



The Delusion of Romantic Self-Insight

Eli J. Finkel

Northwestern University

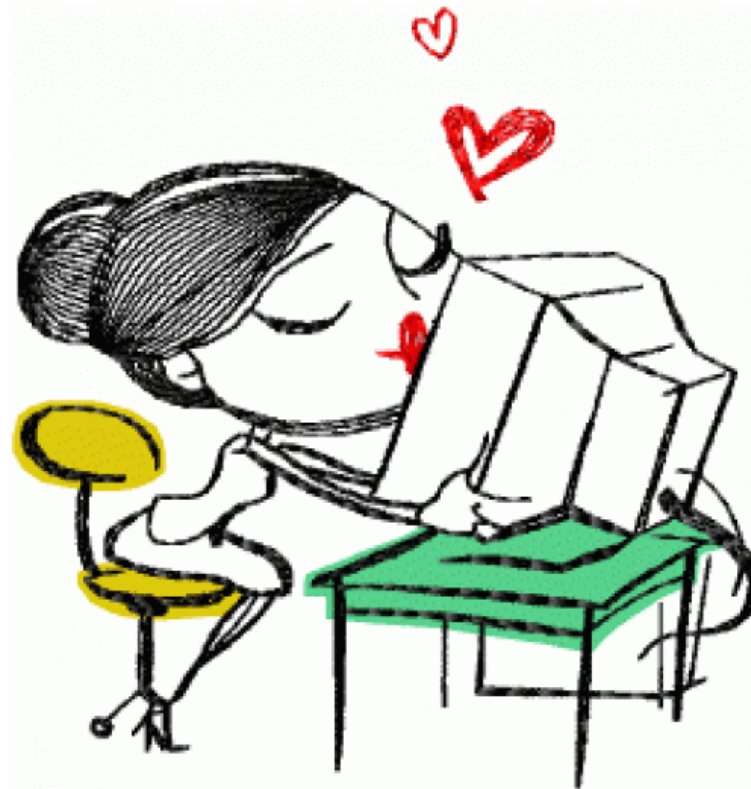
Paul W. Eastwick

University of Texas

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Modern Dating





Two Distinct Questions



Sex Differences?



Self-Insight?



Sex Differences

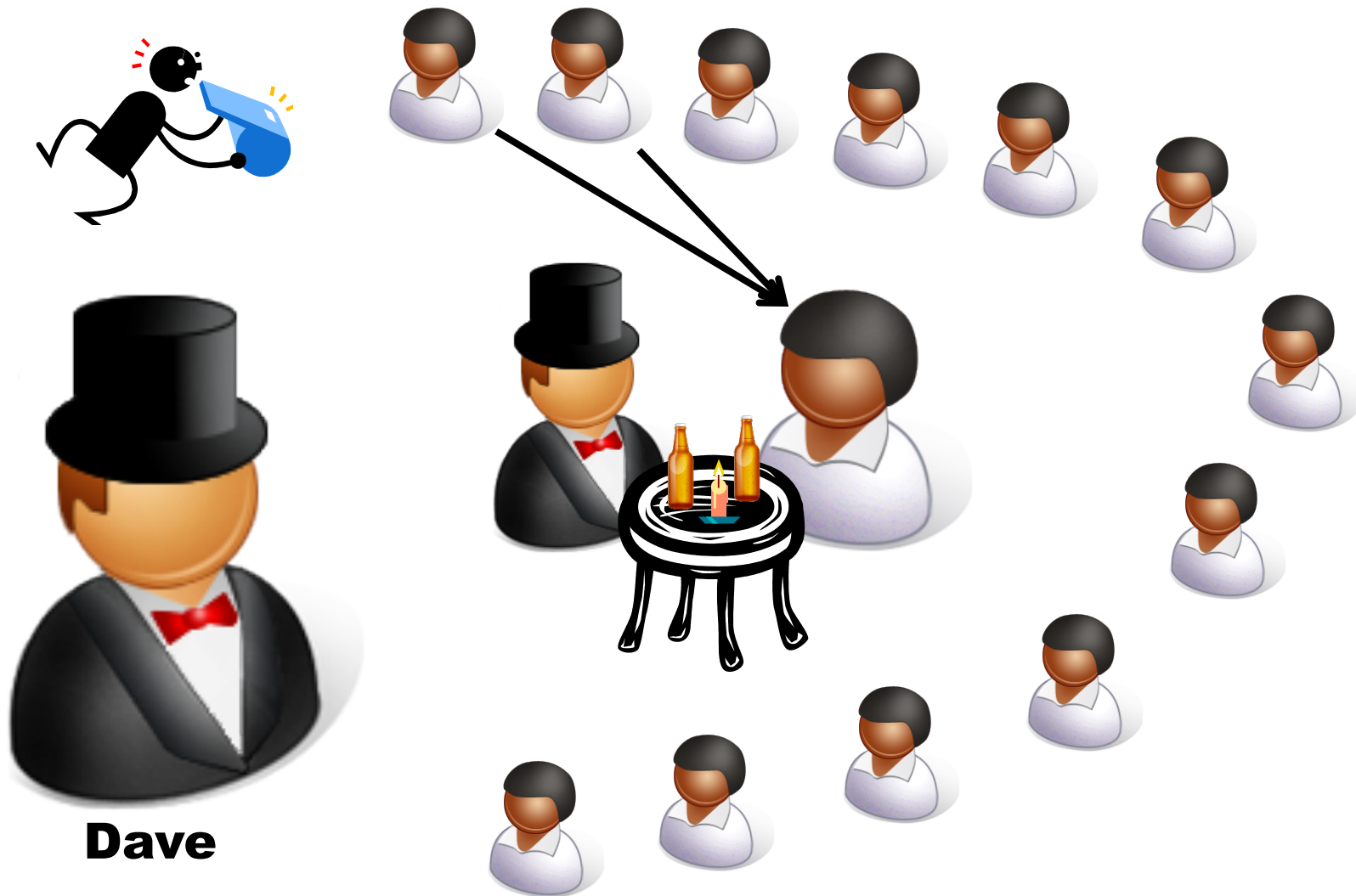
- Large sex differences in stated prefs.
 - Physical attractiveness: Men more than women
 - Earning prospects: Women more than men
- Research paradigms
 - Reports on hypothetical partners
 - Attraction to people depicted in photographs
 - Personal ads and responses
 - Online dating profiles and responses



What about after men and women have met a potential partner face-to-face?

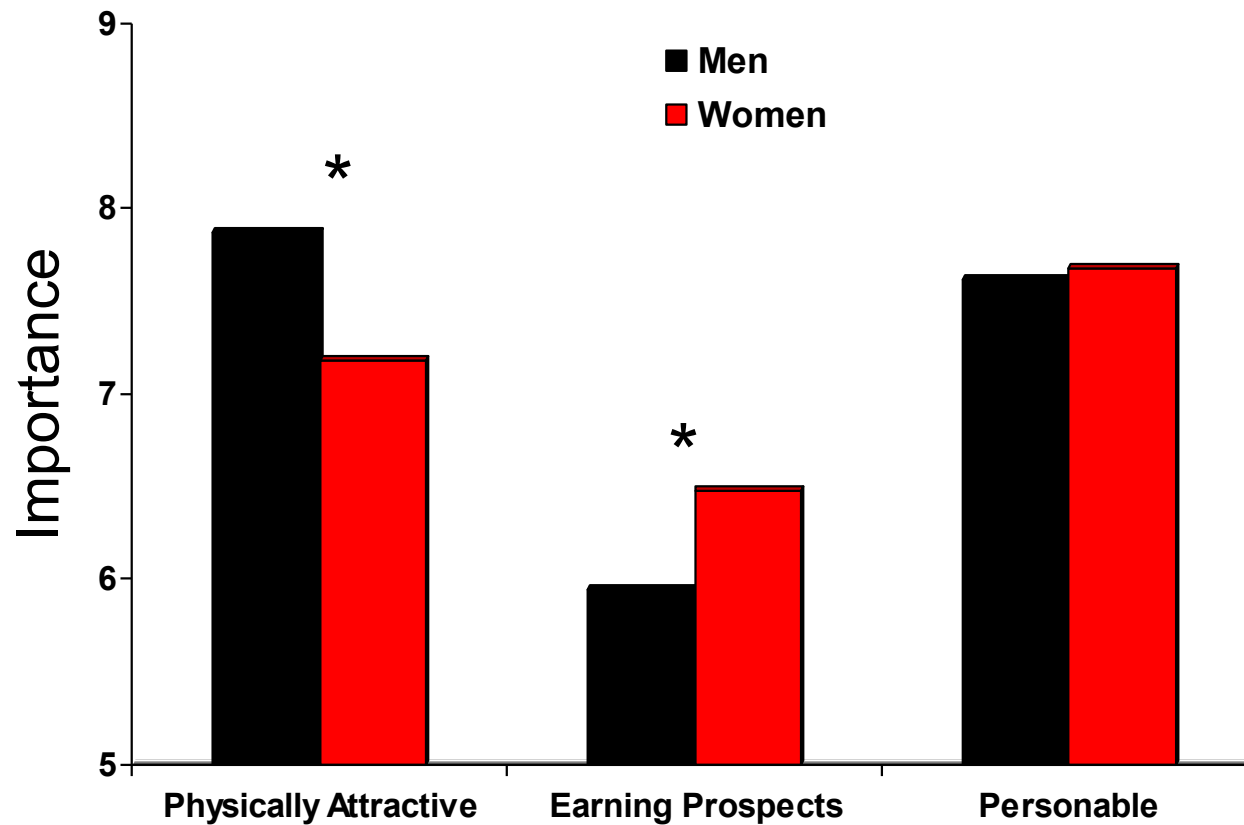


Speed-Dating



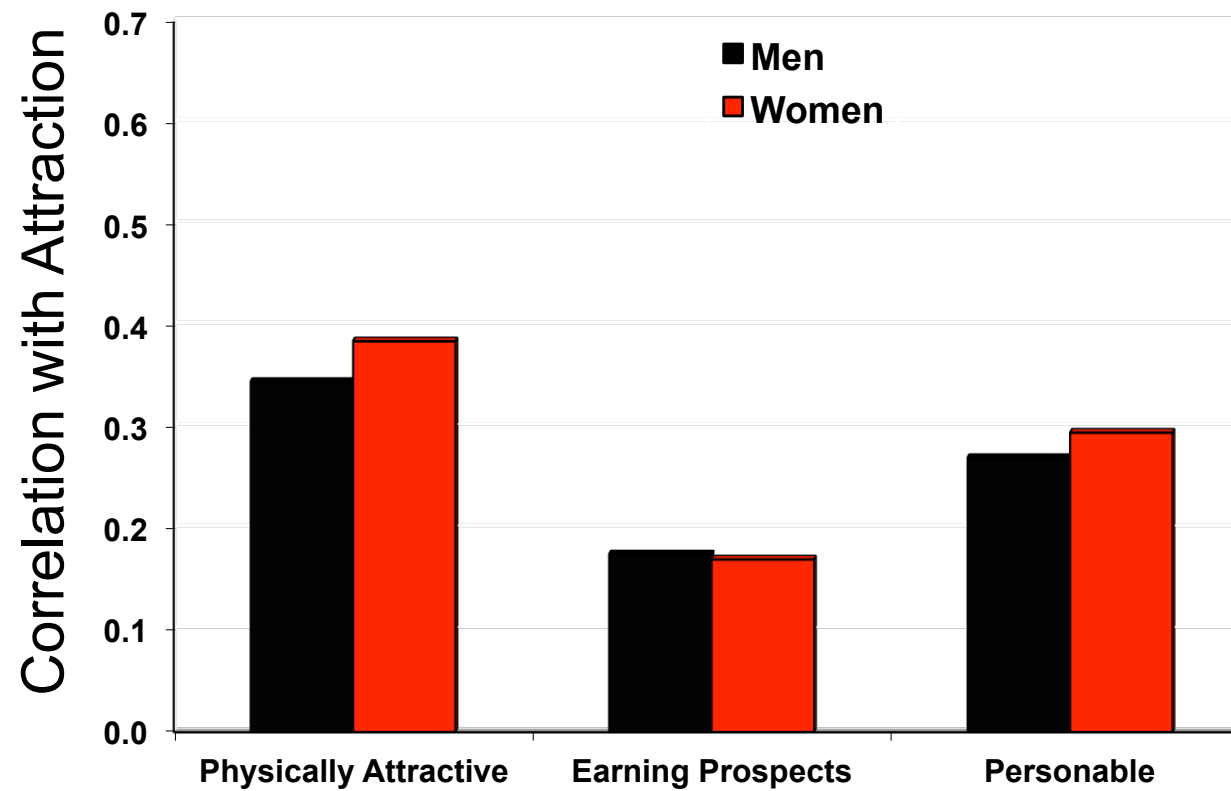


Stated Mate Preferences





Actual Mate Preferences





“Come on, that’s just one study”



Meta-Analysis

- A specific person you've met face-to-face
- DV: Romantic evaluation
 - Romantic liking, attraction, satisfaction, commitment, trust, intimacy, love, passion
- IV: Measure of physical attractiveness, earning prospects, or both
 - Participant-report
 - Partner-report
 - Objective assessment

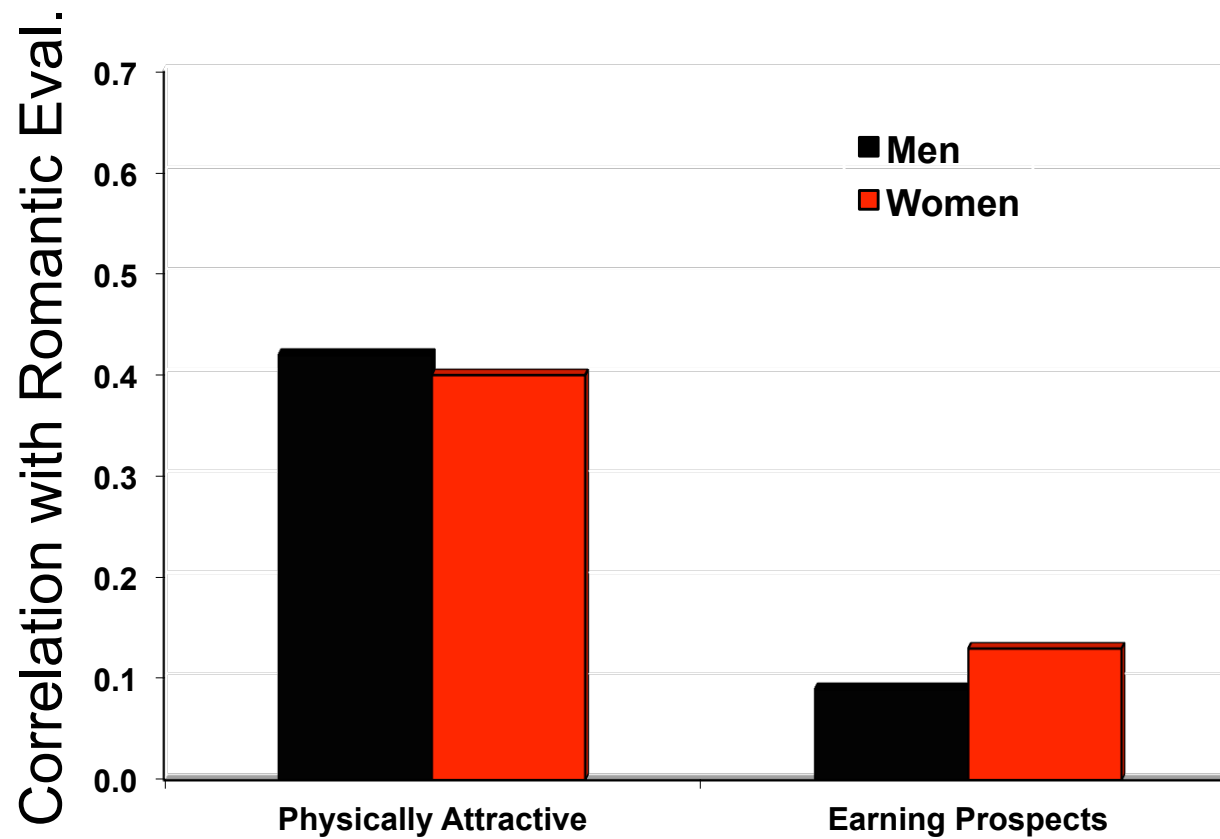


Meta-Analysis

- Physical attractiveness
 - 73 articles with a total of ~28,000 participants
- Earning prospects
 - 44 articles with a total of ~46,000 participants



Meta-Analysis



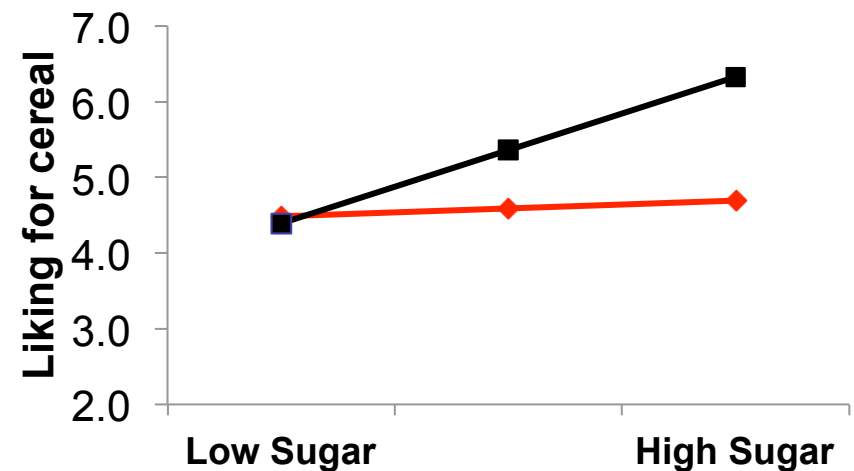
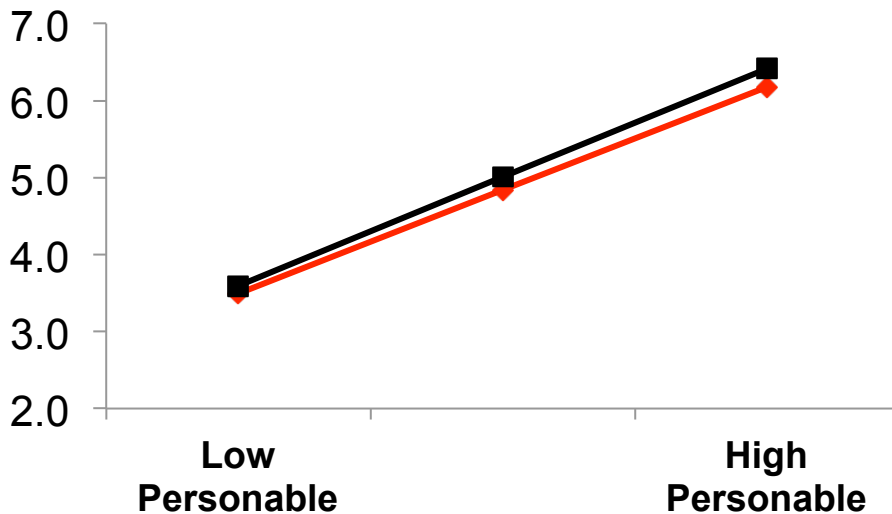
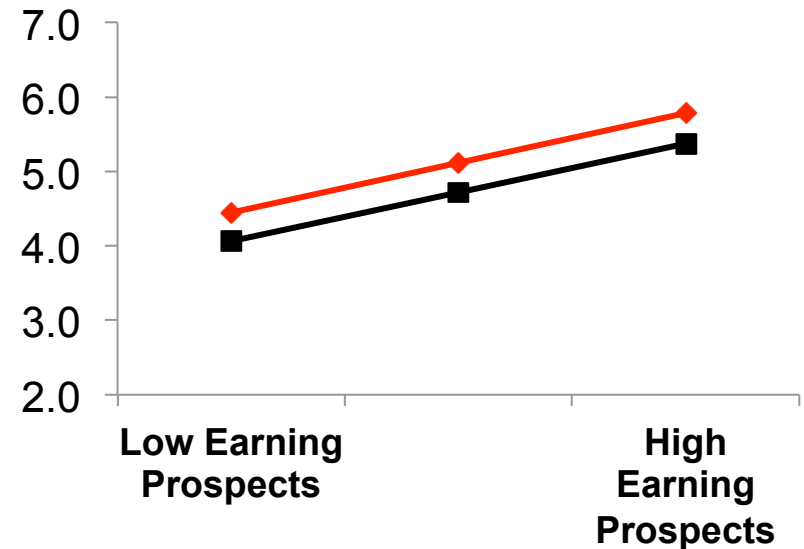
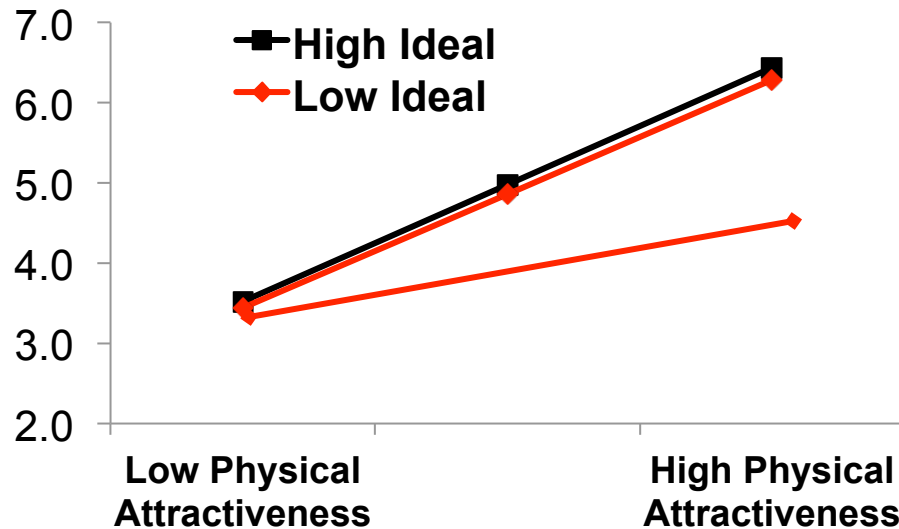


Self-Insight?

Ignoring sex differences, do people who believe they value a certain characteristic actually prize it more than others do?



Stated/Actual Correspondence





What about middle-aged people? And what if one is already in a relationship with the partner?

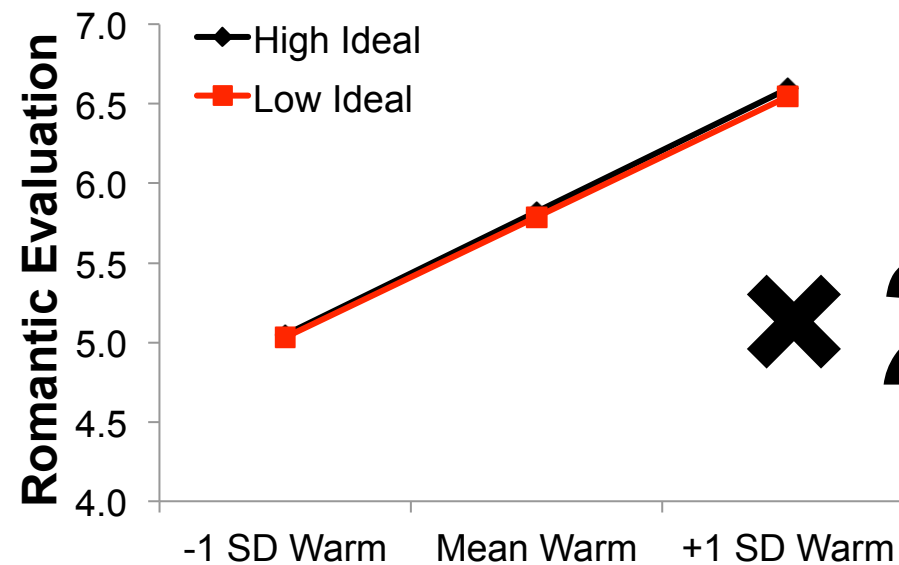


Stated/Actual Correspondence

- Follow-up study: 502 Ps, average age = 41
- Procedure
 - Intake: Romantically unattached Ps reported their mate preferences
 - 2.5 years later: Reported on a current or a desired romantic partner
- DVs
 - Romantic interest
 - Marriage intentions
 - Marital status



Stated/Actual Correspondence



x 21



Conclusion



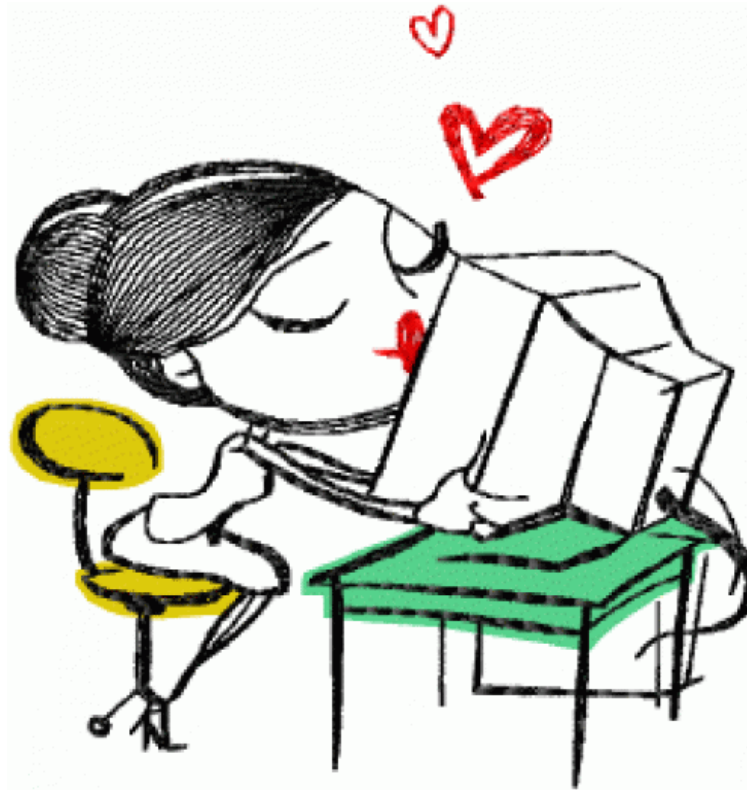
Sex Differences?



Self-Insight?



Conclusion



**The Limits of
Profile Browsing**



The Delusion of Romantic Self-Insight

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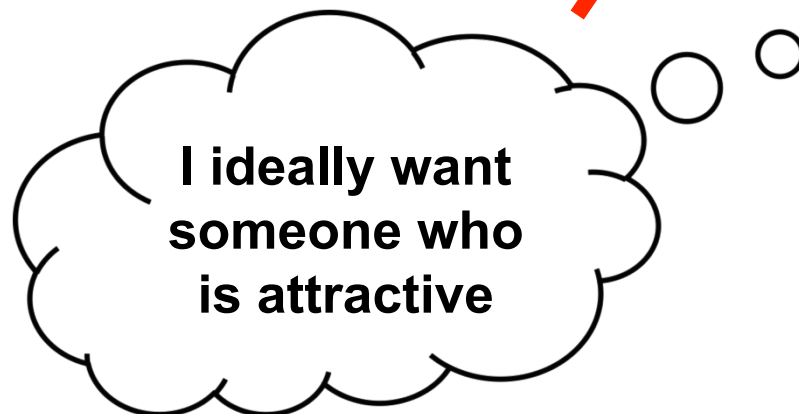
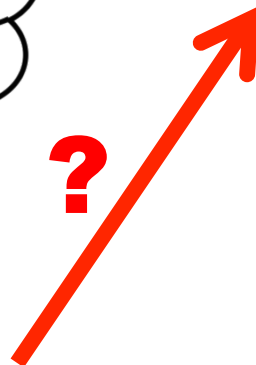
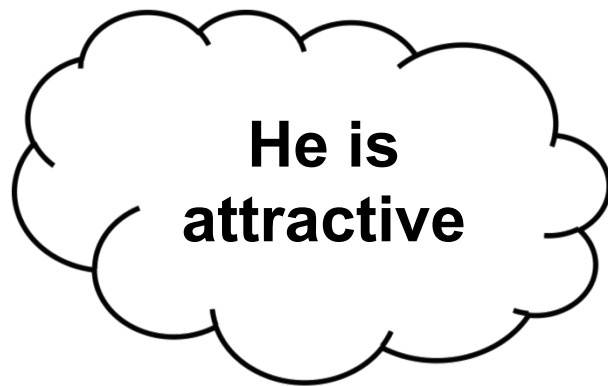
finkel@northwestern.edu

faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/eli-finkel/





Mate Preferences



Jasmine