
- Agreeableness (friendly/compassionate vs. challenging/detached)
- Emotional Stability (Neuroticism) (sensitive/nervous vs. secure/confident)

The Big Five personality traits are considered stable and relatively unchangeable in general (Costa et al., 2019). However, additional research supports the emergence of changes in personality traits over time and in major life events (e.g. Roberts et al., 2006).

The question of the best combination of two individual personalities to create a high-quality dyadic relationship has been explored in a whole body of literature. In order to investigate the role of personality in couples, two common but contradictory statements, "Birds of a feather flock together" (suggesting that similar personalities attract each other) and "Opposites attract" (meaning that trait dissimilarity is an important feature for couples), were scrutinised (Glynn, 2019).

The leading theory is **positive assortative mating** (homogamy), where people prefer a partner with a similar, rather than complementary personality (Buss, 1984; Watson et al., 2014). Based on this theory, relationship research has shown that the more similar a couple is, the higher the satisfaction in a relationship: Compared to randomly coupled persons, a significant similarity was found between married or cohabiting heterosexual couples, and those who were more similar were more satisfied with their partner (Wilson & Cousins, 2003). The mere perception that the partner is similar to the self (regardless of whether this is actually the case or not) leads to greater feelings of being understood and greater satisfaction with the relationship (Derrick et al., 2016). The partner correlations tend to be small but positive (Nias, 1977).

The aforementioned study with data from a dating agency (Kropil, 1998) also showed an active choice for similar characteristics in the desired partner for 326 successfully mediated couples: From partner suggestions already pre-selected by computer according to similarity, the most similar persons were predominantly chosen as final partners.

However, there seems to be some disagreement on the theory of active assortment: While the similarity of personality traits between the two partners certainly plays a role in relationship satisfaction, there are also contradictory research results (Glynn, 2019). As very few studies look at dissimilarity of personality traits (negative assortative mating, heterogamy), and therefore there is very little evidence to support the idea that opposites attract, studies suggest that not all personality traits of the Big Five should be assessed equally, as they show conflicting evidence and inconsistent patterns (e.g. Weidmann et al., 2016; Price & Vandenberg, 1980).

1.6. Goals, research question/hypotheses

Mate preference criteria of reproductive women have already been well researched and can be explained by the evolutionary requirements of a possible or actual motherhood. As this situation no longer applies to post-reproductive women, their criteria should be entirely different or be similar to those of men. However, research results on mate preference criteria for older women are scarce.

The vast majority of relevant studies was carried out with young subjects, most of them university students (Csajbók & Berkics, 2017), partly because partner search seemed to be important especially for young people, and partly because this group can generally be recruited more easily for studies. In today's society, however, it is quite common for the generation 50+ to seek new partners because of the increased number of relationship break-ups.

From the perspective of evolutionary biology, there is no reason to assume that men's mate choice criteria change with age, since men can basically produce offspring throughout their lives. But how about women? Do they alter their mate preference criteria with increasing age? Do women's desires regarding the sociability, status and attractiveness of men change when the biological motivation – namely a possible motherhood – is no longer present?

While there are indications – as described in chapters 1.2.1. and 1.2.2. – for the criteria of sociability and status not to change significantly for post-reproductive women, the data for the criterion of attractiveness is ambiguous and seems to depend on external factors.

In light of previous evidence and as outlined above we predicted that economically independent women have higher expectations of men than women in economically fragile situations and thus have put forward the following hypotheses:

H1: Male sociability and status are important criteria for all women and hence remain important even in old age.

H2: The availability of resources influences the choice of partners for post-reproductive women. For (financially and socially) independent women, the attractiveness of a man is a more important criterion than for dependent women.

1.7. Choice of methods

There are different possibilities of investigating preferences in human behaviour, all of which have their advantages and disadvantages. To observe ourselves has some shortcomings: When we use questionnaires to gain insight into human behaviour, although the questions are generally clear and relevant, we must expect that the subjects do not reveal the whole truth for various reasons (Oberzaucher, 2017).

Recent eye-tracking studies have shown that gaze duration reflects the degree of interest: Images that trigger either positive or negative emotions attract more attention (Maughan et al., 2007). Attractive and unattractive features received more attention than did those of intermediate attractiveness (Sütterlin et al., 2008). The aesthetic response orients people not only to the pleasing aspects of their environment, but also to those features that are adaptively relevant (Leder et al., 2010). The longer and more often a stimulus is looked at, the more likely that stimulus will be picked in a choice task (Gidlöf et al., 2017). Attention has a significant effect on choice (Vriens et al., 2020).

Therefore, two methods were combined in the present study: In addition to filling in a questionnaire, the eye movements of these subjects were recorded (eye tracking) while they looked at different images.

We used the electrooculography (EOG) technique for the measurement of visual preference. EOG is a well-established method in the Faculty of Life Sciences of the University of Vienna, Austria (Masuch et al., 2018a; Masuch et al., 2018b). In contrast to the method of completing a questionnaire, this eye tracking method shows a direct, honest response, but the interpretation naturally depends on the relevance of the observed stimuli.

2. Method

2.1. Participants

68 women aged between 51 and 82 (median: 57) participated in the study. They were recruited through personal acquaintances and snowballing. We aimed for diversity among the test persons in terms of income, relationship status, having children, and education.

Before participation they were informed that only heterosexual women over 50 years of age were being recruited. No other restrictions were made.

2.2. Procedures

2.2.1. Gaze measurements by means of electrooculography

In this study we used electrooculography (EOG) for the measurement of visual preference. This technique takes advantage of the fact that the eye acts as dipole in which the anterior pole (cornea) is positive and the posterior pole (retina) is negative. The eye movements lead to changes of the vector of the electrical field which can be measured with electrodes.



The participating women were seated in front of a laptop computer. For the electrooculogram, two electrodes were placed on both temples at eye level and one (the reference electrode) below the left ear. The attached electrodes enabled the recording of horizontal eye movements and their respective duration, whereas looking straight ahead created no potential differences. The participants then placed their chin on a chin rest, to avoid head movements during the experiment and to maintain an eye-screen distance of 50 cm (see Figure 1). They were instructed to just look at a PowerPoint presentation displaying pairs of images; they received no further explanation.

Fig. 1. The EOG set-up: A woman watching the stimuli while the eye movements are recorded by an electrooculogram. Under the left earpiece of her glasses you can see an electrode attached to her temple.

Before the PowerPoint presentation and EOG recording began, the measurements were calibrated by showing the test person a slide with only the "+" sign in the middle.

The PowerPoint presentation displayed three sets of stimuli (i.e. images) - one set each for the criteria of sociability, status, and attractiveness.

Each set consisted of 4 slides; each slide displayed a pair of images. One of the images per slide displayed cues to high attractiveness, status, or sociability, whereas the corresponding image displayed cues where this attribute was represented on a relatively low level.

Each slide was presented for 2 seconds followed by a slide where only the sign "+" was displayed in the middle, also for 2 seconds.

While watching the PowerPoint presentation, the EOG recorded all eye movements (including looking straight ahead in between, directed by the "+" sign), measuring where the persons directed their attention and for how long.

All participants looked at the same stimuli, albeit in a slightly different order. E.g. higher valued and lower valued stimuli changed position:

Set A: a-a'; b-b'; c-c'; d-d'

Set B: a'-a; b'-b; c'-c; d'-d

Set C: c-c'; a-a'; d-d'; b-b'

Set D: c'-c; a'-a; d'-d; b'-b



PowerLab 26T

For the recording of the signals, the ADInstruments PowerLab 26T device (see Figure 2) was used together with the LabChart data analysis software ([ADInstruments](#)).

Fig. 2. The EOG recording device

In total twelve picture pairs were shown to each participant, which resulted in a total test duration of approximately ten minutes, including attaching and removing the electrodes, briefing and debriefing.

The EOG measurements on the test subjects were performed individually in various private rooms. Care was taken to ensure that no mobile phone signals disturbed the recordings.

The stimuli presented in the experiment were selected by experts of the human behavioural biology research group. The pairs of images each corresponded in terms of complexity, size, and function. The images are either from the internet or were taken by myself and my supervisor. They are shown in chapter 2.2.2.

2.2.2. Stimuli (i.e. images presented in the experiment)

For the gaze task the stimuli were presented in slides. Four slides each were shown for the criteria of sociability, status, and attractiveness.

For the stimuli representing sociability see Figure 3, for the stimuli representing status see Figure 4, for the stimuli representing attractiveness see Figure 5.

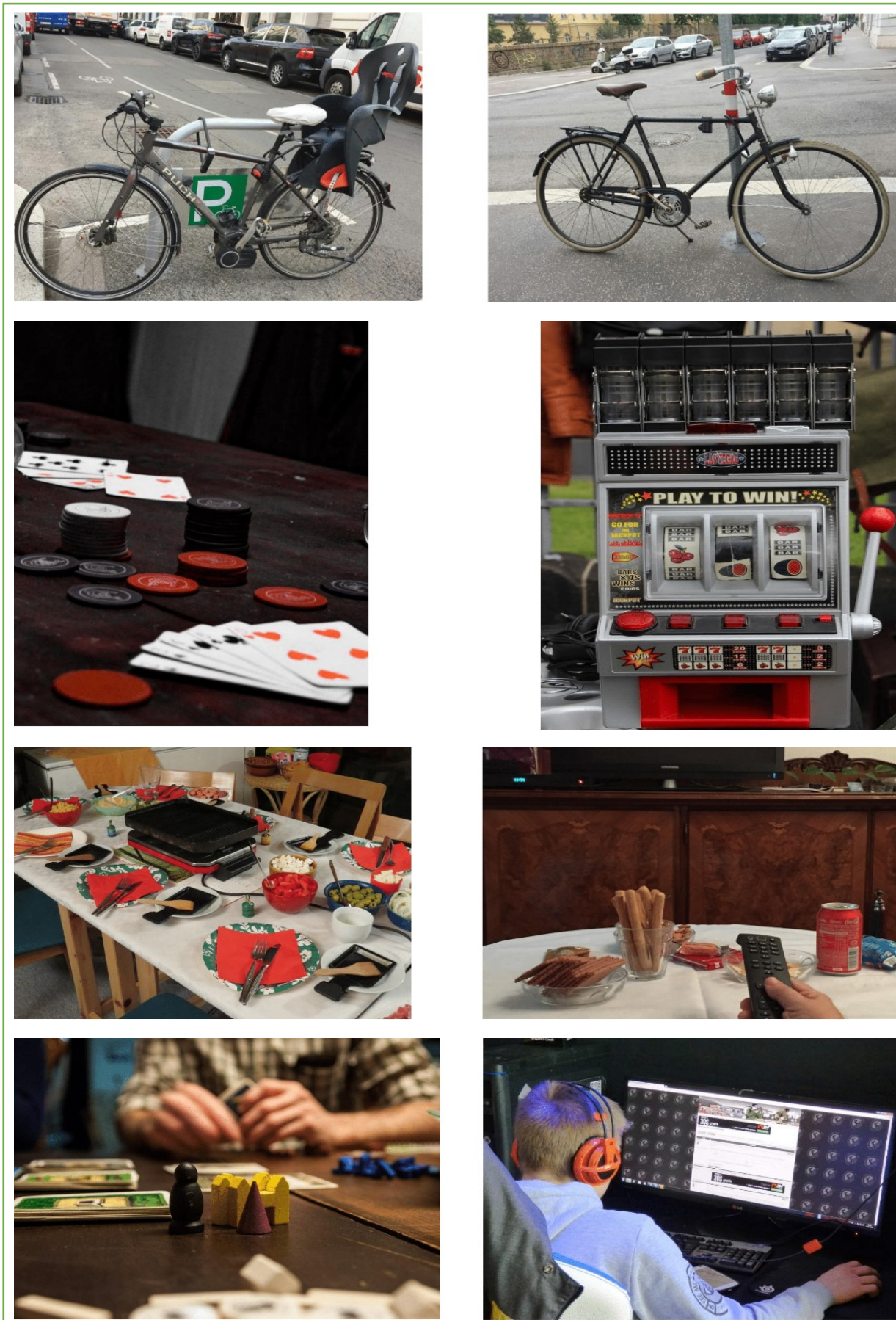


Fig. 3. Stimuli for sociability. Left images indicate high sociability; right corresponding images indicate low sociability. Images in the same row were displayed together in one slide.



Fig. 4. Stimuli for status. Left images indicate high status; right corresponding images indicate low status. Images in the same row were displayed together in one slide.

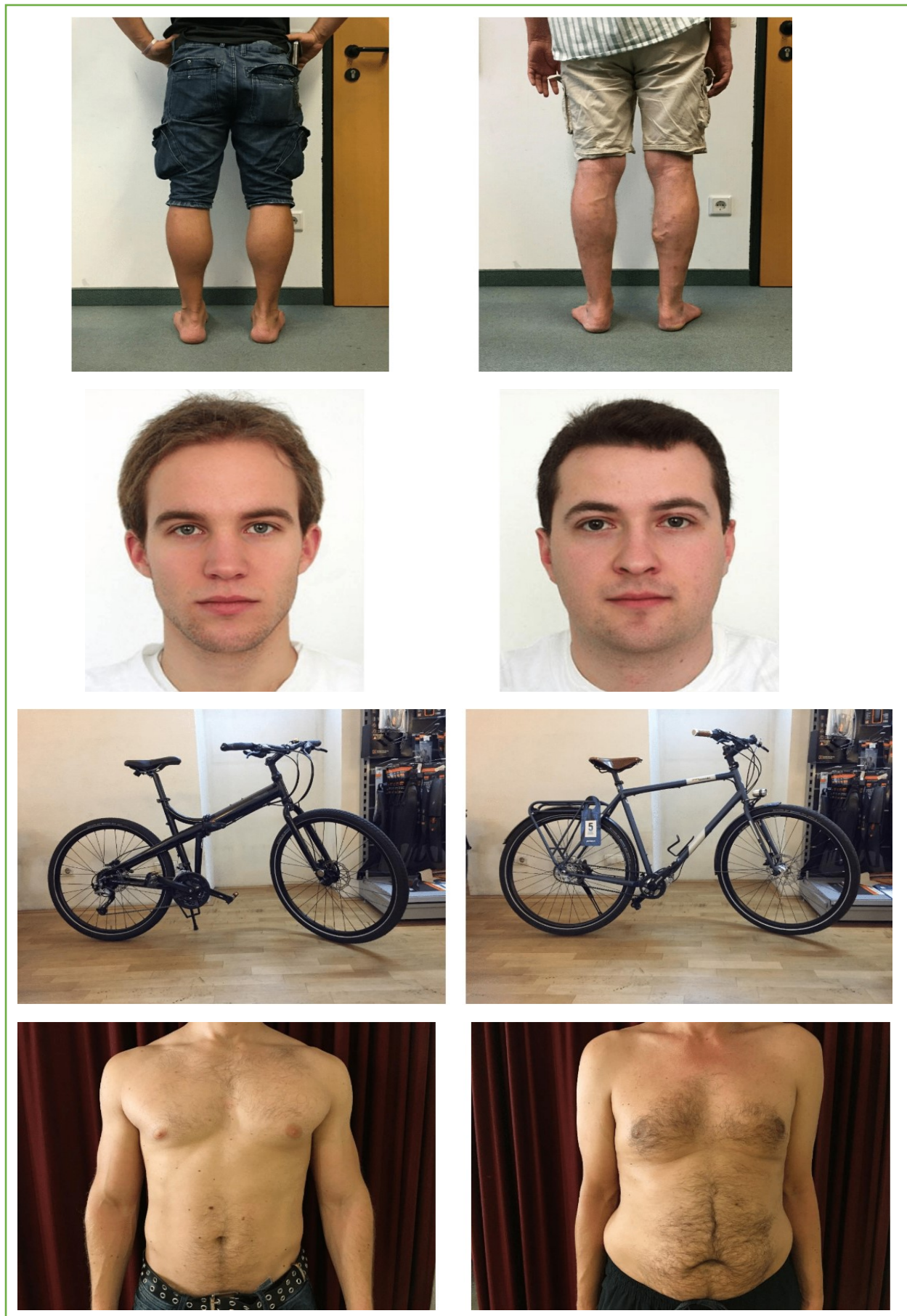


Fig. 5. Stimuli for attractiveness. Left images indicate high attractiveness; right corresponding images indicate low attractiveness. Images in the same row were displayed together in one slide.

2.2.3. Questionnaire

After performing the gaze-following task the women were asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire comprised demographic questions including children, finances and relationship, questions on personality traits and about mate preferences as well as many questions to find out more about the socio-economic status and support of family and friends.

The main contents of the questionnaire were as follows:

- Personal data
- Own personality traits (self-description)
- Personal attitudes, characteristics and preferences
- Attitude and expectations towards a partnership
- Desired personality traits of a partner
- Characteristics of the currently ideal partner

Except for the demographic questions and a question about the age of an ideal partner, all questions were rated on an 8-point Likert scale regarding the degree of agreement (from "does not apply at all" to "applies completely"). (Prossinger et al., 2016).

The complete questionnaire in German language is included in the Appendix.

After conducting the electrooculogram experiment and completing the questionnaire, the participants were informed about the intended use of their data and provided written informed consent.

Due to poor quality of the eye-tracking data recording, some data sets could not be evaluated. 32 picture pairs had to be excluded (9 representing sociability, 5 representing status, 18 representing attractiveness) due to poor recording quality. Also, not all questions in the questionnaires were always answered. Missing data were excluded from the analysis.

2.2.4. Analysis of the data

To identify the relations between personality characteristics and mate selection preferences, we evaluated the data of the questionnaire and the gaze task using SPSS.

Since our data was metric, the correlation coefficient r was calculated according to Pearson.

3. Results

3.1. Descriptives of participants

The evaluation of the questionnaires revealed the following personal data variety for the participants:

Asked about their available money per month, 8 women stated < 1000 €, 19 women 1000-2000 €, 33 women 2000-3000 €, 7 women 3000-4000 € and no woman indicated to have > 4000 € available.

51 women said that they lived in a relationship, whereas 17 women were single.

58 women had children, 23 of whom also had grandchildren. 10 women had no children.

Regarding education, none of the women had only compulsory education, 13 had attended a vocational school, 23 graduated from high school, and 32 women had a university degree.

3.2. Terminology

The following terms were used according to the respective ratings for questions from the questionnaire:

Desired male sociability, desired male status, and desired male attractiveness were composed of the desired male qualities listed on the last page of the questionnaire (*"That would be my ideal mate at the moment"*, see Appendix).

Socio-economic status was composed of education, profession learnt, current occupation, and money available.

13 colleagues and family members of different age and background evaluated the stated educational qualifications and professions with regard to social recognition.

Own self-perceived status was composed of 10 variables such as having enough good friends, being independent economically and in general, being professionally successful etc.

Own actual status was composed of the socio-economic status and the own self-perceived status.

Own self-perceived attractiveness was calculated by adding ratings for the own sexual appeal and paying attention to the own figure.

3.3. Principal Component Analyses (PCA)

The following Principal Component Analyses were performed:

PCA 1 - What do I value in life?

With the answers to the questions under chapter *"How much value do you place on the following things in your life?"* from the questionnaire, we performed a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to extract the most important independent factors ($N = 62$).

Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. The rotation converged in 3 iterations.

2 components were extracted which accounted for 37.8 % of the cumulative variance:

- valuing status
- valuing enjoying life

PCA 2 - Attitude towards a relationship

With the answers to the questions under chapter "*I want a relationship because:*" from the questionnaire, we performed a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to extract the most important independent factors ($N = 63$). Only eigenvalues greater than one were considered. Rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. The rotation converged in 5 iterations. 3 components were extracted which accounted for 80.9 % of the cumulative variance:

- seeking a physical relationship
- seeking company
- seeking enhancement of status

PCA 3 - Desired characteristics of a mate

With the answers to the questions under chapter "*That would be my ideal mate at the moment:*" from the questionnaire, we performed a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to extract the most important independent factors ($N = 63$). Only eigenvalues greater than one were considered.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization. The rotation converged in 5 iterations. 3 components were extracted which accounted for 51.3 % of the cumulative variance:

- preference for mate attractiveness
- preference for mate status
- preference for mate sociability

3.4. Women's self-perception

When asked "*How much value do you place on the following things in your life?*", the answers "Be open-minded and interested" ($M = 7.3$ out of 8, $N = 62$), "Take care of your health" ($M = 6.9$, $N = 62$), "Travel" ($M = 6.3$, $N = 62$), "Stay independent" ($M = 6.3$, $N = 62$), and "Expand social contacts" ($M = 6.2$, $N = 62$) were rated highest.

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 1 described in chapter 3.2, two components were extracted: Valuing status and valuing enjoying life. Correlations were found between valuing status on the one hand and self-perceived status and actual status of women on the other hand. Furthermore, correlations were found between women valuing enjoying life and their self-perceived attractiveness. Hence, women who attach great importance to status in their lives actually achieve it. Women who attach great importance to enjoying their life find themselves attractive. The correlations of the two groups of women are outlined in Table 1.

Furthermore, according to questionnaire data, a correlation of women's own actual status and their own self-perceived attractiveness was shown ($r = 0.38$, $p = 0.002$, $N = 65$).

3.5. Attitude towards a relationship

When asked "*I want a relationship because:*", single women as well as those who live in a relationship most often chose the answers "I want physical proximity" ($M = 6.0$ out of 8, $N = 64$), "I want someone by my side in the last phase of my life" ($M = 5.7$, $N = 66$), and "I want a regular sex life" ($M = 5.1$, $N = 65$). The answer "I have difficulty making a living on my own" ($M = 2.2$, $N = 66$) was chosen least often.

The women rated their present relationship status very positively with a mean score of 7.2 out of 8 ($N=66$). Partnerless women ($N = 16$) rated the statement that they are satisfied with their relationship status with the mean score of 6,3 out of 8, while women in a relationship

($N = 50$) rated it with a mean score of 7.5 out of 8. Nevertheless, in the event of the death of their partner, women in a relationship would rather remain alone ($M = 5.5$) than look for a new mate ($M = 3.7$), $N = 44$, t -test (2-tailed).

Hence, the women interviewed are quite content with their respective relationship status.

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 2 described in chapter 3.2, three components were extracted: Seeking a physical relationship, seeking company, and seeking enhancement of status. There is a correlation between seeking a physical relationship on the one hand and the self-perceived status ($r = 0.29$, $p = 0.023$, $N = 61$) and the own actual status ($r = 0.30$, $p = 0.018$, $N = 60$) on the other hand. It therefore seems that women of high status attach more importance to physical relationships than women of lower status.

Furthermore, a negative correlation appeared between women in search of a physical relationship and images with regard to mate attractiveness ($r = -0.32$, $p = 0.013$, $N = 59$).

3.6. Desired characteristics of a mate

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 1 described in chapter 3.2, two components were extracted: Valuing status and valuing enjoying life. Questionnaire ratings for desired male qualities were assigned to the male attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness. Women valuing status in their lives have a desire for status on the part of their mates. Women who attach great importance to enjoying their life place high value on the attractiveness of their mate (see Table 1).

Table 1

Correlations of women's values and desired mate criteria or own attributes

Correlations of women valuing status		Correlations of women valuing enjoying life	
Desired male status ($N=55$)	0.35 **	Desired male attractiveness ($N=55$)	0.42 **
Own self-perceived status ($N=60$)	0.27 *	Own self-perceived attractiveness ($N=61$)	0.33 **
Own actual status ($N=59$)	0.27 *		

Note: * indicates $p < .05$ ** indicates $p < .01$ *** indicates $p < .001$

The desired male qualities listed on the last page of the questionnaire (*"That would be my ideal mate at the moment"*, see Appendix) were assigned to the criteria of male sociability, male status, and male attractiveness. According to this data, the socio-economic status of women correlated strongly with their preference for sociability of a man ($r = 0.37$, $p = 0.005$, $N = 56$), but not with their preference for status or attractiveness of a man. According to the gaze-task data, for none of the traits a significant correlation was shown (Table 2).

Table 2

Correlations of women's own socioeconomic status and desired mate criteria.

	Data from questionnaire		Data from gaze task	
	Correlation	Significance	Correlation	Significance
Desired male sociability	0.37 (N=56)	0.005 **	- 0.04 (N=61)	0.783
Desired male status	0.02 (N=56)	0.867	0.24 (N=63)	0.061
Desired male attractiveness	- 0.19 (N=56)	0.162	- 0.04 (N=61)	0.744

Notes: * indicates $p < .05$ ** indicates $p < .01$ *** indicates $p < .001$

Data from questionnaire: Ratings for desired male qualities were assigned to the male attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness. Data from gaze task: Gaze duration of images representing the male attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness.

Moreover, according to the answers in the questionnaire, the following correlations were detected:

A correlation of women's own self-perceived status and their wish for a sociable man ($r = 0.33$, $p = 0.012$, $N = 56$).

A correlation between women's own actual status (i.e. socio-economic status + own self-perceived status) and their wish for a sociable man ($r = 0.29$, $p = 0.032$, $N = 55$).

A correlation between women's own self-perceived attractiveness and their wish for mate attractiveness ($r = 0.35$, $p = 0.009$, $N = 57$).

According to the answers in the questionnaire, the age of the ideal mate was determined. The surveyed women most often stated that their ideal partner's desired age was about the same age as their own or that their age did not matter (Table 3).

Table 3

Preferred age of the ideal partner in relation to the interviewees' own age (N=65)

	Number	Percentage
Older	7	10.8
Younger	5	7.7
Around same age	32	49.2
No preference	21	32.3

3.7. Visual preferences

By means of the gaze task, the viewing time in seconds of (high and low value) images representing the male attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness was recorded ($N = 55$). The average gaze duration of the images with high value was compared with those with low value by t -test (2-tailed) as shown in Table 4.

Images with higher value were looked at longer. The difference was highly significant for the criteria of sociability and status, for the criterion of attractiveness it was just below the threshold of significance. Images representing high sociability were looked at longer ($M = 5.94s$) than their low value counterparts ($M = 4.31s$), high status images were looked at

longer ($M = 5.66s$) than low status images ($M = 4.54s$). There was no significant difference between images indicating high and low attractiveness, respectively.

Table 4

Gaze task analyses: Gaze duration, in seconds, for images with high value versus images with low value ($N = 55$)

	High value images $M (SD)$	Low value images $M (SD)$	Significance
Desired male sociability	5.94 (± 0.14)	4.31 (± 0.16)	0.000 ***
Desired male status	5.66 (± 0.12)	4.54 (± 0.73)	0.000 ***
Desired male attractiveness	5.28 (± 0.13)	4.65 (± 0.13)	0.053 n.s.

Note: * indicates $p < 0.05$ ** indicates $p < 0.01$ *** indicates $p < 0.001$

Mean value (M), standard deviation (SD) in parentheses

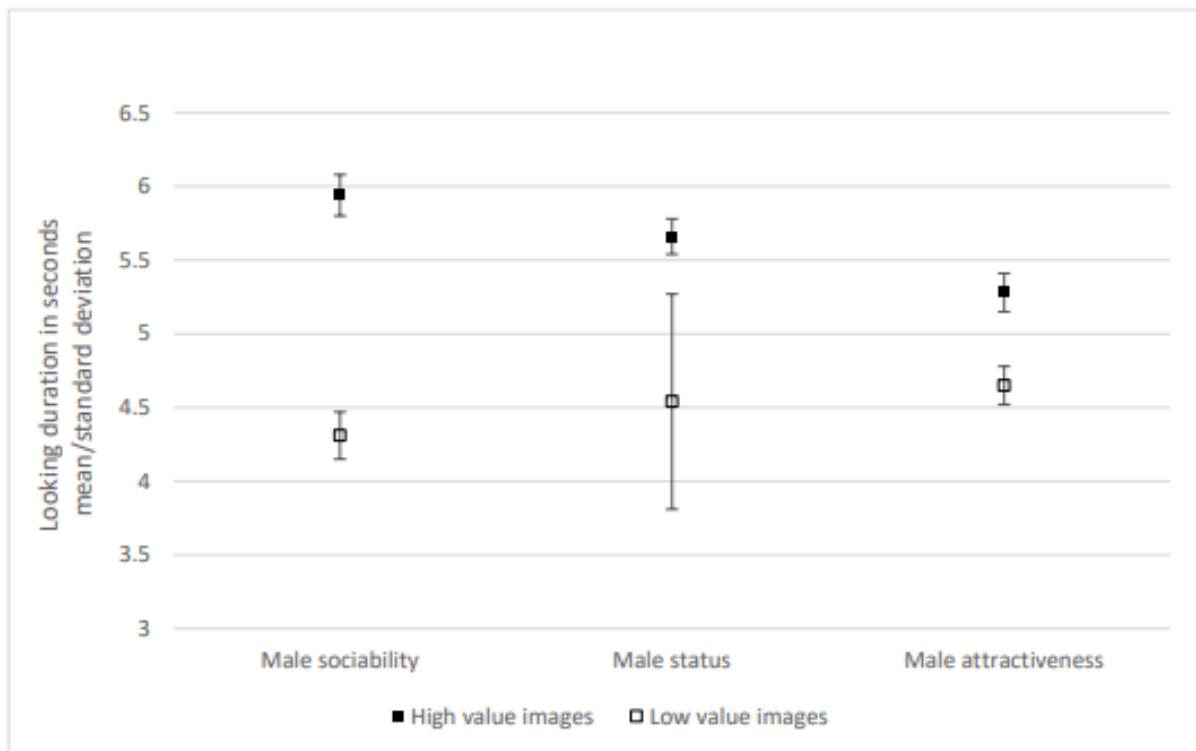


Fig. 6

Gaze task analyses: Means and standard deviation of gaze duration

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 3 described in chapter 3.2, three components were extracted: Preference for mate attractiveness, preference for mate status, and preference for mate sociability. A correlation could be shown for women's preference for mate attractiveness and the gaze duration at images for sociable characteristics in men. The preference for mate attractiveness positively correlated with looking time for high value

sociability images ($r = 0.29, p = 0.045, N = 48$) while it showed a negative correlation with low value sociability images ($r = -0.37, p = 0.010, N = 48$).

For the other two components (i.e. preference for mate status or mate sociability), no correlation was shown.

3.8. Similarity, personality

Based on the information given in the questionnaire under the headings "Please describe yourself" and "What qualities are important to you in a mate?", the attributes of both the tested women and the desired mates were assigned to one of the five categories of the Five Factor Model (Norman, 1963; Goldberg, 1993): Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Emotional Stability (Neuroticism).

The classification had to be done by adding the corresponding values for each of the five personality dimensions, since the Principal Component Analysis did not show a useful result.

As shown in Table 5, there is a significant, very highly positive correlation between the personalities of the women and those of the desired partners in all of the five categories.

Table 5

Correlations between own personality and desired partner personality

Openness	0.57 ***	N=60
Conscientiousness	0.48 ***	N=60
Extraversion	0.59 ***	N=64
Agreeableness	0.44 ***	N=62
Emotional Stability (Neuroticism)	0.42 ***	N=64

Note: * indicates $p < 0.05$ ** indicates $p < 0.01$ *** indicates $p < 0.001$

4. Discussion

4.1. Discussion of hypotheses

When asked about their preferences for an ideal partner, women primarily mention non-physical characteristics, such as personality traits or requirements for interpersonal relationships (e.g. Buss, 1989; Ben Hamida et al., 1998; Buunk et al, 2002; Bokek-Cohen et al., 2007). This is why we proposed the following hypothesis **H1: Male sociability and status are important criteria for all women and hence remain important even in old age.**

Recent eye-tracking studies have shown that gaze duration reflects the degree of interest (Maughan et al., 2007; Sütterlin et al., 2008; Leder et al., 2010; Gidlöf et al., 2017; Vriens et al., 2020). According to our gaze task analyses summarized in Table 4 the gaze duration for images with high value for the criteria of male sociability and male status was significantly higher than the gaze duration for images with low value. Hence, our data showed that post-reproductive women place high value on sociability and status, so H1 could be supported by our study.

Our findings correspond to the findings of Kropil (1998), who showed the importance of the trait of sociability in the desired mate - also for persons in the age category over 48.

Our data is also in line with several conducted research activities suggesting that women's preference for a high-status partner is a robust phenomenon, regardless of age (e.g. Ben Hamida et al., 1998; Buunk et al., 2002; Fales et al., 2016). Grammer et al. (1999) even found a slight increase in the importance of the status of a preferred partner with increasing age of the women.

For the criterion of male attractiveness – according to the gaze task analyses summarized in Table 4 – the gaze duration for images with high value was not significantly (but close to being significantly) higher than the gaze duration for images with low value. Thus – according to our data – post-reproductive women place less value on attractiveness than on sociability and status.

Fales et al. (2016) suggest that attractiveness loses importance with increasing age of people as both men and women shift their efforts away from direct reproduction and towards parenthood, grandparenthood, and building social status. The study by Grammer et al (1999) showed differentiated age-related results for women: The importance of male attractiveness declined continuously with increasing age, only to rise again for those over 50.

But most likely, the preferences of women in their second half of life are simply unchanged from the preferences of young women, as a huge amount of literature on ranking in terms of sex differences shows. According to this, sociability is very important for both genders, for women the status of a partner is very important; attractiveness follows in the ranking only afterwards (e.g. Buss, 1989; Tooby & Cosmides, 1990; Buss & Schmitt, 1993; Fletcher & Simpson, 2000).

We further predicted that independent women have higher expectations of men than dependent women, and thus we have put forward the following hypothesis **H2: The availability of resources influences the choice of partners for post-reproductive women. For (financially and socially) independent women, the attractiveness of a man is a more important criterion than for dependent women.**

According to the evaluation of the questionnaires summarized in Table 2, with a higher (socio-economic) status, women's desire for sociability in men increased, but not the desire for status

or attractiveness of the men. Hence, our results suggest that the availability of resources influences the choice of partners for post-reproductive women leading to higher standards for male sociability – but not for male attractiveness (as we had predicted). That is why H2 was only partially supported by our data.

This outcome differs from previous studies which state that raising the socioeconomic status of women even tends to raise the importance of socioeconomic status for potential partners (Ardener et al., 1960; Buss, 1989; Townsend, 1989; Wiederman & Allgeier, 1992; Gil-Burmann et al., 2002; Fales et al., 2016). Moreover, the gaze-task data (see Table 2) could not confirm this result.

Women's ratings of and attention to men's physical attractiveness seem to be complex and flexible and influenced by various social processes (Geary et al., 2004; DeWall & Maner, 2008). Interestingly, in their study Grammer et al (1999) observed in the over-50 age group of women looking out for a mate via a dating agency a large difference depending on whether women had children or not. A particularly strong increase in the importance of male attractiveness was observed among those women who had children, whereas this effect did not occur among childless women. One could interpret this to mean that women of older age who have children are more likely to have social and financial support from their children and would therefore be comparable to women of high socioeconomic status. Similarly, it could be argued that childless women have more resources and would therefore be comparable to women of high socioeconomic status. However, since the proportion of childless women in our study was relatively low, no conclusion can be drawn on this issue based on the data we collected.

4.2. Attitude towards a relationship

When asked "*I want a relationship because:*", single women as well as those who live in a relationship most often chose the answers "I want physical proximity", "I want someone by my side in the last phase of my life", and "I want a regular sex life". The answer "I have difficulty making a living on my own" was chosen least often.

Consequently, for the women interviewed, life in a relationship is a concept that women desire for physical and social reasons. Financial considerations apparently had no influence on their partnership options.

The women rated their present relationship status (either with or without a partner) very positively. Women in a relationship stated that in the event of their partner's death they would rather stay alone than look for a new mate. Singles were nearly as satisfied with their relationship status as women in a partnership.

Our findings suggest that older women (i.e. over 50) do not need a partner to be content.

4.3. Desired characteristics of a mate

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 1 described in chapter 3.2, two components were extracted: Valuing status and valuing enjoying life. Women valuing status in their lives had a desire for status on the part of their mates. Women attaching great importance to enjoying their life placed high value on the attractiveness of their mates (see Table 1). These results fit well with the theory of positive assortative mating (homogamy) (Buss, 1984; Watson et al., 2014).

In the present study, the women surveyed most often stated that their ideal partner's desired age was about the same age as their own or that their age did not matter (see Table 3).

Although the existing literature on older women's age preferences for their mate is inconsistent, this result differs considerably from previous results: Buss (1989), Gil-Burmann et al., (2002) and Conroy-Beam & Buss (2018) concluded that women prefer men who are a

few years older than them. Kenrick & Keefe (1992) and Conway et al. (2015) found no shift in the age preferences of women with increasing age, so that the preference for older men remains unchanged throughout the life span. Kenrick & Keefe (1992), Gil-Burmann et al. (2002) and Fieder & Huber (2007) found that with the increasing age of a woman the age of the desired partner decreases – but remains above the woman's own age. Grammer et al. (1999) concluded that the desired age of a potential partner decreases so much with increasing age of a woman that for women over 50 it is on average 2.7 years below their own age.

4.4. Women's mate value and self-perception

A woman's preferred partner and her actual life partner are not always identical due to competition from other women and men's own choice preferences (Geary et al., 2004). For evolutionary reasons (Tadinak & Hromatko, 2007; Conroy-Beam & Buss, 2018) the mate value of women declines with increasing age. That is why only young women should be in a position to make high demands concerning potential partners (Kropil, 1998; Buss & Shackelford, 2008).

Nevertheless, in the setting of a dating agency, women over 48 were much choosier than younger women (Kropil, 1998). Our results are in line with these findings: Whilst the mate value of women of a more advanced age is considered low so that they should not be too selective, our results show that women over 50 continue to be demanding and do not make additional compromises when choosing a life partner. As outlined in chapter 4.2., single women in our sample were satisfied with the fact of being single and women in a relationship would rather remain alone in the event of their partner's death than search for a new partner. Consequently, women in their second part of life set their own mate value much higher than would be expected by biological and social normative standards.

As their socio-economic status rises, they require above all higher sociability from (potential) partners. The fact that sociability is key for high-status women suggests that their own status is something they are well aware of and thus a self-perceived female currency on the partner market.

4.5. Similarity, personality

As shown in Table 5, there is a significant, very high positive correlation between the personalities of the women and those of their preferred mates in all of the five categories of the Five Factor Model (Norman, 1963; Goldberg, 1993): Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness and Emotional Stability (Neuroticism).

Furthermore, a correlation was found between their own self-perceived attractiveness and the desired mate attractiveness. This finding is in line with the results from Little et al., 2001 for young women: Those who perceive themselves as very attractive place higher demands on these visual characteristics in male faces.

With the present study we could prove that not only young people show a preference for positive assortative mating (homogamy), which Buss (1984) and Watson et al. (2014) revealed. According to the principle "Birds of a feather flock together", the surveyed women over 50 also long for a partner with similar personality characteristics.

4.6. Gaze task (EOG)

An eye-tracking study by DeWall & Maner (2008) demonstrated that photos of men with high socioeconomic status attract the attention of female undergraduates. A study conducted by Lens et al. (2012) with female students showed that they not only preferred men with status, but also spontaneously paid attention to any symbol that signals high male status. For future research, the authors suggested direct measurement using an eye-tracking methodology to

assess visual attention to status products. As in almost all other studies, in these two studies no importance was attached to the young age of the women examined and it was assumed that the results would apply to women of all ages.

Therefore, an eye tracking study seemed appropriate for testing the preferred male traits in post-reproductive women. For this gaze task, images symbolizing the attributes of sociability, status, and attractiveness were shown; each of the attributes was represented with a high and with a low value. For instance, an image representing high sociability (a table prepared for a dinner with family or friends) was positioned next to an image representing low sociability (a setting where a person is sitting alone in front of a television set). Differences in duration when looking at high versus low valued images were recorded. Images with higher value were looked at longer (see Table 4). Thus, the EOG method was shown to be a suitable tool for investigating intuitive mate preferences.

In contrast to the data from the questionnaire, where a correlation of the socio-economic status of women and male sociability was detected, no such correlation was shown according to the gaze-task data (Table 2).

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 2 described in chapter 3.2, three components were extracted: seeking a physical relationship, seeking company, and seeking enhancement of status. A negative correlation between seeking a physical relationship and images with regard to mate attractiveness appeared. For the other two components (i.e. seeking company or seeking enhancement of status) no correlation was shown (see chapter 3.2).

With the Principal Component Analysis PCA 3 described in chapter 3.2., three components were extracted: preference for mate attractiveness, preference for mate status and preference for mate sociability. A correlation could be shown for women's preference for mate attractiveness and gaze duration at images for sociable characteristics in men. For the other two components (i.e. preference for mate status or mate sociability) no correlation was shown (see chapter 3.4.).

Actually, correlations in the same dimension would be assumed here, such as between women with preference for male attractiveness and those images that symbolise male attractiveness.

4.7. Summary of the most important findings for women over 50 according to our data set

Women in their second half of life place the same demands on their mates as young women do; at least as far as the characteristics of sociability, status, and attractiveness are concerned. The criterion of sociability is valued most in mates, followed by status and attractiveness. Hence, the ranking of criteria is the same as with young women, even though the biological (and often the social) background has changed.

Life in a relationship is a concept that the tested women desire for physical and social reasons. Financial considerations have no influence on the partnership options. They long for a partner with similar personality characteristics.

They set their own mate value much higher than would be expected by biological and social predictions and do not lower their standards for a possible mate. As they do not need a mate to be content, they rather choose to stay single than to make substantial compromises with regard to the demands placed on a desired partner.

The ideal mate's desired age is about the same as their own or does not matter.

High-status women place much value on sociability. This may mean that their own status is something they are well aware of and can thus be interpreted as a self-perceived female currency on the partner market.

4.8. Discussion of methods

In this study, we took a completely new approach. In the past, partner choice criteria were mostly collected by interviewing the study participants or by evaluating various databases (based on statements made in response to a survey). Only DeWall & Maner (2008) took direct measurement of gaze behavior using an eyetracker fixed on a headband placed on the participant's head.

Since the analysis of people's preferences based on their own statements is not sufficiently reliable (Oberzaucher, 2017), we combined two methods in the present study. In addition to completing a questionnaire, the subjects also observed targets displaying either high or low levels of desired mate attributes, which was measured for the first time by means of electrooculography technique (EOG). While the questionnaire contains precise questions, the answers cannot be seen as entirely reliable. By contrast, the stimuli used for the gaze task (EOG) might not always be clear but the direct measurement proves an unaltered, honest response. Therefore, a combination of these two methods proved to be a directional approach as they complement each other well.

For the gaze task, we observed differences in time when looking at high versus low valued images. Images with higher value were looked at longer. Thus, the EOG method was shown to be a suitable tool for investigating intuitive mate preferences. While some meaningful correlations were shown for the data generated from the questionnaire, this was not the case for the EOG recordings.

Declarations, limitations and future directions

The reproductive capacity of the women was not surveyed. Some of them were or could have been before their menopause. As this study did not deal with the hormonal status of the women, but with their personal life situation, this aspect seems negligible.

The questionnaire used in this study did not specify whether the desired partner characteristics related to a short-term mate (casual sex partner) or a long-term mate (potential spouse). However, it can be assumed that the selected age group is more likely to think of long-term partnerships for various reasons. The biological background for this assumption might be to secure the investment of a partner in offspring that is not his own for as long as possible (Grammer et al., 1999). Furthermore, according to the sexual strategies theory from Buss & Schmitt (1993), women seem to use short-term mating to evaluate men as potential long-term partners. The authors conclude that the characteristics women prefer in short-term and long-term mates are quite similar.

Altogether 68 women participated in the study. When selecting the participants, the aim was to achieve the highest possible diversity among the test persons in terms of income, relationship status, having children, and education. Nevertheless, relatively few singles took part ($N=17$) and, in addition, the share of women without children ($N=10$) was too small to be able to make a meaningful assessment of the differences in this respect.

As described in several places in this study, there are numerous verified results concerning the characteristics of partners preferred by young women. However, conducting this study using the same methods but involving younger women would be helpful in order to make reliable comparisons. Cross-cultural comparisons should also follow.

5. Conclusion

Mate preference criteria of reproductive women have already been well researched and can be explained by the evolutionary requirements of a possible or actual motherhood. As this situation no longer applies to post-reproductive women, their criteria could be different. However, research on mate preference criteria for older women is scarce, although the topic is certainly of socio-political relevance.

This work is the first empirical evaluation of women's preferences for male characteristics that focuses exclusively on the desires of the generation 50+. It should be a first step towards further research.

In this study, in addition to analysing responses to a questionnaire, we measured partner trait preferences for the first time directly, using the electrooculography technique (EOG) which has proven to be a suitable tool for investigating intuitive partner preferences.

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Appendix:

1. Questionnaire

FRAGEBOGEN

NUMMER.....

Persönliche Daten:

1. In welchem Jahr sind Sie geboren?.....
2. Wie groß sind Sie? (Körpergröße in cm)
3. Wieviel wiegen Sie? (Gewicht in kg)
4. Was ist Ihr erlernter Beruf?
5. Welchen Beruf üben Sie aus?
6. Wieviel Geld steht Ihnen persönlich monatlich insgesamt zur Verfügung (netto in €)?

☐ < 1000.-	☐ 1000.- – 2000.-	☐ 2000.- – 3000.-	☐ 3000.- – 4000.-	☐ > 4000.-
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7. Wie wohnen Sie?

☐ Wohnung / ☐ Haus	☐ Miete / ☐ Eigentum / ☐ Genossenschaft
--	---

8. Kinder

	Alter	Geschlecht			Alter	Geschlecht			Alter	Geschlecht	
1. Kind		m	w	3. Kind		m	w	5. Kind		m	w
2. Kind		m	w	4. Kind		m	w	6. Kind		m	w

9. Anzahl im eigenen Haushalt lebender Kinder
10. Anzahl der Enkelkinder

11. Familienstand:

☐ ledig	☐ verheiratet/in einer Partnerschaft	☐ geschieden/verwitwet
-----------------------------	--	--

12. Beziehungsstand:

- ☐ alleinstehend
- ☐ in einer Beziehung
- ☐ Ich wohne mit meinem Partner zusammen

13. Höchste abgeschlossene Ausbildung:

- ☐ Universität/PH/FH
- ☐ Matura/Kolleg/Akademie
- ☐ Berufsschule/Fachschule
- ☐ Pflichtschule

Bitte beschreiben Sie sich selbst - 1

zurückhaltend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	kontaktfreudig
unkreativ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	kreativ
reizbar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gutmütig
beherrscht	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	erregbar
zuverlässig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unzuverlässig
aktiv	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	passiv
friedfertig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	streitsüchtig
herzlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	reserviert
geordnet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ungeordnet
phantasievoll	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	phantasielos
zustimmend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gegensätzlich
strebsam	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ziellos
gehemmt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	freimütig
robust	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verletzlich
informiert	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unwissend
nachlässig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gewissenhaft
zurückgezogen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gesellig
nachsichtig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	barsch
ordentlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unachtsam
ruhig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ängstlich
anspruchsvoll	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unkritisch
unverträglich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verträglich
entspannt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	überempfindlich
scharfsinnig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	beschränkt
unsorgfältig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gründlich
nervös	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gelassen
schüchtern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	durchsetzungsfähig
rücksichtslos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	weichherzig
intelligent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unintelligent
gefühlstabil	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	labil
liebenswert	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unfreundlich
gesprächig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	schweigsam
selbstzufrieden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	selbstmitleidig
einfallslos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	einfallsreich
versöhnlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	rachsüchtig
ausgeglich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	launisch
ungebildet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gebildet
faul	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	fleißig
offen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	zugeknöpft
verantwortungsbewusst	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verantwortungslos

Bitte beschreiben Sie sich selbst - 2

	Trifft gar nicht zu								Trifft ganz zu
Ich habe genügend gute Freunde	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich habe keine Angst davor, im Alter allein zu sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Auf meine Familie kann ich mich verlassen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich kann mit Geld gut umgehen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin selbstständig und komme allein klar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin ein häuslicher Typ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich finde, dass ich eine sexy Ausstrahlung habe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin wirtschaftlich unabhängig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich achte beim Einkaufen auf gute Preise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich habe ein oder mehrere Hobbys	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich führe ein aktives Gesellschaftsleben	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich umgebe mich gerne mit teuren Dingen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich gehe gerne fein aus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich liebe Theater-, Konzert- oder Opernbesuche	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich lese für mein Leben gern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin gern mit Kindern zusammen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin gern mit Tieren zusammen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bevorzuge ein nobles Restaurant gegenüber dem Wirten ums Eck	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich habe manchmal Angst vor der Zukunft	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich kümmere mich viel um meine Familie	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bespreche Probleme mit Freunden/Bekannten/Familie	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin beruflich erfolgreich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Für eine Partnerschaft verzichte ich gerne auf persönliche Freiheit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Zukunft will ich mehr sparen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich achte auf meine Figur	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Falls Sie Enkelkinder haben:									
Ich verbringe viel Zeit mit meinen Enkeln	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Stimmen Sie den folgenden Aussagen zu?

	Stimme gar nicht zu							Stimme ganz zu	
Ich fühle mich verantwortlich für meine Kinder, auch wenn sie schon erwachsen sind	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Unabhängigkeit ist einer lebenslangen Partnerschaft vorzuziehen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In einer Partnerschaft ist es wichtiger, dass man gut miteinander auskommt, als dass man sexuell gut zusammenpasst	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ohne finanzielle Absicherung ist es schwierig, ein glückliches Leben zu führen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Wieviel Wert legen Sie auf folgende Dinge in Ihrem Leben?

	Trifft gar nicht zu							Trifft ganz zu	
Sportlich aktiv sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gesundheit pflegen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reisen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Haus bauen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Unabhängig bleiben	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Karriere machen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Macht besitzen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Aufgeschlossen und neugierig sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Von anderen akzeptiert werden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ordnung in mein Leben bringen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Geehrt werden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ziele setzen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Soziale Kontakte ausbauen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Status erreichen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Romantischer sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mich besser ernähren	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Meine Ruhe haben	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Einstellung zu einer Beziehung

Bitte ausfüllen, wenn Sie alleinstehend sind (nicht in einer Partnerschaft leben):

	Trifft gar nicht zu								Trifft ganz zu
Ich bin zufrieden als Single	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich wünsche mir eine Beziehung, weil:									
Ich möchte nicht allein sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte jemanden, der in meinem letzten Lebensabschnitt an meiner Seite ist	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich kann für meinen Lebensunterhalt nur schwer allein aufkommen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich glaube, mit einem Mann an meiner Seite gesellschaftlich anerkannter zu sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte die körperliche Nähe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte ein regelmäßiges Sexualleben	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Bitte ausfüllen, wenn Sie in einer Partnerschaft leben:

	Trifft gar nicht zu								Trifft ganz zu
Ich lebe gern in einer Beziehung/Partnerschaft	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich lebe in einer Beziehung, weil:									
Ich möchte nicht allein sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte jemanden, der an meinem Lebensabend an meiner Seite ist	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich kann für meinen Lebensunterhalt nur schwer allein aufkommen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin schon lange mit ihm zusammen. Sollte er eines Tages nicht mehr da sein, bleibe ich vermutlich lieber allein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich bin schon lange mit ihm zusammen. Sollte er eines Tages nicht mehr da sein, würde ich mir wieder einen Partner suchen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich glaube, mit einem Mann an meiner Seite gesellschaftlich anerkannter zu sein	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte die körperliche Nähe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ich möchte ein regelmäßiges Sexualleben	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Welche Eigenschaften sind Ihnen an einem Partner wichtig?

zurückhaltend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	kontaktfreudig
unkreativ	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	kreativ
reizbar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gutmütig
beherrscht	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	erregbar
zuverlässig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unzuverlässig
aktiv	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	passiv
friedfertig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	streitsüchtig
herzlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	reserviert
geordnet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ungeordnet
phantasievoll	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	phantasielos
zustimmend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gegensätzlich
strebsam	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ziellos
gehemmt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	freimütig
robust	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verletzlich
informiert	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unwissend
nachlässig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gewissenhaft
zurückgezogen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gesellig
nachsichtig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	barsch
ordentlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unachtsam
ruhig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	ängstlich
anspruchsvoll	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unkritisch
unverträglich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verträglich
entspannt	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	überempfindlich
scharfsinnig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	beschränkt
unsorgfältig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gründlich
nervös	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gelassen
schüchtern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	durchsetzungsfähig
rücksichtslos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	weichherzig
intelligent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unintelligent
gefühlstabil	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	labil
liebenswürdig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	unfreundlich
gesprächig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	schweigsam
selbstzufrieden	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	selbstmitleidig
einfallslos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	einfallsreich
versöhnlich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	rachsüchtig
ausgeglichen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	launisch
ungebildet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	gebildet
faul	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	fleißig
offen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	zugeknöpft
verantwortungsbewusst	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	verantwortungslos

So wäre momentan mein idealer Partner

☐ Älter als ich	☐ Jünger als ich	☐ Etwa gleich alt	☐ Alter ist egal
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

	Trifft gar nicht zu					Trifft ganz zu				
großer Freundeskreis	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Akademiker	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
finanziell abgesichert	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
finanziell großzügig	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
guter Beruf	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
mit guten Kontakten	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
gesellschaftlich angesehen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
mit hohem Status	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
männliches Gesicht	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
volles Haupthaar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
breite Schultern	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
schmale Hüften	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
sportliches Aussehen	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
schlank	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
hohe Fitness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attraktivität	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
körperlich treu	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
emotional treu	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
häuslich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
sozial engagiert	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
kinderliebend	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
gemeinsame Interessen/Hobbys	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
sozial verträglich	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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