Psychological Science Experimental Methods

Assessment Two
Data Presentation

Semester One, 2023

Light Background for Research (with links)

- One theory behind romantic partner selection is ideal traits preferences and the matching of ideals to actual traits in potential partners (Fletcher et al., 1999).
- There is mixed support for this is theory, but recent findings have provided renewed support (Conroy-Beam et al., 2022).
- Fletcher and colleagues initially found three ideal trait domains, but more recent research has indicated there may be 6+ domains (Csajbók & Berkics, 2017).
- While there is a lot of research on these trait preferences on heterosexual samples, and sometimes gay/lesbian samples, there is little beyond that.
- The data you are analysing in this assignment looks to go beyond the heteronormative and also beyond monoamorous (monoamoronormative?).

About the Project

- Approved by Curtin HREC 12th February 2021.
- Administered via an online survey hosted on Qualtrics (www.Qualtrics.com).
- Open from 18th February 2021 – 22nd May 2021.
- The survey took approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- Recruitment took place on social media (Instagram, Facebook) broadly and also specifically on pages for people of diverse sexual identities.

About the Project

- This is a quasi-experimental study as we must use naturally occurring groups around sexual identity and romantic partner selection experience.
- Participants responded to questions regarding their partner selection experience, trait preferences, self-perceived mate value, and demographics.
- The recruitment criteria was: Single Australian adults (18 years old+) seeking a romantic partner.
- Aim: Explore if differing experiences regarding partner selection leads to differences in trait preferences.

Example of Survey Questions

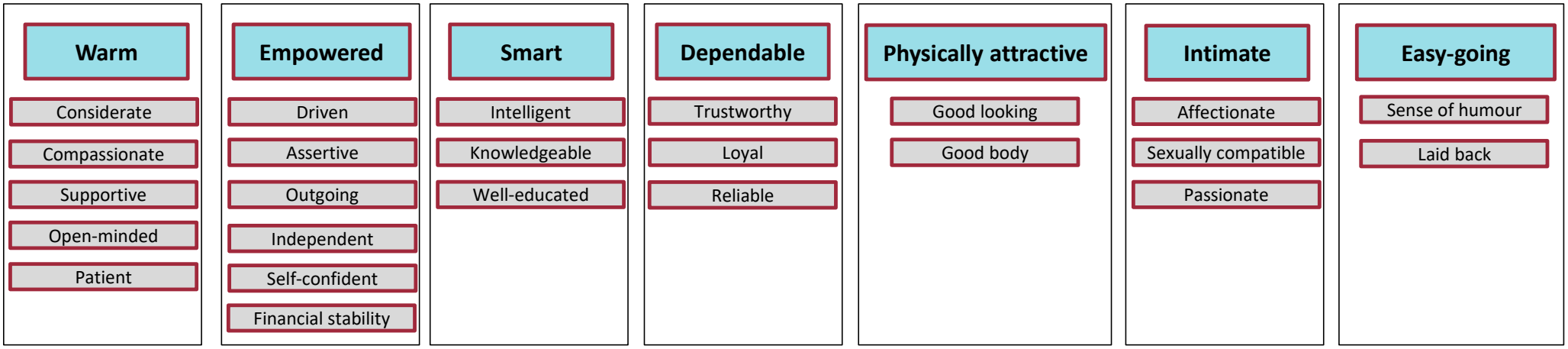
How important do you consider these characteristics in your ideal romantic partner?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Patient	○	○	○	○	○
Good looking	○	○	○	○	○
Good body	○	○	○	○	○
Passionate	○	○	○	○	○
Financial stability	○	○	○	○	○
Intelligent	○	○	○	○	○
Considerate	○	○	○	○	○
Laid back	○	○	○	○	○
Sexually compatible	○	○	○	○	○
Self-confident	○	○	○	○	○
Supportive	○	○	○	○	○
Well-educated	○	○	○	○	○
Knowledgable	○	○	○	○	○
Resilient	○	○	○	○	○
Sense of humour	○	○	○	○	○
Loyal	○	○	○	○	○
Shared values	○	○	○	○	○
Compassionate	○	○	○	○	○
Trustworthy	○	○	○	○	○
Driven	○	○	○	○	○
Good communicator	○	○	○	○	○

Your Datafile

- Your data file only contains the data on demographics and trait preferences.
- 853 participants responded to the survey.
  - 96 participants did not provide consent and were removed from the dataset.
  - 148 participants only answered demographic questions and were removed from the dataset.
  - 1 case was removed for uniform responses to questions.
  - 1 case was removed for reporting they were happily married for 25 years, violating the selection criteria.
  - 39 cases were removed for not completing the trait preference questions.
- The final dataset includes 568 valid responses which are ready for analysis.

Your Datafile



- The top (blue) boxes are grouping of traits (domains) that were determined through statistical analysis (you'll learn about this in correlation methods).
- The traits below each domain name are the individual variables in your datafile. To get a total score for the domain(s) you use, you'll need to compute the average score across the traits that form the domain (like you have done for other average scores this semester).

The Measurements

- The 26 traits in the study were decided upon through consultation with key informants of diverse sexual, gender, and cultural identity.
    - You do not need to discuss reliability or validity of the measurement.
    - You will need to provide details like scale of measurement and example items.
- The only demographics you need to report in this study are age and gender.
    - There are other demographics, but this is more for your information and completeness.
    - You should report demographics for the overall sample and for each group that forms a part of your analyses.
- The original dataset has over 200 variables, so it has been simplified quite a bit!

Some Definitions

- There are few terms it might help to understand before tackling your assignment.
  - The groups that make up your first hypothesis IV, we will call this the participant's "partner number sexuality":
    - **Monoamorous**: Describes an individual that seeks only one romantic partner.
    - **Polyamorous**: Describes an individual that (may) seek multiple romantic partners.

Some Definitions

- The groups that make up your second hypothesis IV, we will call this the participant's "sexual identity experience".
  - **Opposite-attracted**: Describes people attracted exclusively to the opposite sex, also known as heterosexuals. Men that seek women and women that seek men.
  - **Same-attracted**: Describes people attracted exclusively to the same sex, also known as gay or lesbian people. Men that seek men and women that seek women.
  - **Multi-attracted**: Describes people attracted to multiple kinds of partners. These are two major definitions within this category: 1. Bisexual, people attracted to both men and women | 2. Pansexual, people attracted to anyone regardless of gender or sex.
  - **Asexual**: These are people who do not experience (or experience reduced) sexual attraction to partners. These people may fall into one of the above categories, but we acknowledge their different experience around sexual attraction which leads to quite different experiences when choosing romantic partners.

Your Analysis

- You will be analysing two topics, 1 = between-groups 2 groups, 2 = between-groups 4 groups.

1. **Testing the differences in a trait preference domain between polyamorous and monoamorous participants.**
    - This hypothesis needs to be directional. Predict which group will prefer a certain trait domain more!
    - There is a third group in the polyamorous variable (Open to polyamory), we will ignore them in our analysis.
2. **Testing the differences in a trait preference domain between the different romantic partner selection experience types.**
    - These four groups represent what are thought to be distinct experiences within partner selection:
        - Opposite-attracted (heterosexual), Same-attracted (gay/lesbian), Multi-attracted (bi/pansexual), and Asexual.
    - This hypothesis should be an overall/omnibus hypothesis (non-directional) as discussed in Week 7.

Conclusion

- There are various documents/links in the assignment folder to assist you in completing this analysis.
- Be sure to ask questions and use your 'SPSS Statistics: A Practical Guide' book to assist you in completing, interpreting AND writing up your analysis.
- Pay close attention to the assignment instructions.
- If you are stuck on what goes into a section of your report – look at published research, what did they do?