

**Partnerpräferenzen von Frauen.  
Die Rolle männlicher Dominanz**

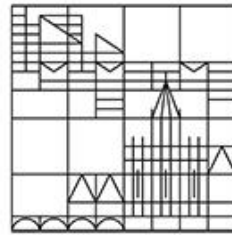
**Dissertation**

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## Zusammenfassung

In dieser Dissertation wurde untersucht, inwiefern männliche Dominanz für Frauen ein Partnerwahlkriterium darstellt. In der **1. Studie** wurde analysiert, welchen Personen gegenüber Männer sich dominant verhalten sollten, um für Frauen attraktiv zu sein. Dabei wurde auch die Art der Beziehung, d.h. Langzeit- oder Kurzzeitbeziehung berücksichtigt und zudem untersucht, ob Frauen mit höheren Werten von *Trait-Angst* eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner haben. Die Ergebnisse zeigten, dass Frauen sich besonders zu Männern hingezogen fühlen, die sich gegenüber nahestehenden Personen fürsorglich und weniger dominant, gegenüber fremden Männern jedoch durchsetzungsstark verhalten. Männliche Dominanz ist für Frauen anziehend, wenn es um die Wahl eines Kurzzeitpartners geht, jedoch nicht, wenn ein Langzeitpartner gewählt werden soll. Frauen mit höheren Werten in *Trait-Angst* haben eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner. **Studie 2** ging der Frage nach, wie attraktiv Kriegsheimkehrer mit hoher bzw. niedriger appetitiver Aggression und Traumasymptomen bzw. unauffälliger psychischer Symptomatik für Frauen in Hinblick auf verschiedene Beziehungen sind. Appetitive Aggression als bewusst initiierte Aggression des Täters, die als angenehm wahrgenommen wird, stellt eine extreme Form männlicher Dominanz dar. Die Ergebnisse zeigten, dass Männer mit und ohne Traumasymptomen gleichermaßen als Langzeit- und Kurzzeitpartner von Frauen bevorzugt werden. Männer mit appetitiver Aggression sind für Frauen unerwünscht als Langzeitpartner, aber begehrt als Kurzzeitpartner. In ihrem fertilen Fenster bevorzugen Frauen appetitiv aggressive Männer verstärkt für sexuelle Affären. Daraus kann geschlussfolgert werden, dass appetitive Aggression wahrscheinlich ein Signal für höhere genetische Fitness von Männern ist. In **Studie 3** wurde untersucht, welche Charaktereigenschaften die Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner begünstigen. Das Ergebnis zeigte, dass sich Männer und Frauen verstärkt zu dominanten Vertretern des anderen Geschlechts hingezogen fühlen, wenn sie höhere Werte im *Sensation Seeking*, besonders in den Subskalen *soziale Enthemmung* und *Anfälligkeit für Langeweile* aufweisen. Frauen mit höheren Werten in der *Trait-Angst* haben ebenfalls eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner. Ein weiteres Ergebnis war, dass ängstlichere Frauen höhere Werte in der Subskala *Suche nach neuen Erfahrungen* haben, was mit einer verminderten Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner einhergeht. Die **4. Studie** ging der Frage nach, welche Frauen auf die Kontaktanzeige eines Inhaftierten antworten würden. Männer, die auf Grund einer Straftat in Haft sitzen, werden von Frauen oftmals als sehr dominant, stark und gewalttätig wahrgenommen. Die Ergebnisse zeigten, dass es keine signifikanten Unterschiede in der Anzahl der Frauen gibt, die auf die Anzeige eines Häftlings

im Vergleich zu derselben Anzeige eines nicht inhaftierten Mannes antworten würden. Frauen, die sich entschließen, auf die Anzeige eines Gefängnisinsassen zu antworten, haben signifikant höhere Werte in *Sensation Seeking* und eine höhere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner. **Studie 5** widmete sich der Wahrnehmung der eigenen Liebesbeziehung aus der Perspektive der Frauen, die mit einem inhaftierten Mann liiert sind. Diese Frauen bewerten ihre Beziehung als besonders romantisch, erotisch und altruistisch. Insgesamt kommt diese Arbeit zu dem Schluss, dass männliche Dominanz vor allem sexuell attraktiv für Frauen ist, jedoch weniger präferiert wird, wenn es um die Wahl eines Langzeitpartners geht. Wenn sich männliche Dominanz gegen Fremde richtet und Männer sich rücksichtsvoll gegenüber der eigenen Familie verhalten, ist dominantes Verhalten auch eine vorteilhafte Eigenschaft im Hinblick auf die Wahl eines Langzeitpartners. Selbst aggressives und gewalttätiges Verhalten kann sexuell anziehend auf Frauen wirken, wenn es sich gegen einen bedrohlichen Feind richtet. Sowohl ängstlichere als auch Frauen, die nach aufregenden Erfahrungen suchen, fühlen sich stärker zu dominanten Männern hingezogen.

# Kapitel I: Allgemeine Einführung

## 1. Einleitung

*„ Begonnen hat es bei mir eigentlich damit, dass ich als Kind vor dem Fernseher saß und ein Bild von Osama Bin Laden kommentierte: Der sieht doch nett aus! Meine Mutter fand das nicht (...) Momentan ist es Anders Breivik... Ich finde einfach, dass er unglaublich gut aussieht und hätte große Lust, ihm einen Brief zu schreiben. Natürlich schäme ich mich für diese Gedanken, aber ich kann sie nicht verleugnen! Im "wahren Leben" interessieren mich Männer nicht; ich sehe überall nur Milchbubis und träume von einem rauen Kerl mit weichem Kern." (Zitat aus dem Hybristophilieforum: <http://hybristophilie.forumieren.de/t62-viele-gruse-von-einer-dusteren-zeitgenossin>)*

Die weiblichen Vorlieben für Bad Boys, coole Machos und unrasierte Draufgänger werden immer wieder in den Medien aufgegriffen, in Filmen verarbeitet, in Foren und Talkshows diskutiert und die Probleme, die daraus resultieren, der besten Freundin geklagt. Die Zuneigung zu solchen anscheinend empathielosen, egoistischen und sogar aggressiven Männern erscheint vielen, vor allem liebevolleren Männern, unverständlich. Diese Arbeit soll zeigen, was genau Frauen an männlicher Dominanz so anziehend finden. Sie versucht zu klären, welche Frauen sich besonders zu dominanten Männern hingezogen fühlen und unter welchen Bedingungen sogar männliche Aggressionen attraktiv wirken. Dabei wird auch die Zuneigung von einigen Frauen zu gewalttätigen Straftätern untersucht und betrachtet, welche Frauen auf eine Annonce zur Partnersuche von einem Mann in Haft antworten würden, und wie die Liebesbeziehung zu einem verurteilten Straftäter in Haft von ihren Partnerinnen wahrgenommen wird. Die einzelnen Studien dieser Arbeit werden zunächst vor dem Hintergrund Partnerwahl aus evolutionärer Sicht beleuchtet, diskutiert und erscheinen dann am Ende dieser Arbeit.

## 2. Warum Frauen wählerischer sind als Männer

Eine attraktive Frau betritt eine Bar, setzt sich neben einen Mann, der allein an der Theke sein Bier trinkt. Sie flirtet offensiv mit ihm, macht ihm Komplimente, streicht sich durch ihr Haar, lächelt verführerisch, sucht scheinbar zufälligen Körperkontakt und fragt ihn schließlich, ob er Lust hätte, eine Nacht mit ihr zu verbringen. Er reagiert zurückhaltend und verlässt verlegen die Bar. Manchen könnte es unrealistisch vorkommen, dass der Mann dieses Angebot ablehnt. Man malt sich vielleicht aus, dass die Frau unattraktiv, oder der Mann depressiv

beziehungsweise impotent ist. Stellt man sich die Szene allerdings mit vertauschten Rollen vor, wirkt die Ablehnung beinahe alltäglich. Frauen scheinen das wählerischere Geschlecht zu sein und ihren potentiellen Partner gründlicher zu prüfen.

Im Tierreich ist das Geschlecht wählerischer, das mehr in den Nachwuchs investiert, d.h. größeres *Parental Investment* zeigt. *Parental Investment* wird definiert als: „Der Beitrag den Eltern leisten um den reproduktiven Erfolg des Nachwuchses zu gewährleisten auf Kosten der Fähigkeit in anderen Nachwuchs zu investieren.“ (Kenrick, Sadalla, Groth, & Trost, 1990; Trivers, 1972). Beim Menschen, so wie bei den meisten anderen Säugetieren auch, investieren Frauen mehr in ihren Nachwuchs als Männer. Unter optimalen Bedingungen kann eine Frau ungefähr bis zu zwölf Kinder gebären, während ein Mann theoretisch zwölf Kinder pro Tag zeugen könnte (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Frauen investieren mehr Zeit, Ressourcen und Risiko in ihren Nachwuchs: Sie sind mit ihrem Kind 38 Wochen schwanger und stillen es mehrere Monate nach der Geburt. Aus dem unterschiedlich großen *Parental Investment* beider Geschlechter resultieren unterschiedliche Paarungsstrategien (Mating Strategies). Männer maximieren ihren Reproduktionserfolg, indem sie möglichst viel Nachwuchs mit verschiedenen Frauen zeugen. Auf Grund dieser Strategie müssen Männer weniger wählerisch sein als Frauen (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Die schlechte Wahl eines Mannes, z.B. die Wahl einer Frau, mit der ein nicht überlebensfähiger oder nicht reproduktionsfähiger Nachkomme gezeugt wird, ist weniger schwerwiegend, da jederzeit mit einer anderen Frau neue Nachkommen gezeugt werden können. Frauen sollten eine Taktik verfolgen, mit der sie die Überlebensfähigkeit und Reproduktionsfähigkeit ihres Nachwuchses erhöhen. Teil dieser Strategie ist es, den Partner mit großer Sorgfalt auszuwählen und auf Signale zu achten, welche zum Beispiel die Gesundheit, Fitness und Loyalität des Mannes anzeigen (Buss & Schmitt, 1993).

Das *Parental- Investment- Model* wurde empirisch von Kenrick et al.(1990) überprüft. Sie gingen davon aus, dass beide Geschlechter bei einem ersten Treffen wenige Investitionen tätigen. Sobald sich die Beziehung in Richtung eines sexuellen Zusammentreffens entwickelt, steigen die potentiellen Investitionen der Frau im Gegensatz zu denen des Mannes enorm an, sodass Frauen bezüglich der präferierten Eigenschaften des Sexualpartners sehr wählerisch werden müssen. Beide Geschlechter sind entsprechend der *Parental Investment* Theorie auf dem Level einer Langzeitbeziehung, zum Beispiel einer Heirat, in hohem Maße wählerisch, da beide Partner in beträchtlichem Umfang investieren. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass Frauen generell und im Hinblick auf alle getesteten Eigenschaften außer der körperlichen Attraktivität wählerischer waren als Männer. Die größten Unterschiede zwischen den



Geschlechtern fanden die Forscher auf dem Level sexueller Beziehungen. Insgesamt steigt bei beiden Geschlechtern der Anspruch an den Partner mit dem Level an Investitionen (erstes Treffen - sexuelle Beziehung - Heirat) an. Vielleicht hätte der zurückhaltende Mann aus der Eingangsgeschichte eine Einladung zu einem Date angenommen, um die Dame besser kennenzulernen und ihre Qualitäten als Ehefrau und Mutter zu prüfen. Der folgende Gliederungspunkt zeigt, dass Menschen unterschiedliche Strategien bei der Partnerwahl verfolgen.

### **3. Sexuelle Strategien**

Eine monogame Beziehung, die ein Leben lang hält, ist für viele Menschen erstrebenswert, aber in der Realität eher die Ausnahme. Ungefähr 80 Prozent aller menschlichen Kulturen praktizieren Polygynie (Ford & Beach, 1951). In monogamen Gesellschaften sind serielle Beziehungen über die Lebensspanne hinweg möglich. Langzeitbeziehungen, zum Beispiel Lebenspartner oder Ehepartner, können von zwischenzeitigen Kurzzeitbeziehungen wie One-Night Stands und sexuellen Affären abgelöst werden (Buss, 2004a). Beide Geschlechter verfolgen sowohl Strategien zum Aufbau von Langzeitbeziehungen (long-term mating), als auch von Kurzzeitbeziehungen (short-term mating). Um seine Nachkommenschaft zu vergrößern, stellt es für den Mann eine sinnvolle sexuelle Strategie dar, mit möglichst vielen verschiedenen Frauen in kurzer Zeit zu schlafen und dabei wenige Ressourcen zu investieren. Frauen bevorzugen hingegen Männer mit Bindungswillen, die sie und ihre Nachkommen versorgen und sind daher verstärkt an Langzeitbeziehungen interessiert (Buss, 1997). Frauen lehnen unverbindliche Sexualkontakte mit größerer Wahrscheinlichkeit ab, während sich Männer diese wünschen. In einer Verhaltensstudie von Clark und Hatfield (1989) wurden Frauen und Männer von Vertretern des jeweils anderen Geschlecht auf einem Campus angesprochen: „Hallo, du bist mir in letzter Zeit auf dem Campus aufgefallen. Ich finde dich sehr attraktiv. Hättest du Lust mit mir zu schlafen?“ Frauen lehnten diese Einladung zu 100 Prozent ab, während 75 Prozent der Männer auf dieses Angebot eingegangen wären. Kurzzeit- und Langzeitstrategien haben für beide Geschlechter verschiedene Vor- und Nachteile und werden von beiden, auch in Abhängigkeit von unterschiedlichen Situationen, wie der Verfügbarkeit von Partnern und dem eigenen Marktwert, eingesetzt. Die Adaptionenvorteile der Frauen hinsichtlich der Ausführung der jeweiligen Strategie werden im nächsten Abschnitt erläutert.

### *3.1 Langzeitpartnerstrategien von Frauen*

Der Aufbau einer Langzeitbeziehung ist eine Strategie von Frauen, um kontinuierlichen Zugang zu Ressourcen und elterlichen Investitionen des Mannes zu erhalten. Da Frauen mehr elterliche Investitionen tätigen, ist es ihre primäre Taktik, einen Mann für eine Langzeitbeziehung an sich zu binden (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Um den größten Vorteil aus einer Langzeitbeziehung zu ziehen, sollten Frauen den Mann identifizieren, der qualifiziert und willens ist, Ressourcen in die Beziehung und in die elterliche Fürsorge zu investieren. Frauen legen dabei besonderen Wert auf den Ehrgeiz, das Bildungsniveau und die Einkommensstärke des Mannes (Buss, 2004b; Buss & Angleitner, 1989). Mittellose, ungebildete Männer mit einem Mangel an Ehrgeiz haben schlechtere Chancen, von Frauen als Langzeitpartner ausgewählt zu werden (Buss & Schmitt, 1993).

### *3.2 Kurzzeitpartnerstrategien von Frauen*

Das Eingehen von Kurzzeitbeziehungen bringt entsprechend der Theorie von Buss (1993) verschiedene potentielle Vorteile für Frauen mit sich:

1) Frauen haben die Möglichkeit, zusätzliche sofortige Ressourcen zu gewinnen, zum Beispiel durch Geschenke des Mannes, den sie als vorübergehenden Sexualpartner auswählen. Für diese Annahme spricht unter anderem, dass Frauen bei der Wahl ihres Geliebten besonders viel Wert auf Großzügigkeit legen und von Beginn der Beziehung an Geschenke erwarten. Solche Eigenschaften sind zwar auch für einen potentiellen Ehemann von Vorteil, aber mehr noch bei einem sexuellen Gelegenheitspartner erwünscht.

2) Frauen benutzen Kurzzeitbeziehungen, um den Geliebten einer genaueren Prüfung hinsichtlich seiner Eignung als Ehemann zu unterziehen. Ein möglicher Beweis für diese Annahme ist, dass Frauen promiskuitive Männer oder Männer in einer festen Beziehung im Hinblick auf ihre Eignung als potentiellen Kurzzeitpartner als unattraktiv bewerten, während Männer diese beiden Eigenschaften bei Frauen nicht störend, sondern sogar als verlockende Attribute für eine Kurzzeitbeziehung empfinden.

3) Frauen erhalten durch den Kurzzeitpartner vorübergehenden Schutz vor andern Männern. Dies trifft insbesondere auf Gesellschaften zu, in denen Frauen im stärkeren Maße der Gefahr von Angriffen und Vergewaltigungen ausgesetzt sind. Ein oder mehrere zusätzliche Partner können in einer bedrohlichen Situation die Frauen vor gewalttätigen Übergriffen schützen, wenn ihr Mann gerade abwesend ist.

4) Frauen haben die Möglichkeit, durch Gelegenheitssex gute Gene für ihren

Nachwuchs zu erhalten. Da Männer bei der Wahl ihrer vorübergehenden Sexualpartnerinnen weniger anspruchsvoll sind als bei der Wahl einer Ehefrau, kann sich auch eine Frau mit schlechterem Marktwert einen höherrangigen oder besonders attraktiven Mann für eine kurze sexuelle Liaison leisten. Die Biologen Bellis und Baker (1990) entdeckten, dass Frauen mit Männern fremd gehen, die einen höheren gesellschaftlichen Status haben als ihr Ehemann. Vertreter einer verwandten Theorie, der „Sexy-Son-Hypothese“, gehen davon aus, dass sich Frauen besonders attraktive Männer für Seitensprünge aussuchen, um die Chancen auf einen ebenfalls attraktiven Sohn zu erhöhen, der wahrscheinlich viele Nachkommen zeugen wird (Catchpole, Leisler, & Winkler, 1985; Huk & Winkel, 2008).

### 3.3 Gemischte Strategie von Frauen

Da sich Männer in ihren Partnerqualitäten unterscheiden und Frauen einen unterschiedlich hohen Marktwert besitzen, kann sich nicht jede Frau einen Mann mit allen von ihr gewünschten Eigenschaften leisten. Frauen verfolgen daher mitunter eine *Mixed-Mating-Strategie*, das heißt, sie schließen einen Kompromiss zwischen Männern mit guten Vaterqualitäten, die sie als Langzeitpartner auswählen und Männern mit guten Genen, die sie als Kurzzeitpartner bevorzugen (Cashdan, 1996; Gangestad & Simpson, 2000). Demzufolge wählen sie einen Partner mit den gewünschten Vaterqualitäten als Langzeitpartner und suchen zwischenzeitlich einen Partner mit den gewünschten Liebhaberqualitäten für kurze sexuelle Liaisons auf. Sexuelle Affären mit einem Extrapartner werden dabei häufiger während der fruchtbaren Tage des menstruellen Zyklus eingegangen, wahrscheinlich um sich die vorteilhaften Gene des Extrapartners für den eigenen Nachwuchs zu sichern (Bellis & Baker, 1990). Welche männlichen Eigenschaften zu den gewünschten Vater- bzw. Liebhaberqualitäten zählen, wird in den folgenden Gliederungspunkten erklärt. Buss und Shackelford (2008) konnten zeigen, dass attraktive Frauen bei ihrer Partnerwahl diesen Kompromiss nicht eingehen. Sie wollen einen Mann als Langzeitpartner, der sowohl hohes elterliches Investment zeigt, über Ressourcen verfügt und sich um Kinder sorgen möchte, als auch Signale für gute Gene sendet, also z.B. maskulin wirkt. Physische Attraktivität erhöht den Marktwert einer Frau, denn sie ist das Attribut, das Männer bei der Wahl einer Langzeitpartnerin am stärksten lenkt. Attraktive Frauen brauchen daher nicht den Kompromiss der gemischten Strategie einzugehen, sondern können sich einen Mann mit allen attraktiven Merkmalen als Langzeitpartner leisten.

#### **4. Was Frauen wollen I: Heißbegehrte Attribute beim männlichen Geschlecht**

Menschen begehren nicht alle Vertreter des anderen Geschlechts gleichermaßen, sondern zielen darauf ab, denjenigen Vertreter des anderen Geschlechts auszuwählen, der den größten Adaptionsvorteil für sie mit sich bringt. Unterschiedliche Eigenschaften von Männern bringen verschiedene Vor- und Nachteile als Partner von Frauen mit sich. Die Frauen, die ihre Präferenzen genau auf die Eigenschaften von Männern ausgerichtet hatten, die ihnen die größten Adaptionsvorteile brachten, verdrängten die Gene von Frauen, die eine schlechtere Partnerwahl getroffen hatten und setzten sich in der Evolution durch. Die Frauen der Gegenwart sind Nachkommen derer, die das Problem der Partnerwahl erfolgreich gelöst haben und tragen ähnliche Vorlieben in sich (Buss, 2004a). Dabei ist es auch von Vorteil, Männer mit divergenten Eigenschaften für verschiedene Beziehungen auszuwählen. Je nach Art der Beziehung werden entsprechende Merkmale bei Männern bevorzugt. Eigenschaften, die Frauen entweder besonders bei der Wahl einer Langzeitbeziehung, also für den potentiellen Vater ihres Nachwuchses, oder aber für unverbindliche Liebesabenteuer schätzen, werden im Folgenden beschrieben.

##### *4.1 Vaterqualitäten*

Eigenschaften, auf die Frauen bei der Wahl eines Langzeitpartners besonders großen Wert legen, da sie sich von diesen Vorteile für die Versorgung und Erziehung ihres Nachwuchses versprechen, sind die folgenden: Zum einen sind alle Eigenschaften von Männern gewünscht, die das Erlangen und Erhalten von Ressourcen anzeigen. Dazu zählen die Vorlieben für den hohen sozialen Status (Li, Bailey, Kenrick, & Linsenmeier, 2002), für gute finanzielle Aussichten (Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick, & Larsen, 2001) und für Ehrgeiz und Fleiß des Mannes (Buss, 2004a). Diese Partnerwünsche von Frauen sind kulturübergreifend (Buss, 2004b). Männer bewerten Eigenschaften wie hohen Status, gute finanzielle Aussichten und Fleiß bei Frauen als signifikant weniger wichtig für die Partnerwahl als Frauen umgekehrt bei Männern. Gesundheit, Fitness und Ehrgeiz des Mannes geben Hinweise darauf, dass der Mann zukünftig über ausreichend Ressourcen verfügen wird, um eine Familie adäquat versorgen zu können (Buss, 2004a). Dass der Mann Zugang zu Ressourcen haben sollte, ist eine wichtige Voraussetzung, eine andere ist, dass er auch gewillt ist, diese exklusiv in die Beziehung zu der Frau und in den Nachwuchs zu investieren. Aus diesem Grund sind Eigenschaften wie Zuverlässigkeit, Stabilität, Verträglichkeit, Bindungswille und die Bereitschaft, für Kinder zu sorgen, von Bedeutung für die Partnerwahl (Buss, 2004a).

Beispielsweise bewerten Frauen auf Fotografien den gleichen Mann als viel attraktiver, wenn er sich um ein kleines Kind kümmert als wenn er allein, oder schlimmer noch, mit einem weinenden Kind, das er ignoriert, abgebildet ist (La Cerra, 1995). Ein Mann, der sich liebevoll um Kinder sorgt, wird wahrscheinlich als femininer wahrgenommen. Frauen bevorzugen Männer mit femininen Gesichtszügen, wenn es um die Wahl eines Langzeitpartners, beziehungsweise die Wahl des Vaters ihrer Kinder geht. Im Vergleich zu Männern mit ausgeprägt männlichen Zügen erscheinen diejenigen mit weiblicherer Physiognomie Frauen wärmer, verträglicher und ehrlicher (Fink & Penton-Voak, 2002). Der Zugang zu Ressourcen und der Wille, diese Ressourcen in die Frau und ihren Nachwuchs zu investieren, sind die wichtigsten männlichen Attribute, die Frauen bei der Wahl ihres Langzeitpartners berücksichtigen. Für unverbindliche sexuelle Affären wählen Frauen tendenziell andere Männertypen.

#### *4.2 Liebhaberqualitäten*

Männer mit sehr maskulinen Körpern und Gesichtern berichten, dass sie größeren Erfolg haben, Frauen für Kurzzeitbeziehungen als für Langzeitbeziehungen zu gewinnen (Frederick & Haselton, 2007; Rhodes, Simmons, & Peters, 2005). Dieses Ergebnis wird von Wissenschaftlern dahingehend interpretiert, dass Männer mit größerer phänotypischer Qualität einen größeren Paarungserfolg verzeichnen können (Rhodes et al., 2005, S. 186). Männer mit Merkmalen für gutes Erbmaterial werden von Frauen insbesondere während ihrer fruchtbaren Tage, also dann, wenn sie schwanger werden können, als Kurzzeitpartner bevorzugt. Dies sind vor allem Merkmale von starker Männlichkeit, wie z.B. Stimmen in tieferer Tonlage (Puts, 2005), muskulöse Körper (Frederick & Haselton, 2007), maskulinere Gesichtszüge (Little, Jones, & DeBruine, 2008) und stärkeres intrasexuelles Wettbewerbsverhalten (Gangestad, Garver-Apgar, Simpson, & Cousins, 2007). Diese Merkmale gehen mit einem höheren Testosteronspiegel einher, wobei man keine Aussagen über die Kausalität treffen kann (Penton-Voak & Chen, 2004). Einen vergleichsweise hohen Testosteronspiegel können sich nur Männer mit gesundem Immunsystem leisten, da Testosteron einen schwächenden Effekt auf das Immunsystem hat (Roberts, Buchanan, & Evans, 2004). Männlichkeitsattribute sind somit ein Zeichen für die Gesundheit der Männer und für die gute Qualität ihres genetischen Materials, welches Frauen gerne an ihren Nachwuchs weitergeben möchten. Männlichkeit, in Äußerlichkeiten und im Verhalten, ist also attraktiv und bei Frauen für kurze erotische Liebschaften begehrt.

## 5. Was Frauen wollen II: „Das ewig Männliche zieht uns an“

Ein großer, muskulöser Mann mit attraktiven und männlichen Gesichtszügen zieht viele begehrende Frauenblicke auf sich. So zeigt sich bei Männern ein Zusammenhang zwischen dominanten Gesichtszügen und der Anzahl von Sexualpartnern (Mazur, Halpern, & Udry, 1994). Für eine ernsthafte Beziehung wird ein solcher Mann jedoch seltener in Betracht gezogen, da er es sich leisten kann, viele kurze Affären mit unterschiedlichen Frauen zu haben und sich viele Frauen für einen solchen Mann begeistern können. Männlichkeit ist im hohen Maße sexuell anziehend für Frauen. Aber wie verhält es sich mit anderen typischen männlichen Eigenschaften, wie dominantem und aggressivem Verhalten, welches in unserem sozialen Umfeld eher unerwünscht ist?

### 5.1 Männliche Dominanz

Dominanz wird von verschiedenen Disziplinen entsprechend unterschiedlich definiert. Sadalla, Kenrick und Vershure (1987), die als einer der ersten Wissenschaftler empirisch bestätigten, dass Frauen dominante Männer attraktiv finden, gingen davon aus, dass dominantes Verhalten den Zugang zu Ressourcen und einem höheren sozialen Status erleichtert. Daher kann dominantes Verhalten ausschlaggebend für die Wahl eines Langzeitpartners sein und zudem, auf Grund des guten Erbmaterials, auch Anreize für die Auswahl eines Kurzzeitpartners liefern. Folgende Verhaltensweisen, die zum Teil in den Videomaterialien von Sadalla et al. (1987) dargestellt wurden, werden von Argyle (1994) als dominant eingestuft: eine aufrechte Körperhaltung, das direkte Ansprechen der Gruppe, häufiger Blickkontakt, Sprechen mit lauter und gleichmäßiger Stimme, häufiges Berühren anderer und selteneres Lächeln (Buss, 2004a, S. 465). Einen weiteren Beleg dafür, dass Frauen männliche Dominanz anziehend finden, stellt eine Untersuchung dar, derzufolge Frauen ihre derzeitige Beziehung als weniger vorteilhaft bewerten, wenn sie mit besonders dominanten Vertretern des anderen Geschlechts konfrontiert werden, jedoch nicht, wenn sie mit außergewöhnlich attraktiven Männern konfrontiert werden (Kenrick, Neuberg, Zierk, & Krones, 1994). Die neueste Arbeit zum Einfluss männlicher Dominanz und Partnerwahl von Bryan, Webster und Mahaffey (2011) unterscheidet drei verschiedene Dominanzdimensionen: physische Dominanz, finanzielle Dominanz und soziale Dominanz. Die Wirkung physischer Dominanz auf Frauen in Hinblick auf Muskulosität und dominante Gesichtszüge wurde bereits beschrieben. Aber auch die Körpergröße gilt in vielen Kulturen als Attraktivitätsmerkmal und Zeichen für hohen Status. Beispielsweise wurden in einer Studie

von Wilson (1968) die Körpergrößen von verschiedenen Personen entsprechend ihres sozialen Rangs unterschiedlich eingeschätzt: wenn ein Mann als Professor vorgestellt wurde, wurde er vom Publikum signifikant größer eingeschätzt, als wenn derselbe Mann als Student vorgestellt wurde. Die faktorenanalytischen Untersuchungen von Bryan et al. (2011) zählten zum Faktor physische Dominanz die Dimensionen Maskulinität, Stärke, Muskeln, breite Schultern und hoher Wuchs. Der Faktor finanzielle Dominanz setzt sich aus den Items wohlhabend, reich, vermögend und den Antrieb zu haben, wohlhabend zu werden, zusammen. Die Attribute dominant, mächtig, durchsetzungsstark, Führer sein und die Leitung übernehmen laden auf den Faktor soziale Dominanz. Die Attraktivität für eine ernsthafte Beziehung wurde am besten durch die wahrgenommene soziale Dominanz und die wahrgenommene Verträglichkeit des Mannes vorhergesagt (Bryan et al., 2011). Dieses Ergebnis stimmt auch mit einer anderen Studie überein, in der gezeigt werden konnte, dass soziale Dominanz bei Männern nur anziehend ist, wenn gleichzeitig auch eine prosoziale Orientierung vorliegt (Jensen-Campbell, Graziano, & West, 1995). Die wahrgenommene Attraktivität korreliert mit der wahrgenommenen physischen Dominanz und beide haben einen Einfluss auf die Anziehungskraft des Mannes als One-Night Stand. Finanzielle Dominanz stand in dieser Studie in keinem Zusammenhang zu der Begehrtheit als Langzeit- oder Kurzzeitpartner.

Relevant für diese Arbeit ist die Fragestellung, inwieweit Frauen soziale Dominanz bei Männern anziehend finden. Hawley (1999) definiert soziale Dominanz als die Fähigkeit, Ressourcen zu kontrollieren. Diese Definition befindet sich im Einklang mit evolutionstheoretischen Erklärungen. Dominanz als soziales Verhalten, so Hawley (1999), entwickelt sich dadurch, dass Ressourcen limitiert sind und um diese innerhalb einer sozialen Gemeinschaft konkurriert wird. Bereits Kleinkinder, die es schaffen bei dem Kampf um das Erlangen von Ressourcen erfolgreich zu sein, stehen im Fokus der Gruppenaufmerksamkeit und werden von anderen beobachtet, imitiert und gemocht (Abramovitch & Grusec, 1978; Grusec & Abramovitch, 1982). Soziale Dominanz und damit die Ressourcengewinnung und -aufrechterhaltung kann durch kompetitive Strategien (zum Beispiel Aggression und Drohungen), aber auch durch kooperative Strategie (zum Beispiel prosoziale Verhaltensweisen wie helfen, kooperieren und überreden), beziehungsweise aus einer Mischung beider Strategien entstehen. Kinder, die eine Kombination beider Strategien anwenden, haben leichteren Zugang zu beliebten Ressourcen, wie zum Beispiel Fernsehen (Hawley, 1999). Aggressives Verhalten ist also eine Möglichkeit, soziale Dominanz zu erlangen. Im folgenden Gliederungspunkt soll kurz dargestellt werden, warum sich

aggressives männliches Verhalten als günstig für die Partnerwahl erweisen könnte.

## *5.2 Männliche Aggressionen*

Bei über zehn Millionen bekannten Tierarten, gibt es nur zwei Spezies die intensive, vom Männchen ausgehende Aggressionen zeigen, welche sich in der Vereinigung zu Gruppen äußern, die in benachbarte Reviere vordringen und gewaltsam einen Vertreter der eigenen Art tödlich angreifen (Buss, 2004a). Die bisher bekannten Spezies mit diesem Aggressionsmuster sind Schimpansen und Menschen (Wrangham & Peterson, 1996). Evolutionswissenschaftler gehen davon aus, dass menschliche Aggressionen der Lösung adaptiver Probleme dienen. Buss (2004a) führt dabei sechs verschiedene adaptive Probleme an, die durch Aggression gelöst werden können. Ein adaptives Problem, das durch aggressives Verhalten, also einem Auftreten, das darauf abzielt ein anderes Individuum zu schädigen, gelöst werden kann, ist das Erlangen von sozialer Dominanz und somit eines höheren Status. Der Kontext, in dem aggressives Verhalten ausgeübt wird, spielt eine entscheidende Rolle für die Erfolgsaussichten, tatsächlich durch Gewaltausübung einen höheren Rang zu erlangen. Beispielsweise ist es nicht erfolgsversprechend seinen Vorgesetzten oder Kollegen gegenüber direkte Aggressionen zu zeigen und ihn in aller Öffentlichkeit zu ohrfeigen, während indirekt aggressive Handlungen, wie das Vorenthalten von wichtigen Informationen, oder das heimliche Verstreuen rufschädigender Verleumdungen, effektiver sein könnte, um eine Machtposition zu erlangen. In anderen Kulturkreisen, wie zum Beispiel den Yanomamö in Venezuela genießen Männer, die sich direkt aggressiv verhalten und sogar ihren Feind töten, ein hohes Ansehen in der Gruppe (Chagnon, 1983). Weitere adaptive Vorteile, die aggressive Verhaltensweisen mit sich bringen, sind zum einen die Vereinnahmung von Ressourcen anderer, z.B. durch Raub, und zum anderen die Verteidigung eigener Ressourcen, aber auch die Verteidigung der eigenen Person und Familie (Buss, 2004a). Die Verteidigung gegen Angreifer kann als reaktive bzw. heiße Aggression beschrieben werden, die mit Emotionen wie Wut und Ärger einhergeht (Endrass, Rossegger, Urbaniok, & Borchard, 2012). Eine emotional kalte Aggressionsform ist die proaktive, beziehungsweise instrumentelle Aggression, die bewusst eingesetzt wird, um damit andere Ziele zu erreichen (Fontaine, 2007), zum Beispiel um an wertvolle Ressourcen zu gelangen, seinen Status zu verbessern oder gleichgeschlechtliche Rivalen zu schwächen (Buss, 2004a). Männliche Aggression im Kontext der Partnerwahl hat zweierlei Funktionen. Die Funktion im intrasexuellen Bereich ist die Abschreckung beziehungsweise Ausschaltung des gleichgeschlechtlichen Gegners, die



Funktion im intersexuellen Kontext ist das Erreichen von sozialer Dominanz, welche anziehend auf potentielle Partnerinnen wirkt. Die Theorie der sexuellen Selektion (Darwin, 1871) und der elterlichen Investitionen (Trivers, 1972), könnte erklären, warum Männer aggressiver sind als Frauen. Das Geschlecht mit dem geringeren notwendigen Level an elterlichen Investitionen steht im größeren Wettbewerb um den Zugang zu geeigneten Partnern und muss wettbewerbsorientierter agieren, um Reproduktionserfolge zu erzielen. Eine aktuelle Studie bestätigt, dass sich Männer, wenn sie sich in einem Partnerwahlkontext befinden, gewaltsam gegenüber Männern, nicht aber gegenüber Frauen verhalten (Ainsworth & Maner, 2012). Das gewalttätige Verhalten mindert sich dann, wenn die männlichen Probanden vorher ein Feedback darüber erhalten haben, dass sie eine Wettbewerbssituation gegen diesen Mann gewonnen hätten und somit Dominanz gegenüber dem anderen Mann erreicht hätten (Ainsworth & Maner, 2012). Ein aktuelles Beispiel dafür, dass gewalttätiges Verhalten zu Erfolgen bei der Gewinnung von Partnern führt, ist die Seepiraterie vor Somalia. Seit 2008 häufen sich Überfälle somalischer Piraten auf internationale Schiffe vor dem Horn von Afrika, bei der große Summen Lösegeld erpresst werden. Die Piraten erlangen durch ihre gewalttätigen Übergriffe einen größeren Wohlstand, können sich teure Häuser, neue Autos und Waffen leisten, sowie die schönsten Frauen oder sogar mehrere Partnerinnen heiraten ([http://www.online.uni-marburg.de/isem/WS09\\_10/docs/piraten.pdf](http://www.online.uni-marburg.de/isem/WS09_10/docs/piraten.pdf), S.6). Viele somalische Frauen ziehen die wohlhabenden, aber kriminellen Piraten den armen gesetzestreuen Fischern vor. Die Frage ob Frauen sich zu aggressiven Männern hingezogen fühlen ist wiederum kontext- und kulturabhängig. In einer Umgebung mit unsicheren politischen Verhältnissen, Bürgerkriegen und Hungersnöten, wie zum Beispiel in Somalia, ist ein aggressiver Mann, der sich durch dieses Verhalten Geld und Besitz aneignen kann, sowie in der Lage dazu ist, seiner Frau Schutz zu gewährleisten, hoch attraktiv. In westlichen Gesellschaften mit einer gesicherten Grundordnung, ist direkte Aggression unerwünscht, führt zumeist nicht zu den gewünschten Erfolgen hinsichtlich einer Verbesserung in der Machthierarchie und ist demzufolge unattraktiver für das weibliche Geschlecht. Dies belegt auch eine Studie von Sadalla et al. (1978) in einer Stichprobe von amerikanischen Studentinnen: Frauen finden männliche Dominanz anziehend, jedoch nicht männliche Aggression.

Ein weiterer Faktor, bei dem die Attraktivität aggressiven männlichen Verhaltens Beachtung finden sollte, ist die Frage nach der Zielperson, gegen die sich die Aggression richtet. Buss (2004a) benennt als das sechste Adaptionsproblem, welches durch aggressives Verhalten gelöst werden kann, die Verhinderung sexueller Untreue einer langfristigen Partnerin. In diesem Fall richtet sich die Aggression nicht gegen einen Rivalen oder einen reich begüterten

Geschlechtsgenossen, sondern gegen die eigene Sexualpartnerin, die vor sexueller Untreue zurückschrecken soll. Hauptauslöser für Gewalt in der Ehe ist die sexuelle Eifersucht des Mannes (Daly, Wilson, & Weghorst, 1982; Shackelford & Goetz, 2006). Frauen fänden diese häusliche Aggression wahrscheinlich abstoßend und versuchen Männer mit solchen Eigenschaften als Partner zu meiden (Sadalla et al., 1987).

Männliche Aggressionen scheinen die Partnerwahl direkt und indirekt positiv zu beeinflussen. Wenn sich die Aggression gegen einen Rivalen richtet, der dadurch geschwächt wird, kann ein aggressiver Mann die gewünschte Frau direkt für sich gewinnen. Durch aggressives Verhalten können Männer wertvolle Ressourcen und Machtpositionen erlangen, die wiederum anziehend auf Frauen wirken. Allerdings finden Frauen dabei wahrscheinlich den Status des Mannes an sich anziehend und nicht die aggressive Art und Weise, mit der er diesen erlangt hat.

## **6. Überblick über die Studien dieser Arbeit**

Diese Arbeit beschäftigt sich mit der Frage, inwieweit Frauen männliche Dominanz, aber auch Aggressionsbereitschaft anziehend finden. Dabei wurde empirisch untersucht, welchen Einfluss die Zielpersonen haben, gegenüber denen Männer das dominante Verhalten zeigen. Bisher gab es keine Ergebnisse zu der Fragestellung, welche Charaktereigenschaften Frauen haben, die sich besonders zu dominanten Männern hingezogen fühlen. Zwei der folgenden Studien gingen der Beantwortung dieser Fragestellung nach. In einer Studie wurde untersucht, inwieweit appetitive Aggression als eine Form der instrumentellen Aggression und mitunter als Zeichen von größter männlicher Dominanz auf Frauen anziehend wirkt und ob diese Form der Aggression eventuell ein Signal von qualitativ hochwertigem Erbgut bei Männern ist. Die Anziehungskraft von männlicher Dominanz und Aggression sollte auch in einer Stichprobe erforscht werden, die eine extreme Minderheit der Gesellschaft repräsentiert: Frauen, die sich zu Straftätern in Haft hingezogen fühlen. Dabei wurde zum einen untersucht, welche Eigenschaften Frauen haben, die auf eine Kontaktanzeige von Gefangenen antworten würden, zum anderen wurde die Liebesbeziehung der Frauen, die tatsächlich mit einem Mann in Haft liiert sind, genauer betrachtet. Die Fragestellung und Methodik meiner ersten Studie wird im folgenden Gliederungspunkt erläutert.

### *6.1 Hinführung zur Studie 1: Dominantes Verhalten ja, aber gegenüber wem?*

Vorhergehende Studien haben gezeigt, dass Frauen bei der Partnerwahl nicht nur Wert auf

männliche Dominanz, sondern auch auf Verträglichkeit und Altruismus (Jensen-Campbell et al., 1995) beziehungsweise Wärme und Loyalität legen (Fletcher, Simpson, Thomas, & Giles, 1999; Fletcher, Tither, O'Loughlin, Friesen, & Overall, 2004).

Männliche Dominanz steht im scheinbaren Widerspruch zu den darüber hinaus bevorzugten Merkmalen Verträglichkeit, Fürsorglichkeit und Altruismus. Evolutionstheoretiker sind der Ansicht, dass diese Eigenschaften nicht unvereinbar sind: Es kommt darauf an, wem gegenüber welche Verhaltensweisen gezeigt werden. Den größten Reproduktionsvorteil haben die Männer, die innerhalb der eigenen Sippe fürsorglich und unterstützend sind, während sie aggressiv gegenüber Individuen aus Fremd-Gruppen vorgehen (Vogel, 1989). Frauen bevorzugen Männer, die im Wettbewerb zu männlichen Konkurrenten dominant und aggressiv auftreten, zu ihrer Partnerin aber liebevoll, warm und zärtlich sind (Ellis, 1992).

Es ist also angemessen, die Präferenz für männliches dominantes Verhalten bei der Partnerwahl in Abhängigkeit von den Zielpersonen bzw. Zielgruppen, auf die sich diese Verhaltensmuster beziehen, zu betrachten. In den bisherigen empirischen Forschungsarbeiten zur Dominanz als einem männlichen Attraktivitätsmerkmal blieb dieser Aspekt allerdings weitestgehend unbeachtet. Lukaszewski und Roney (2010) haben erstmals empirisch untersucht, wie sich Präferenzen für Persönlichkeitseigenschaften des idealen Partners ändern, wenn zwischen verschiedenen Zielpersonen, gegenüber denen das Verhalten gezeigt wird, variiert wird. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass beide Geschlechter Partner bevorzugen, die zu ihnen selbst beträchtlich höhere Level an Freundlichkeit und Vertrauenswürdigkeit als an Dominanz aufweisen. Betrachtet man die Präferenz für Eigenschaften des Idealpartners gegenüber fremden Personen des gleichen Geschlechts, also z.B. bei weiblichen Probanden das Verhalten des idealen Partners zu fremden Männern, nehmen die gewünschten Level an Freundlichkeit und Vertrauenswürdigkeit ab und das Niveau an Dominanz zu. Dieser Effekt ist bei Frauen stärker ausgeprägt als bei Männern. Die Studien von Lukaszewski und Roney (2010) unterstützen die evolutionspsychologische These, dass Männer, die sich gegenüber der eigenen Gruppe loyal und unterstützend verhalten und sich gegenüber Männern aus fremden Gruppierungen behaupten können, einen Reproduktionsvorteil haben. Unklar bleibt, für welche Art von Beziehung - für eine kurze sexuelle Affäre oder für eine verbindliche Langzeitbeziehung - Männer mit verschiedenen Verhaltensweisen gegenüber unterschiedlichen Zielpersonen bevorzugt werden. Diesem Aspekt soll die hier vorgestellte Studie nachgehen. Außerdem sollte mit einer anderen Methode überprüft werden, ob Männer, die sich zu Frauen und deren Angehörigen liebevoll und vertrauenswürdig und gegenüber

fremden Männern durchsetzungsfähig verhalten, tatsächlich Männern vorgezogen werden, die einen anderen Interaktionsstil pflegen. Diese Studie soll weiterhin Hinweise darauf geben, welche Frauen sich besonders zu dominanten Männern hingezogen fühlen.

Bezüglich der Methodik der Untersuchung hatte ich den Anspruch, eine möglichst realistische Entscheidungssituation für die Frauen zu schaffen. Eine Studie mit alleinstehenden Männern, die in ihrem dominantem Verhalten gegenüber verschiedenen Zielpersonen variieren, und zwischen denen sich die Probandinnen entscheiden müssen, hätte das ideale Setting dargestellt. Allerdings hätte es sich als kompliziert erwiesen, andere Variablen, wie zum Beispiel die physischen Attraktivität und den Charme der Männer, zu kontrollieren. Daher habe ich mich entschieden, standardisierte Vignetten zu verwenden, um folgende vier verschiedene alleinstehende Männer zu beschreiben: 1) einen Mann, der sich submissiv und vertrauenswürdig sowohl gegenüber nahe stehenden Personen, als auch fremden Männern verhält, 2) einen Mann, der sich submissiv und vertrauenswürdig gegenüber nahe stehenden Personen, aber dominant gegenüber anderen Männern verhält, 3) einen Mann, der sich gegenüber nahe stehenden Personen und fremden Männern dominant verhält, und 4) einen Mann, der sich gegenüber nahe stehenden Personen dominant verhält, sich gegenüber fremden Männern jedoch submissiv zeigt. Den Teilnehmerinnen habe ich im Rahmen einer Cover-Story erklärt, dass 100 Studenten der Universität Konstanz zuvor psychologisch untersucht wurden und Persönlichkeitsprofile erstellt wurden. Die Teilnehmerinnen sollten sich dann an Hand der Persönlichkeitsbeschreibungen entscheiden, mit welchem Mann sie ausgehen würden. Sie hatten jeweils zwei Männer zur Auswahl. Außerdem sollten die Frauen entscheiden, wie begehrenswert sie die beiden Männer für verschiedene Beziehungsarten finden. Als Persönlichkeitseigenschaft der Frauen wurde *Trait-Angst* gemessen und ein neues Set an Items zur Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner erstellt.

Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass es für Frauen vor allem von Bedeutung ist, wie sich der Mann zu nahe stehenden Personen verhält. Männer, die sich im engen Kreis eher kooperativ, vertrauenswürdig und submissiv verhalten, werden eher für ein Date ausgewählt und als Langzeitpartner bevorzugt. Männliche Dominanz, unabhängig davon, gegenüber welcher Zielperson diese gezeigt wird, ist für eine unverbindliche sexuelle Beziehung anziehend. Frauen, die höhere Werte in der *Trait-Angst* haben, weisen eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner auf. Die meisten Frauen wollten mit dem Mann ausgehen, der sich vertrauenswürdig gegenüber nahe stehenden Personen und dominant gegenüber fremden Personen verhält. Daraus leite ich die evolutionspsychologisch basierte Annahme ab, dass dieser Männertyp deshalb so begehrt ist, weil er das Signal aussendet, sowohl fähig zu sein,

wertvolle Ressourcen zu erlangen, als auch gewillt zu sein, diese mit seiner Frau und seinem Nachwuchs zu teilen.

## *6.2 Hinführung zur Studie 2: Männliche Signale genetischer Fitness: Appetitive Aggression*

Die erste Studie hat gezeigt, dass Frauen männliche Dominanz durchaus anziehend finden, besonders dann, wenn das dominante Verhalten gegenüber fremden Männern gezeigt wird. Trifft dies auch zu, wenn das Verhalten gegenüber Fremden nicht nur dominant, sondern aggressiv ist? Inwiefern besteht ein adaptiver Vorteil für Männer darin, Mitglieder einer anderen Gruppe zu jagen und zu töten, ohne jemals zuvor von diesen bedroht worden zu sein? Eine Form der instrumentellen Aggression ist die appetitive Aggression. Sie beschreibt, dass eigene gewalttätige Handlungen, die mit entsprechenden Gewaltstimuli wie Blut und Schreie des Opfers einhergehen, belohnend für den Täter sind (Elbert, Weierstall, & Schauer, 2010). Weierstall et al. konnten in verschiedenen Studien, unter anderem bei ruandischen Genozidtätern nachweisen, dass appetitive Aggression einen protektiven Effekt für die Entstehung einer Posttraumatischen Belastungsstörung (PTBS) hat, wie sie bei Tätern und Opfern gewalttätiger und traumatischer Ereignisse auftreten kann (Weierstall, Schaal, Schalinski, Dusingizemung, & Elbert, 2011; Weierstall, Schalinski, Crombach, Hecker, & Elbert, 2012). Menschen, die unter einer posttraumatischen Belastungsstörung leiden, erleben belastende Intrusionen, sind übererregbar, neigen zur Reizbarkeit und Wutausbrüchen und vermeiden es, an die belastenden Lebensereignisse zu denken (Saß, 2003). Diese Symptomatik bringt auch Partnerschaftsprobleme wie Unzufriedenheit mit der Beziehung (Lambert, Engh, Hasbun, & Holzer, 2012) und sexuelle Funktionsstörungen mit sich (Kotler et al., 2000; Scignar, 1987). Aus evolutionärer Perspektive sollten Männer, die unter einer posttraumatischen Belastungsstörung leiden, aus Gründen der sexuellen Anhedonie, Reproduktionsnachteile gegenüber Männern haben, die nach einer traumatischen Erfahrung nicht unter einer PTBS leiden. Wenn appetitive Aggression eine Schutzfunktion gegen die Entwicklung einer PTBS hat, könnte dies bereits einen adaptiven Vorteil für ein Individuum darstellen. Ein weiterer Vorzug könnte sein, dass appetitiv aggressives Verhalten, als ein Merkmal von Männlichkeit und Überlegenheit, Frauen als Signal für genetische Fitness des Mannes dient. Falls diese Annahme richtig ist, müssten Frauen Männer mit höheren Werten in appetitiver Aggression für eine Kurzzeitbeziehung bevorzugen, im Vergleich zu Männern, die weniger Vergnügen an gewalttätigen Handlungen haben. Zudem sollte das sexuelle Verlangen nach einem appetitiv aggressiven Mann während des fertilen Fensters, also im Zeitraum einer möglichen Empfängnis, höher sein. Weiterhin ist es interessant zu erfahren, wie Frauen zu

Männern mit Traumasymptomen stehen. Werden Kriegsheimkehrer mit traumatischen Erfahrungen und Symptomen wie Schlaflosigkeit, Konzentrationsschwierigkeiten und allgemeiner Reizbarkeit eher gemieden? Für welche Beziehungsart werden sie möglicherweise bevorzugt?

Es ist durchaus möglich, dass ein Mann im Krieg appetitive Gewalterfahrungen gemacht hat und später dennoch unter einer PTBS leidet. Beispielsweise kann er einen intensiven Kampfrausch genossen haben, während er seinen Feind tötete und später unter den Kriegsfolgen leiden, weil er selbst verletzt wurde oder einen ihm nahe stehenden Kameraden sterben hat sehen. Um zu erforschen, ob männliche appetitive Aggression tatsächlich anziehend auf Frauen wirkt, musste ein Kontext gefunden werden, in dem es angemessen ist, diese Aggression zu zeigen. Gewalthandlungen im Alltag, zum Beispiel am Arbeitsplatz oder während Freizeitunternehmungen, dürften für Frauen eher abschreckend sein. Sportliche Wettkampfsituationen hingegen stellen einen geeigneteren Kontext dar. Auf dem zweiten Blick erweisen sie sich jedoch als unpassend, weil erstens die Stärke der möglichen Gewaltausübung durch Regeln limitiert ist, zweitens eine Posttraumatische Belastungsstörung auf Grund einer Sportverletzung eher unwahrscheinlich ist und drittes der konfundierende Faktor der körperlichen Fitness als Störvariable die Ergebnisse beeinflussen könnte. Der Kontext, der sich am besten für eine Studie eignet, ist eine Kriegssituation. Da Deutschland momentan nicht offensiv an Kampfeinsätzen beteiligt ist, wurden die Teilnehmerinnen durch ein fiktives Kriegsszenario geprimt. Anschließend erhielten sie die Beschreibung eines jungen Soldaten, der aus dem Kampfeinsatz nach Deutschland zurückkehrt und entsprechend der vier möglichen Bedingungen Traumasymptome oder keine Traumasymptome hat und zudem hoch appetitiv aggressiv oder niedrig appetitiv aggressiv ist. Die Teilnehmerinnen sollten bewerten, wie anziehend sie den jeweiligen Soldaten als Kurzzeit- beziehungsweise Langzeitpartner fanden. Da mit dieser Studie geprüft werden sollte, ob appetitive Aggression ein Signal für hohe genetische Fitness ist, sollten die Probandinnen idealerweise keine hormonellen Empfängnisverhütungsmittel einnehmen. Da es ebenfalls interessant ist, die Partnerpräferenzen von Frauen zu untersuchen, die empfängnisverhütende Hormone einnehmen, habe ich mich dazu entschlossen, eine Datenerhebungsmethode zu wählen, mit der ich eine große Stichprobe gewinnen kann. Eine Onlineumfrage, in der ich mit Kontrollfragen sicherstellte, dass die Frauen die Beschreibungen des Mannes konzentriert lesen und diese verstehen, erschien mir als die am besten geeignete Methode. Tatsächlich haben über 1000 Frauen an der Studie teilgenommen. Die Ergebnisse deuten darauf hin, dass appetitive Aggression tatsächlich ein Signal für hohe genetische Fitness des Mannes darstellt.

Frauen bevorzugten, besonders an den fruchtbaren Tagen des menstruellen Zyklus Männer mit hoher appetitiver Aggression gegenüber Männern mit niedriger appetitiver Aggression als Kurzzeitpartner. Als Langzeitpartner werden jedoch Männer mit hoher appetitiver Aggression häufiger gemieden. Die Symptome einer Traumatisierung haben keinen Effekt auf die Attraktivität als Langzeit- oder Kurzzeitpartner. Diese Befunde stehen im Einklang mit den Ergebnissen anderer Studien, die gezeigt haben, dass Frauen Männer mit warmherzigen, liebevollen Persönlichkeitseigenschaften als Langzeitbeziehungspartner bevorzugen und sich Männer mit typisch männlichen Attributen, wie Muskulosität und dominantem Auftreten als Kurzzeitpartner wünschen.

### 6.3 Hinführung zur Studie 3: Welche Frauen mögen dominante Männer?

Die Daten der ersten Studie haben unter anderem gezeigt, dass individuelle Charaktereigenschaften von Frauen mit einer stärkeren Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner zusammenhängen. In dieser dritten Studie sollte nun nochmals überprüft werden, ob ein höheres Level an *Trait-Angst* mit einem größeren Verlangen nach einem dominanten Partner einhergeht. Außerdem wollte ich untersuchen, ob dieser Zusammenhang für beide Geschlechter zutrifft. In meinen vorherigen Studien habe ich zusätzlich unter der Verwendung von zwölf gegensätzlichen Eigenschaftspaaren in Form eines semantischen Differentials ermittelt, wie die in den Vignetten beschriebenen Männertypen auf die Teilnehmerinnen wirken. Männer, die eher als dominant beziehungsweise aggressiv beschrieben worden sind, wurden von den Frauen als aufregender bewertet im Vergleich zu den weniger dominanten Männern, die eher als langweilig wahrgenommen wurden. Personen, die neue interessante Eindrücke brauchen, um sich wohl zu fühlen, könnten demzufolge eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner haben. Die Persönlichkeitseigenschaft *Sensation Seeking* beschreibt die Tendenz, sich in Anwesenheit monotoner Stimuli schnell zu langweilen und auf der Suche nach aufregenden Erfahrungen zu sein. Die Theorie der assortativen Paarung geht davon aus, dass Individuen dazu neigen, Partner zu wählen, die ihnen in gewisser Hinsicht ähneln (positive assortative Paarung) oder unähnlich (negative assortative Paarung) sind. Dieses Paarungsverhalten konnte bei Tieren nachgewiesen werden (e.g. de Lanuza, Font, & Carazo, 2013). Beim Menschen konnte beispielsweise gezeigt werden, dass sich Paare zusammen finden, die in verschiedenen Fähigkeiten, wie verbale Intelligenz, Größe des Wortschatzes und Persönlichkeitseigenschaften miteinander korrelieren (Escorial & Martín-Buro, 2012; Mascie-Taylor & Vandenberg, 1988). Dominanz, wie sie in dem 16-

Persönlichkeitsfaktorentest (16 PF) erfasst wird, korreliert hoch mit Sensation Seeking (Zuckerman, 1979, S.154). Entsprechend der Theorie der assortativen Paarung müssten Personen, die hohe Werte im Sensation Seeking aufweisen, auch eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner haben.

In dieser Studie habe ich den Zusammenhang zwischen der *Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner*, *Trait-Angst* und *Sensation Seeking* für beide Geschlechter erfasst. Sensation Seeking und Trait-Angst konnte ich mit bewährten, standardisierten und validierten Fragebögen ermitteln. Bisher gab es noch kein solches Instrument zur Erfassung der Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner. In meiner ersten Studie habe ich ein Fragebogenset mit sechs Items zur Messung dieser Präferenz entwickelt. Inzwischen wurde dieses Instrument in diversen Studien von Diplomanden, die ich mit betreut habe, eingesetzt, sodass insgesamt 1783 Personen, darunter 375 Männer, den Fragebogen beantwortet haben. Eine Faktorenanalyse ergab, dass alle sechs Items des Fragebogensets auf einen Faktor laden und 61% der Varianz aufklären, auch die Reliabilität mit Cronbach's  $\alpha = .87$  war sehr gut. Daher habe ich dieses Fragenset unverändert für diese Studie übernommen. Um eine möglichst große Stichprobe zu erhalten, wurde diese Studie wiederum als Onlinestudie konzipiert, wobei 172 Teilnehmer gewonnen werden konnten, darunter 104 Frauen.

Die Ergebnisse unterstützen den Befund aus meiner ersten Studie: Frauen mit höheren Werten in Trait-Angst haben eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner. Dieses Ergebnis trifft jedoch nicht für Männer zu. Die zwei Subskalen von Sensation Seeking, *Enthemmung* und *Anfälligkeit für Langeweile*, stehen bei Männern und Frauen im engen Zusammenhang zu dem Verlangen nach einem dominanten Partner. Personen, die sich schnell langweilen und aufregende soziale Aktivitäten mögen, fühlen sich stärker zu dominanten Vertretern des jeweils anderen Geschlechts hingezogen. Bei Frauen zeichnete sich noch eine weitere interessante Tendenz ab. Manche Frauen mit hohen Werten in der Trait-Angst, zeigten höhere Level in der Subskala von Sensation Seeking, *Suche nach neuen Erfahrungen*. Diese Subskala beschreibt das Verlangen danach, einen alternativen Lebensstil zu führen. Frauen, die stärker nach neuen Erfahrungen suchen, haben wiederum ein kleineres Verlangen nach einem dominanten Partner. Dieses Ergebnis interpretiere ich dahingehend, dass einige ängstliche Frauen sich eher in den Schutz eines dominanten Partner begeben möchten, andere wiederum danach streben, ihre Ängstlichkeit zu überwinden, selbständiger zu werden und sich auf die Suche nach Lebensinhalten und Alternativen zu begeben, wobei ihnen ein durchsetzungsstarker Partner hinderlich wäre.



#### *6.4 Hinführung zur Studie 4: Welche Frauen sind von der Gewaltbereitschaft des Mannes so angezogen, dass sie auf die Kontaktanzeige eines Mannes in Haft antworten würden?*

Frauen, die sich zu männlicher Dominanz und Aggression hingezogen fühlen müssten, oder diese zumindest nicht abstoßend finden sollten, sind Partnerinnen von Männern in Haft. Professor Dr. Jérôme Endrass und Dr. Astrid Rossegger, beide in der Forensik Zürich tätig, haben beobachtet, dass einige inhaftierte Männer nach relativ kurzer Zeit plötzlich eine Freundin haben. Sie lernen die Frauen kennen, indem sie Kontaktanzeigen in Zeitungen schalten und ihre momentane Inhaftierung dabei nicht verschweigen. Daraus ließe sich ableiten, dass ein inhaftierter Verbrecher für manche Frauen den idealen Partner darstellen könnte. Entsprechend der Theorie und den Ergebnissen aus Studie 1 verkörpert ein inhaftierter Straftäter häufig, in einer extremen Form, den Typ Mann, der sich zu nahe stehenden Personen, in diesem Fall zu seiner Brieffreundin, liebevoll und fürsorglich verhält und zu fremden Männern gewalttätig ist. Natürlich passt ein Häftling nur in diese Theorie, wenn sich sein Delikt nicht gegen die eigene Familie gerichtet hat. Sheila Isenberg (1991) interviewte in den USA mehrere Frauen, die mit einem für Mord verurteilten Straftäter liiert waren. Sie arbeitete die Zusammenhänge heraus, die dazu beitragen, dass sich Frauen zu solch gefährlichen Männern hingezogen fühlen. Ein wegen Mordes Verurteilter verkörpert, so Isenberg, den wohl stärksten, gefährlichsten, brutalsten und damit männlichsten Mann überhaupt. Mit seiner Partnerin, als wohl wichtigstem Kontakt außerhalb der Gefängnismauern, schreibt der Häftling liebevolle Briefe voller Gefühlsintensität. Er kann den größten Teil seiner Aufmerksamkeit auf sie fokussieren. Isenberg betonte, dass die Frauen, die in einen Straftäter verliebt waren, aus den unterschiedlichsten Schichten kamen und verschiedenste Bildungsniveaus besaßen. Es ließ sich beobachten, dass diese Frauen oftmals ihren Vater in der Kindheit verloren hatten, zum Beispiel durch Scheidung, Tod, oder häufige Abwesenheit aus den verschiedensten Gründen. Später machten diese Frauen schlechte Erfahrungen in verschiedenen Partnerschaften, die oftmals von Missbrauchs- und Gewalterfahrungen geprägt waren. Isenberg schlussfolgerte daraus, dass sich diese Frauen zu extremer männlicher Dominanz hingezogen fühlen, was auch mit dem Verlust des Vaters in Zusammenhang stehen könnte, und sich nun aus Gründen des Selbstschutzes dominanten Männern in Haft zuwenden, die ihnen auf Grund des Freiheitsentzugs nicht gefährlich werden können. Manche Frauen fühlen sich bei der Vorstellung des Gewaltdelikt des Partners sexuell erregt, dieses Phänomen ist unter dem Begriff Hybristophilie bekannt (Money, 1986, S.56). Isenberg (1991) schreibt auch, dass sich die meisten Paare über eine Kontaktanzeige

des Mannes kennen lernen. Seit Isenbergs ersten qualitativen Analysen gab es keine Untersuchungen darüber, welche Frauen sich aus welchen Gründen für einen inhaftierten Straftäter interessieren und diesen bewusst kontaktieren. Mein Anliegen war es daher, eine Studie zu konzipieren, mit der ich quantitativ untersuchen kann, wie viele Frauen sich überhaupt auf die Kontaktanzeige eines inhaftierten Mannes melden würden und in welchen Merkmalen sich diese Frauen von anderen Frauen unterscheiden, die nicht auf so eine Annonce antworten würden.

Methodisch habe ich zunächst darüber nachgedacht, verschiedene Anzeigen in einigen Zeitungen aus der Perspektive eines inhaftierten Mannes zu schalten und im Vergleich dazu aus der Perspektive eines normalen männlichen Singles. Diese Idee wurde jedoch verworfen, da es ethisch nicht vertretbar ist, den antwortenden Frauen falsche Hoffnungen zu machen. Weiterhin war es nicht möglich, identische Formulierung der Anzeigen für dieselbe Zeitung zu verwenden, was für einen direkten Vergleich der beiden Annoncen wichtig gewesen wäre. Daher entschied ich mich dafür, eine Online-Studie zum Thema Kontaktanzeigen durchzuführen, bei der die Frauen eine von sechs möglichen Kontaktanzeigen zu lesen bekamen und entscheiden mussten, ob sie auf diese antworten würden. Variiert wurde dabei, ob der Mann inhaftiert ist oder nicht. Zudem sollten die Teilnehmerinnen einschätzen, wie attraktiv sie den Mann aus der Anzeige als Langzeit- beziehungsweise Kurzzeitpartner fänden. Sheila Isenberg (1991) betonte, dass Frauen, die sich zu Männern in Haft hingezogen fühlen, an diesen ihre extreme Männlichkeit schätzen. Daher habe ich das bereits in Studie 1 und 3 verwendete Fragebogenset zur Erfassung der Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner erneut eingesetzt. Aus meiner dritten Studie war weiterhin bekannt, dass Individuen mit höheren Werten in Sensation Seeking eine stärkere Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner haben. In dieser Studie habe ich ein neu entwickeltes Instrument von Roth und Hammelstein (2012) eingesetzt, um das Bedürfnis der Teilnehmerinnen nach neuen Eindrücken zu erfassen. Dies hat zum einen den Vorteil, dass es nicht die tatsächlichen Aktivitäten wie z.B. das Vergnügen daran, Extremsportarten zu betreiben, abfragt, sondern nur das Bedürfnis neue, aufregende Dinge auszuprobieren. Zum anderen hat es den Vorzug, dass diese Inventar nicht wie die *Sensation Seeking Scale Form V* (Beauducel, Strobel, & Brocke, 2003) aus 40 Items, sondern aus 17 Items besteht und dadurch ökonomischer ist.

Die Ergebnisse zeigen überraschenderweise, dass ähnlich viele Frauen auf eine Kontaktanzeige von einem Häftling antworten würden wie auf eine Annonce von einem Mann, der nicht inhaftiert ist. Teilnehmerinnen, die auf die Anzeige reagieren würden, finden den jeweiligen Mann aus der Anzeige nicht nur als Brieffreund, sondern auch als Langzeit-

und Kurzzeitpartner signifikant anziehender, als die Frauen, die nicht darauf schreiben würden. Die Frauen, die einen Mann in Haft kontaktieren würden, zeigen signifikant höhere Werte in der Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner, und höhere Werte in dem Bedürfnis nach neuen Erfahrungen, als Frauen, die dies nicht tun würden. Ein Unterschied in den demographischen Variablen, wie Alter oder Bildungsniveau, bestand zwischen diesen beiden Gruppen nicht. Teilnehmerinnen, die auf eine Anzeige eines Mannes, der nicht inhaftiert ist, antworten würden, unterscheiden sich weder in der Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner, noch in dem Bedürfnis danach, neue Erfahrungen zu machen von den Frauen, die nicht darauf reagieren würden.

Diese Studie konnte zeigen, dass Frauen, die sich potentiell für einen Mann in Haft interessieren, sich stärker zu dominanten Männern hingezogen fühlen. Mit diesem Ergebnis wurde gleichzeitig die Validität des Fragebogensets *Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner* überprüft. Diese Frauen zeichnen sich auch dadurch aus, dass sie eine Sehnsucht nach aufregenden Lebenserfahrungen haben und dieses Bedürfnis unter anderem durch den Umgang mit außergewöhnlichen Menschen befriedigen.

#### *6.5 Hinführung zur Studie 5: Die Beziehung zwischen Häftlingen und ihren Partnerinnen: freundschaftliche Fürsorge oder erotische Liebe?*

Die Ergebnisse aus Studie 4 konnten zeigen, dass sich bestimmte Frauen zu Männern in Haft hingezogen fühlen und hypothetisch auf die Kontaktanzeige von Gefangenen antworten würden. Dies lässt jedoch noch keine Aussagen darüber zu, wie Frauen, die tatsächlich mit inhaftierten Männern liiert sind, ihre Liebesbeziehung wahrnehmen und welches Interesse sie an dieser Verbindung haben. Daher bemühte ich mich darum, eine Studie mit Frauen durchzuführen, die tatsächlich eine Beziehung mit einem Mann in Haft haben. Durch Dr. Astrid Rossegger erhielt ich den Kontakt zu Dr. Dr. Thomas Noll, Leiter der JVA Pöschwies in der Schweiz. Er unterstützte mich darin, eine Studie mit den Partnerinnen der Insassen durchzuführen. Dies geschah völlig anonym, in Form eines Fragebogens, der beim Einlass an die Frauen weiter gegeben werden sollte. Es war nicht möglich, die Insassen zu befragen, oder die Partnerinnen persönlich zu interviewen. Da über 50% der Insassen nicht aus dem deutschsprachigen Sprachraum kamen und somit unter deren Partnerinnen ebenfalls eine große Anzahl nicht deutschsprachiger Frauen zu erwarten war, ließ ich die Fragebögen in die Sprachen Englisch, Französisch, Spanisch, Italienisch und Türkisch übersetzen. Zudem habe ich alle evangelischen Gefängnisseelsorger in Deutschland angeschrieben, mit der Bitte, die

Fragebögen an betroffene Frauen zu verteilen. Den größten Rücklauf erhielt ich jedoch online, nachdem ich den Link für die Studie auf die Internetseite <http://www.knastcafe.de/> gestellt hatte. Insgesamt haben 96 Frauen an meiner Studie teilgenommen. Inhalt des Fragebogens waren neben demografischen Variablen, Angaben über die Beziehungsdauer und Auskünfte zum Delikt des Partners auch, ob das Paar bereits vor oder während der Inhaftierung zusammengekommen ist. Als standardisiertes Fragebogeninstrument kam das Marburger Einstellungsinventar zu Liebesstilen zum Einsatz (Bierhoff, Grau, & Ludwig, 1993). Es misst differenziert Vorstellungen zum Thema Liebe und tatsächliche Verhaltensweisen in partnerschaftlichen Beziehungen. Um die Liebeserfahrungen der Partnerinnen inhaftierter Männer adäquat mit einer weiblichen Kontrollstichprobe vergleichen zu können, habe ich in einer Onlinestudie 859 Frauen befragt. Aus dieser großen Stichprobe habe ich 96 Frauen ausgewählt, die bezüglich Alter und Beziehungsdauer mit der anderen Stichprobe übereinstimmten.

Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass Frauen mit inhaftierten Partnern ihre Liebe als signifikant romantischer und erotischer wahrnahmen als Frauen aus der Kontrollstichprobe. Zudem bewerteten sie ihre Liebesbeziehung als signifikant altruistischer, d.h. sie tendierten dazu, ihre eigenen Bedürfnisse hinter denen des Partners zurückzustellen. Da es sich hierbei um eine Querschnittsstudie handelt, können keine Kausalitäten aus den Ergebnissen abgeleitet werden. Es könnte sein, dass Frauen, die ein großes Bedürfnis nach einer sehr romantischen und altruistischen Beziehung haben, einen bestimmten Männertyp als Partner wählen, der kriminelles Potential in sich trägt. Eine weitere kausale Erklärungsmöglichkeit wäre die, dass nur Frauen, die sich ihrem Partner tief und romantisch verbunden fühlen, auch dann mit diesem zusammen bleiben, wenn er inhaftiert wird. Frauen, bei denen die Gefühle nicht intensiv genug sind, oder die nicht altruistisch genug veranlagt sind, trennen sich möglicherweise eher von ihrem Partner, wenn dieser eine Gefängnisstrafe antritt. Es könnte auch sein, dass die Frauen ganz bewusst nach einem gefährlichen Mann gesucht haben, weil sie z.B. hybristophile Neigungen haben und sich deswegen so intensiv und erotisch zu ihrem Partner hingezogen fühlen. In meiner Stichprobe gab es nur 13 Frauen, auf die diese Erklärungsmöglichkeit wahrscheinlich zutreffen könnte, da diese mit ihrem Partner erst während der Haftzeit zusammen kamen. Allerdings unterscheiden sich diese Frauen in keiner der gemessenen Liebesdimensionen von den Frauen, die mit ihren Partnern schon vor der Inhaftierung ein Paar waren.

Die Studie konnte zeigen, dass die Liebesbeziehungen zwischen Gefängnisinsassen und ihren Partnerinnen nicht freundschaftlicher oder obsessiver Natur sind, sondern seitens der Frauen

als sehr romantisch, erotisch und altruistisch wahrgenommen werden. Sie sehen ihre Liebesbeziehung als etwas besonderes, als eine Liebe, die Mauern überwindet, ohne daran zu zerbrechen.

## **7. Diskussion**

Die Ergebnisse der fünf Studien dieser Arbeit konnten zeigen, unter welchen Bedingungen männliche Dominanz anziehend für Frauen ist. Dimensionen, die einen Einfluss darauf haben, wann dominantes männliches Verhalten für Frauen attraktiv ist, sind: 1) die Zielpersonen gegenüber denen Männer das dominante Verhalten zeigen, 2) die Art der Beziehung, d.h. Langzeit- oder Kurzzeitbeziehung, für die Frauen dominante Männer in Betracht zieht, 3) die Persönlichkeitseigenschaften der Frauen. Diese 3 Dimensionen konnte ich in den Studien herausarbeiten. Darüber hinaus lassen sich wahrscheinlich noch weitere Kriterien feststellen, wie z.B. der Kontext, in dem Männer diese Verhaltensweisen zeigen oder der Erfolg, den Männer mit dominantem Verhalten erreichen. Zusammengefasst komme ich zu folgendem Ergebnis: Männliche Dominanz ist vor allem dann anziehend, wenn sie gegenüber Fremden gezeigt wird. Innerhalb der Paarbeziehung ist ein liebevolles und prosoziales Verhalten des Mannes erwünscht, besonders für eine Langzeitbeziehung. Unabhängig davon, wem gegenüber Männer dominantes Verhalten zeigen, ist männliche Dominanz sexuell anziehend für Frauen, sodass diese Männer als Kurzzeitpartner begehrt werden. Wenn das Verhalten der Männer nicht nur dominant, sondern sogar aggressiv ist, und zwar nicht als Verteidigung, sondern in Form eines bewussten aggressiven Aktes, der als angenehmer Rausch empfunden wird, ist auch das sexuell anziehend für Frauen. Allerdings konnte dies bisher nur in einem Kriegskontext nachgewiesen werden, d.h. wenn sich diese appetitive Aggression gegen einen Feind richtet. Ich nehme stark an, dass appetitive Aggression für Frauen nicht attraktiv ist, wenn Männer diese im nahen Umfeld zeigen oder sogar gegen ihre Partnerinnen richten. In Folgestudien würde ich gerne neue Kontexte außerhalb des Krieges erschließen, in denen aggressives männliches Verhalten für Frauen sexuell attraktiv ist. Einen möglichen Kontext könnten sportliche Wettkämpfe darstellen. Aber auch Studien in anderen Milieus, zum Beispiel bei Hooligans oder Straßengangs, oder in anderen Kulturkreisen, wie z.B. in Somalia, wären erfolgsversprechende Studiensettings. Die Literaturrecherche, die dieser Arbeit voranging, hat gezeigt, dass Status, Dominanz und Aggression miteinander verknüpft sind. Diese drei Merkmale gelten als attraktiv für Frauen, allerdings in Abhängigkeit von der Art der Beziehung. Während männlicher Status ein Merkmal ist, dass sowohl für eine Langzeitbeziehung, als auch für eine Kurzzeitbeziehung gewünscht ist, sind männliche

Dominanz und Aggression vor allem sexuell attraktiv, wobei sich die Aggression nicht direkt gegen die Frau richten sollte. Die Erklärungsmodelle für diese Zusammenhänge sind aber noch unzureichend. Finden Frauen diese drei männlichen Eigenschaften deswegen anziehend, weil sie auf einen hohen Testosteronspiegel und damit auf einen guten Gesundheitszustand, sowie hervorragende genetischen Qualität des Mannes hinweisen? Oder ist nur der Status der Männer für Frauen interessant und männliche Dominanz und Aggressionsbereitschaft sind nur zusätzliche Signale für Frauen, dass Männer das Potential haben, einen hohen Status in der Zukunft zu erreichen? Diese Fragen konnte ich in dieser Arbeit leider noch nicht beantworten. Weitere Studien, in denen Probandinnen reale, individuelle Entwicklungen von Männern in Hinblick auf die Eigenschaften Status, Dominanz und Aggression vorgestellt werden und zudem der Testosteronlevel der Männer gemessen wird, halte ich für angemessen.

Die Ergebnisse meiner Studien konnten außerdem zeigen, dass dispositionelle Unterschiede zwischen Frauen mit der Präferenz für dominante Partner zusammenhängen. Dispositionen, die damit einhergehen, dass Frauen männliche Dominanz besonders anziehend finden, sind größere allgemeine Ängstlichkeit, gemessen als Trait-Angst und ein starkes Bedürfnis danach, aufregende Erfahrungen zu machen, erfasst mit Fragebögen zum Sensation Seeking. Mit meinen Ergebnissen konnte ich dabei noch nicht hinreichend herausarbeiten, für welche Art der Beziehung Frauen mit erhöhter Ängstlichkeit bzw. mit großem Bedürfnis nach neuen Erfahrungen diese dominanten Männer bevorzugen. Da die Charaktereigenschaften, die mit einer erhöhten Präferenz für einen dominanten Mann einhergehen, intuitiv sehr gegensätzlich erscheinen, gehe ich davon aus, dass verschiedene Motive dahinter verborgen liegen könnten. Ich denke, dass erhöhte Ängstlichkeit bei Frauen eher dazu führt, dass sich Frauen zu dominanten Partnern als Langzeitpartnern hingezogen fühlen, weil sie sich von diesem andauernden Schutz erhoffen (auch die Ergebnisse von Snyder (2011) deuten darauf hin). Frauen mit höheren Werten in Sensation Seeking sind auf der Suche nach neuen, aufregenden Erfahrungen, tendieren dazu, sich schnell zu langweilen und neigen wahrscheinlich dazu, einen dominanten Mann als eine willkommene Abwechslung besonders in sexueller Hinsicht zu sehen. Die empirische Überprüfung dieser Annahme möchte ich in einer Folgestudie vornehmen. Weiterhin gehe ich davon aus, dass noch andere Variablen dazu beitragen, dass Frauen sich von dominanten männlichen Verhalten besonders angezogen oder abgestoßen fühlen. Vorstellbare Komponenten wären der Einfluss der Machtverhältnisse innerhalb der Elternbeziehung, das Selbstwertgefühl oder die Wertvorstellungen der Frauen. Ein systemischer Forschungsansatz, der in den Blick nähme, ob sich auch dominante Männer zu Frauen mit bestimmten Charaktereigenschaften hingezogen fühlen und sich aus dieser

Beziehungskonstellation typische Interaktionsmuster bilden, ist ebenfalls von Interesse für mich.

In meiner Arbeit gelang es mir, zu Erkenntnissen in einem bisher weitestgehend unerforschten Feld zu gelangen. Bei den Literaturrecherchen zu dem Phänomen der sexuellen Anziehungskraft gewalttätiger Straftäter bzw. zum Thema Hybristophilie habe ich bisher keine empirischen Untersuchungen gefunden. In einer der Studien konnte ich zu einem kleinen Teil erklären, welche Anziehungskraft für bestimmte Frauen von verurteilten Gefängnisinsassen ausgeht. Frauen, die potentiell auf Anzeigen inhaftierter Männer antworten würden, fühlen sich besonders zu männlicher Dominanz hingezogen und spüren ein stärkeres Bedürfnis nach aufregenden Lebenserfahrungen. Auch bei Frauen, deren Männer tatsächlich in Haft sitzen, hat der Partner eine enorme erotische Ausstrahlung, sodass diese Frauen ihre Beziehung als sehr intensiv, besonders und romantisch wahrnehmen. Gleichzeitig investieren diese Frauen viel Energie in die Beziehung und stellen die eigenen Bedürfnisse hinter denen ihres Partners zurück. Allerdings habe ich noch nicht die Beobachtungen von Sheila Isenberg (1991) überprüfen können, dass Frauen, die sich in einen Gewaltverbrecher verliebt haben, Verlusterfahrungen des Vaters in der Kindheit bzw. Missbrauchserfahrungen in vorherigen Paarbeziehungen gemacht haben. In diesem Feld bleiben noch einige Fragen offen.

Meine Arbeit verdeutlicht, dass männliche Dominanz, selbst in ihrer extremsten Form, d.h. in Erscheinung von appetitiver Aggression gegenüber einem Feind, oder aber in Gestalt eines inhaftierten Straftäters, eine Faszination auf Frauen ausübt. Männliche Dominanz ist sexy, besonders für Frauen, die den Nervenkitzel brauchen.

## **Kapitel II: Male dominance in different relationships and its consequences for female mating choice**

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### **Abstract**

For women, male dominance seems attractive if it coincides with other of his traits like kindness or agreeableness. An individual, however, may be dominant (d) in a familial context and submissive (s) in other settings. Here we offered descriptions of four different types of individual behavioral patterns, whereby men would be within/outside the family d/d, d/s, s/d, s/s. 168 women indicated which type they would prefer for a potential rendezvous. Men who were described as treating partners kindly and in a caring manner were preferred as a long-term partner, whereas dominance was considered interesting for a short-term mate. Moreover, women with high trait anxiety have a higher preference for dominant men than women with lower levels of trait anxiety.

### **Introduction**

Minimum obligatory parental investment is higher in women than in men (Trivers, 1972). It is believed that evolution has shaped behavioral patterns in women in a way that leads them to choose their mate with particular care, since they biologically invest more time, energy and risk in raising their offspring compared to men (Trivers, 1972). Sadalla et al. (1987) showed, through four studies, that dominant behavior raises the sexual attractiveness of men but not women. In order to get the fittest offspring and to ensure the success and survival of subsequent descendants, the genes of a woman's offspring may benefit if a dominant male has been selected. Moreover, dominant men are more likely to be able to offer protection and resources. Dominant looking men are attractive mates, precisely because their looks indicate potential for high status (Mueller & Mazur, 1997). However, if striving for high status goes along with aggressive behavior, a partnership with a highly dominant, competitive or aggressive man might involve the risk of injuries and an unequal share in the distribution of resources (Kokko, Brooks, Jennions, & Morley, 2003; Qvarnström & Forsgren, 1998; Smuts, 1992). Hence, for women, the benefits related to partner dominance may not outweigh the



costs of alternative character traits such as kindness, agreeableness and men's willingness to share resources. (Buss & Angleitner, 1989; Buss & Barnes, 1986; Goodwin, 1990). In interpersonal interactions, dominant individuals often place their own goals over the goals of others (Kipnis, 1976) and show lesser sensitivity to emotional cues, like for example facial expressions (Moeller, Lee, & Robinson, 2011). Dominant behavior is commonly not associated with a kind and compassionate person. We define dominant behavior at one extreme on a continuum ranging from *dominant/less kind/assertive* (d) to *submissive/kind/ready to compromise* (s). Male dominance indicates to a woman that he is able to acquire resources, whereas agreeableness and altruism indicate the willingness of the man to share resources (Jensen-Campbell et al., 1995). Women may prefer a kind and attentive "nice guy" in contrast to an arrogant, egoistic, insensitive "bad boy" (Urbaniak & Kilmann, 2003). Evolutionary scientists emphasize that the reproductive success of men depends on the difference in behavior towards different target persons and groups. Behavioral patterns that are functional in one social context can be inadequate and dysfunctional in a different situation. Women might prefer men who behave dominantly and aggressively in competition with other men while they treat their partners with love and care (Ellis, 1992). Men who are caring and supportive to their own kin but behave aggressively towards members of a foreign group may have the greatest reproductive success (Vogel, 1989). Taylor (2009) pointed out: "Males who could be tender and caring to the in-group while being viciously destructive to others would have more to offer to a vulnerable female than either a domestic sadist or a well meaning wimp" (Page 225). Consistent with this evolutionary perspective, Jensen-Campbell et al. (1995) found evidence that women prefer a man who is both dominant and agreeable, but in this study different target persons were not distinguished. Previous research primarily examined which personality traits and behaviors were all together preferred by women (e.g. Desrochers, 1995; Fletcher et al., 1999; Herold & Milhausen, 1999). Snyder et al. (2008) distinguished different social contexts and demonstrated that women prefer men who are dominant in an athletic but not in an interpersonal context. In their trait-rating studies, Lukaszewski & Roney (2010) established that preferences for certain behaviors may be target specific: women prefer men who are more kind and trustworthy to their partner, close friends and relatives, but who have higher levels in dominance toward unrelated members of the same sex (other men). The study of Lukaszewski & Roney (2010) contains a rating of personality attributes for the perfect partner. We want to extend the previous findings from Lukaszewski & Roney (2010) by looking at actual choices of women between different potential mates. In this study we test the effect of differential male behavioral patterns toward

(a) his female partner, close friends and relatives compared to (b) unrelated individuals, on a woman's partner choice for different kinds of relationships. In other words, do women want to date, have sex with or marry a man who behaves nicely to his partner and dominant toward others or one who is kind and submissive across all social relationships? A direct comparison between different types of men who treat various target persons differently in terms of dominance and kindness might give some information about what woman really prefer for which kind of relationship. On the basis of evolutionary- theoretical assumption and the empirical study of Lukaszewski & Roney (2010) we hypothesize that more women wish to date a man who is kind towards her and her family and dominant towards other men in comparison to a man who is kind and not dominant towards anyone (prediction1). We think that this type of man offers more resources and protection than a man who treats everyone in a dominant manner keeping valuable resources for himself. Further we believe, that a man who is kind towards everyone, willing to offer resources and protection could be less appealing since he might not be assertive enough to achieve assets (see table 1). We also predict that a man who is dominant in close relationships and kind towards others will be the most unappealing choice as a rendezvous for women (prediction 2).

**Table 1** Types of single men regarding dominance and kindness towards different target persons

Partner, close friends and relatives $\Rightarrow$	kind, less dominant (submissive) towards other men	dominant, less kind towards other men
Other men $\Downarrow$		
kind, less dominant (submissive) towards the partner, close friends and relatives	Single no. <b>"75"</b> (s/s) - willing, but not able to offer resources/protection	Single no. <b>"93"</b> (s/d) - willing and able to offer resources and protection
dominant, less kind towards the partner, close friends and relatives	Single no. <b>"38"</b> (d/d) - not willing, but able to offer resources/protection	Single no. <b>"27"</b> (d/s) - not willing and able to offer resources/protection

Women should be more concerned about how they and their kin are treated by their partner than their partner's behavior towards other men because this usually has a more direct impact on the family. Regan (1998) found that women desire higher levels of agreeableness in a marriage partner than dominance which was ranked as the least important characteristic in this

study. In further trait rating studies (e.g. Li et al., 2002; Regan & Berscheid, 1997) the most desirable traits of a partner for a committed relationship were kindness, agreeableness and sensitivity. Lukaszewski & Roney (2010) asked participants to rate traits for which the behavioral target was left unspecified. This trait-rating was very similar to self-directed preferences, suggesting that previous trait-rating studies have measured preferences for mate behavior directed towards oneself as a potential partner. Consequently we predict that single men who are kind, agreeable and not dominant towards their partner and kin are more desirable for a date than a man who is dominant and potentially selfish in a close relationship, irrespective of his particular behavior towards other men (prediction 3).

Moreover we want to find out which type of men is preferred for a long-term versus short-term relationship. Previous research has shown that dominant men are favored as a short-term romantic partner (Snyder, 2008), and people associate masculine facial features and short-term mating strategies with dominant men (Kruger & Fitzgerald, 2011). Dominant behavior is related to high testosterone levels in men (Carré, Putnam, & McCormick, 2009) and men with a high testosterone level seem to be more engaged in short-time mating behavior than in parenting (Gray, Kahlenberg, Barrett, Lipson, & Ellison, 2002). Women prefer kind and sensible men as long-term romantic partners to ensure that the man invests his resources in them and their offspring (Li, Kenrick, 2006). “Nice Guys” who are agreeable and treat women courteously have fewer sexual partners but are more coveted as a serious relationship than the “bad boys” (Herold & Milhausen, 1999; Urbaniak & Kilmann, 2006). We predict for short-term preferences that women prefer dominance additively across different targets, such that more dominance is always preferred (prediction 4).

Furthermore we were interested to see what character traits women who prefer dominant mates display. Jensen-Campbell et al. (1995) examined the relationship between the attraction of the presence of male agreeableness and dominance and some personality traits of woman, like the Big Five Personality Traits (Digman & Inouye, 1986), the sex role (Spence, 1978), and spheres of control (Paulhus & Van Selst, 1990). None of these personality inventories provided an answer to the question which female character traits are related to these women’s preferences for dominant or agreeable men. Internet-based studies with American women by Snyder et al. (2011) suggested that women who worried about becoming a victim of crime preferred aggressively dominant and physically formidable men as their long-term mates. Another noteworthy finding of the Snyder et al. (2011) study was that the subjective vulnerability of women’s fear of crime was a relatively stable trait and not influenced by

preceding violent or safe photographs. We believe that fear of becoming a victim may be a component of general trait- anxiety. So, for the present study, we predicted that women who have higher levels of trait anxiety would have a higher preference for dominant mates (prediction5).

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

N=168 heterosexual women (Age:  $M \pm SD = 23.25 \pm 3.01$ ), enrolled at the University of Konstanz, Germany, participated in this study concerning “partner preferences”; 86 students (51.2%) were single, 79 (47%) were involved in a relationship, one woman had an open relationship and two participants gave no information about their relationship status. All participants gave informed consent. Participants received five Euro financial compensation. The ethical review board of the University of Konstanz had approved the study.

### *Stimulus Material*

Four different vignettes of single men were formulated (see appendix). It was our goal to describe all single men in a positive manner. Therefore we had collected short word groups which are associated with the benefits of typical dominant versus submissive/kind male behavior in a student sample. For dominant male behavior was most often mentioned: self-confidence, holding the leadership over submissive others, assertiveness, physical strength (“broad shoulders”) and financial benefits. The most common associations with a submissive/kind male were: willingness to compromise, empathy, friendliness, trust in the decision of others, easy integration into groups. We combined these characteristics and synonyms of these phrases to more detailed vignettes of the four single men (see appendix). The descriptions were validated in a pilot test with a sample of N= 69 women (Age:  $M \pm SD = 26.94 \pm 8.34$ ). Participants read one description and had to decide how dominant the single man behaves towards the close friends/the partner and foreign men on a 10- point Likert scale from 1 “submissive/kind/ready to compromise” to 10 “dominant/less kind/assertive”. The descriptions were in conformity with the underlying constructs. The two descriptions of the single men who are kind and not dominant towards friends/partner were rated lower in dominance towards their friends/partner than the two descriptions of the single men who treat their partner and close friends dominant (man s/s, s/d:  $M \pm SD = 2.4 \pm 1.58$ ; man d/s, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 7.56 \pm 2.29$ ,  $F_{1,65} = 118.01$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .65$ ), but had no effect on the perception of the

behavior of the single men towards foreign men. The two descriptions of the single men who are kind and not dominant towards foreign men were rated lower in dominance towards strangers than the two descriptions of the single men who treat foreign men dominant (man s/s, d/s:  $M \pm SD = 3.03 \pm 2.36$ ; man s/d, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 9.18 \pm 1.09$ ,  $F_{1,65} = 198.01$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .75$ ), but had no effect on the perception of the behavior of the single men towards friends/partner.

### *Measures and Procedure*

Participants were instructed to imagine being single. In a cover story they were told that two hundred single men of the University Konstanz with a mean age of 25 were psychologically examined while completing a personality test and being observed in different social relationships. The task of the participants was to pick one of one hundred envelopes at random. In each envelope there was a description of two single men. After reading the two personality profiles, participants were instructed to decide which of the two single men they wished to date. Participants were randomly assigned to one of six experimental conditions, so that 28 women were in each condition. In condition one, the *not-dominant-to-me condition*, participants could choose between single man number 93 (s/d), who is kind, sensible and not dominant towards his partner, close friends and relatives but dominant towards other men and single man number 75 (s/s) who is kind and not dominant in all relationships. The choice in condition two, the *dominant-to-other-men condition* was between single man s/d and single man number 38 (d/d) who is dominant and less kind in all social relationships. In condition three, the *opposite- not consistent condition*, participants had to choose between single man s/d and single man number 27 (d/s) who is dominant and less kind to his partner, close friends and relatives but not dominant and kind towards other men. The choice between single man s/s and single man d/d was condition four, the *opposite- consistent condition*. In condition five, the *not-dominant-to-other-men condition*, participants had to decide between single man s/s and single man d/s and in condition six, the *dominant-to-me condition*, participants were presented with the choice between single man s/d and single man d/d (see table 2).

**Table 2.** Combination of single men in the six conditions

Condition	single man 1	single man 2
Not-dominant-to-me condition	93 - kind and not dominant (submissive) towards close persons and dominant and not kind to other men	75 - kind and not dominant (submissive) to all target persons
Dominant-to-other-men condition	93 (s/d)	38 (d/d)
Opposite-not consistent condition	93 (s/d)	27 (d/s)
Opposite-consistent condition	75 (s/s)	38 (d/d)
Not-dominant-to-other-men condition	75 (s/s)	27 (d/s)
Dominant-to-me condition	38 - dominant and not kind to all target persons	27 - dominant and not kind towards close persons and kind and not dominant (submissive) to other men

After reading the description participants had to complete a questionnaire. First they had to decide which single man they would date. They were also asked the reasons for their choice using a free response item. To evaluate whether participants' preferences differed across various relationship contexts, the attendees then rated both single men along several 7- point Likert-scales that appraised how desirable each would be in the following roles: as a life partner, as a steady boyfriend, as a platonic friend, a sexual affair, and as a one-night stand. Furthermore, participants had to estimate the number of former sexual partners for each single man to investigate the general sexual attraction of each single. In addition single men were rated along dimensions that corresponded to those identified by Buss and Barnes (1986) and taken over by Urbaniak and Kilmann (2003), using a single 7-point Likert-scale: exciting, intelligent, dominant, kind/considerate, humorous, sincere, self-confident and shy. To explore the general preference for a dominant mate, participants had to complete six items, newly developed for this study: "a very nice man is often boring", "dominant men are fascinating", "sometimes I imagine being seduced by a strong and dominant man", "I often felt more in love with a dominant man compared with a less dominant man", "I like it when the man takes the leadership in our relation", "I feel attracted to assertive men" ( $M \pm SD = 4.48 \pm 1.27$ ,  $n = 166$ ; Cronbach's  $\alpha = .82$ ). Each of these statements was rated using a single 7- point Likert-type scale. In order to measure trait anxiety, participants completed twenty items of the trait anxiety scale from the Trait-State-Anxiety-Inventory (Laux, 1981). They had to decide how

they feel in general on a 4 point- Likert-scale ranging from 1= “almost never” to 4= “almost always” (Mean  $\pm$  SE = 2.08  $\pm$  0.47,  $n$  = 166; Cronbach’s  $\alpha$  =.90). Moreover participants had to rate on a 7- point Likert-type scale whether they “always catch the wrong man”. Finally demographic variables were recorded.

### *Analyses*

Before testing our hypotheses, we conducted a manipulation check to find out if the descriptions of the single men were in conformity with the underlying constructs. Thus we analyzed the ratings concerning kindness/dominance for the single- man chosen and not chosen, together with a 2 (close relationships) x 2 (strangers) between-groups ANOVA. As every participant rated two singles, we had 336 assessments in all and 48 for each of the four single men. Chi-square analyses were used to analyze predictions one to three and therefore to assess which of the single men were chosen as dating partner. To test prediction four we summarized the evaluation for the desirability as a sexual affair and desirability as one-night stand into the factor desirability as a short-term mate, as well as desirability as a life partner and desirability as steady boyfriend into the factor desirability as a long-term mate. Thus we analyzed the dependent variables “desirable for a special social relationship/role” for the single- man with a 2 (close relationships) x 2 (strangers) between-groups ANOVA. Because of the sample imbalance between the groups of participants who decided to date different single men, we added the rating of each participant for the not chosen single man. Finally, we received eighty-four ratings for all of the four single men. We tested prediction five by inspecting bivariate correlations among the variable preference for dominant partner and trait anxiety. We then analysed with a t- test for independent samples the difference between women, scoring higher in trait anxiety (STAI>45) and lower levels in trait anxiety (STAI<45) with regard to the desirability of the not chosen but more dominant male as a long-term and short-term mate.

## **Results**

### *Manipulation check*

The manipulation check supported the underlying constructs: We manipulated the kindness and dominance towards different target persons and we found for the factor kindness a main effect for behavior towards close relationships (man s/s, s/d:  $M \pm SD$  = 5.1  $\pm$  1.06; man d/s, d/d:  $M \pm SD$  = 1.99  $\pm$  1.40,  $F_{1,327}$  = 491.3,  $p$  < .001,  $\eta^2$  = .60) and a main effect for behavior

towards strangers (man s/s, d/s:  $M \pm SD = 4.05 \pm 1.16$   $M = 4.05$ ; man s/d, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 3.06 \pm 1.29$ ,  $F_{1,327} = 46.70$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .13$ ) in the suspected direction, but no significant interaction. For the factor dominance we found a main effect for behavior emerged towards close relationships (man s/s, s/d:  $M \pm SD = 3.78 \pm 1.49$ ; man d/s, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 5.14 \pm 1.24$ ,  $F_{1,327} = 111.19$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .25$ ) and a main effect for behavior towards strangers (man s/s, d/s:  $M \pm SD = 3.80 \pm 1.66$ ; man s/d, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 5.12 \pm 1.02$ ,  $F_{1,327} = 104.45$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .24$ ) as well as a significant interaction ( $F_{1,327} = 15.38$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .04$ ). The more different target persons (especially close target persons) were treated kindly by the single man, the more he was evaluated as kind/considerate. The more different target persons were treated dominantly, the higher the rankings for dominance were.

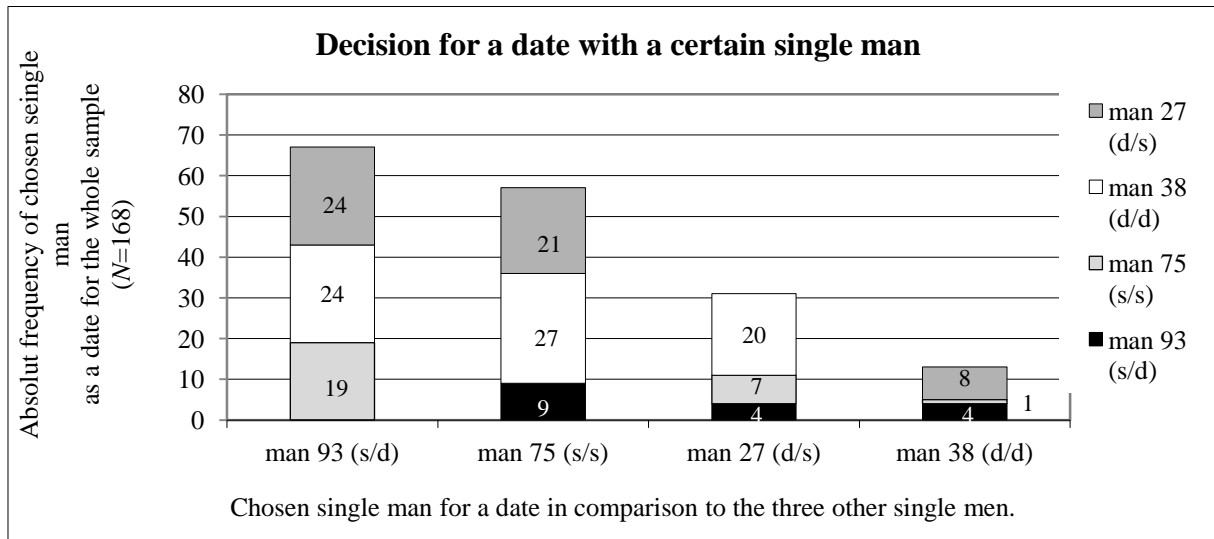
### *Results for dating preference*

If we consider the decisions for all conditions in unison ( $N = 168$ ), most women ( $N = 67$ ) wanted to date single man s/d, who is kind in close relationships and dominant to foreign persons, 57 participants wanted to meet single man s/s as a date who is kind towards everybody, 31 women made their decision for single man d/s who treats close target persons dominantly and foreign people kindly and a minority ( $N = 13$ ) decided to date the dominant single man d/d,  $\chi^2(3) = 43.14$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\phi = .51$ . Prediction 1, that more women wish to date a man who is kind towards her and her family and dominant towards other men in comparison to a man who is kind and not dominant towards anyone shows a non significant trend in the predicted direction: In condition one ( $N = 28$ ) most participants ( $N = 19$ ) decided they would rather date single man s/d, who is kind to his partner but dominant towards other men, rather than single man s/s, who is kind and less dominant to all target persons,  $\chi^2(1) = 3.57$ ,  $p = .059$ ,  $\phi = .35$ . We found no support for prediction two, that a man who is dominant in close relationships and kind towards others will be the most unappealing choice as a rendezvous for women, however the opposite assumption was confirmed: the majority of participants in condition six chose single man d/s who was dominant towards his partner, close friends and relatives, but kind and not dominant towards other men compared with single man (d/d) who is dominant towards all target persons,  $\chi^2(1) = 5.14$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ,  $\phi = .43$ . Prediction three that single men who are kind, agreeable and not dominant towards their partner and kin are more desirable for a date than men who are dominant and potentially selfish in a close relationship, irrespective of his particular behavior towards other men was supported statistically: in condition two to five ( $N = 112$ ) most participants chose single men who were less dominant in



relation to themselves,  $\chi^2(3) = 57.79, p < .001, \phi = .76$ , instead of single men who treated them dominantly and less kind (see figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Decision for a date with a certain single man



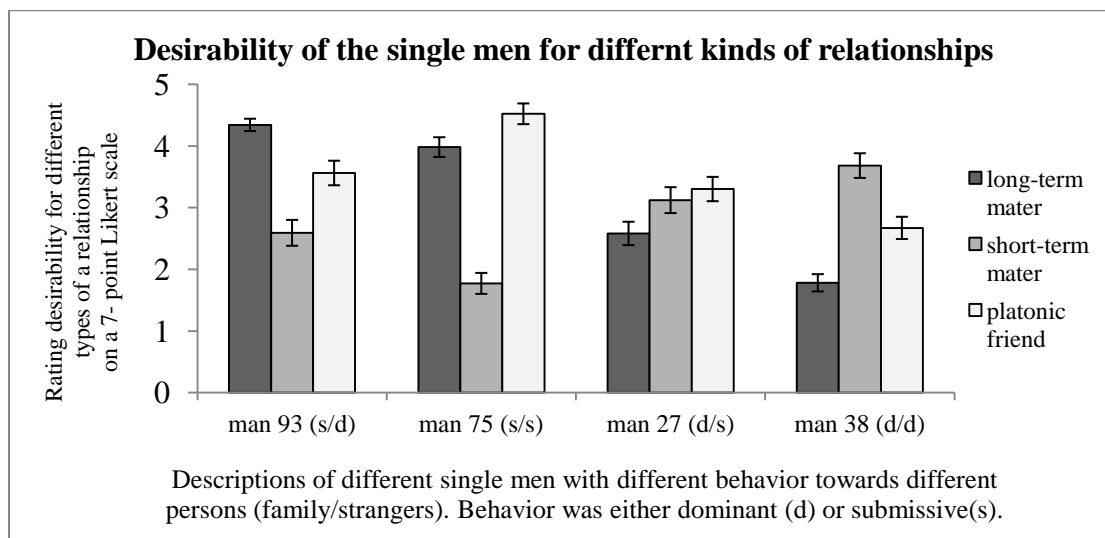
**Note:** Number of decisions for a certain single-man (x-axis) in comparison to the other single men (legend) respective to the particular conditions ( $N=168$ ). Information in parentheses mean: s/d: submissive towards close friends and the partner and dominant towards other men; s/s: submissive towards close friends and the partner and submissive towards other men; d/s: dominant towards close friends and the partner and submissive towards other men; d/d: dominant towards close friends and the partner and dominant towards other men

### *Results for long-term and short-term attractiveness*

Prediction four, that women prefer dominance additively across different targets as short-term mates, was supported: For the desirability as a short term mate, we found a significant main effect for the dominant behavior towards close target persons ( $F_{1,336} = 38.46, p < .001, \eta^2 = .10$ ) and a significant main effect for the dominant behavior toward foreign target persons ( $F_{1,336} = 12.36, p < .001, \eta^2 = .04$ ), but no significant interaction (see figure 2). Consequently the more different target persons the single man treated dominantly, the more desirable he became as a short-term mate. For long-term desirability, the analyses yielded a significant main effect for the behavior towards close relationships ( $F_{1,336} = 146.85, p < .001, \eta^2 = .31$ ), that indicated men who treat close target persons more kind and less dominant were preferred. Furthermore, we found a significant interaction ( $F_{1,336} = 12.63, p < .001, \eta^2 = .04$ ), but no main effect for the behavior towards foreign persons. Consequently additional dominance towards foreign target persons enhanced the desirability as long-term mate only if the man is kind in close relationships, but decreased the desirability as a long-term mate if the man is

dominant in close relationships. The data for the desirability as a platonic friend yielded a significant main effect for the behavior towards close target persons ( $F_{1,336} = 32.01, p < .001, \eta^2 = .09$ ) and a significant main effect for the behavior toward foreign target persons ( $F_{1,336} = 18.14, p < .001, \eta^2 = .05$ ), but no significant interaction. Consequently the more different target persons the single man treated kindly and not dominantly, the more desirable he became as a platonic friend. Analyses revealed of the estimation of the number of former sexual partners of the single man showed a significant main effect for the behavior towards close target persons (man s/s, s/d:  $M \pm SD = 6.27 \pm 4.26$ ; man d/s, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 10.48 \pm 9.23, F_{1,336} = 27.42, p < .001, \eta^2 = .08$ ) and a significant main effect for the behavior towards foreign target persons (man s/s, d/s:  $M \pm SD = 7.20 \pm 5.26, M = 7.20$ ; man s/d, d/d:  $M \pm SD = 9.56 \pm 8.23, F_{1,336} = 8.68, p = .003, \eta^2 = .03$ ), but no significant interaction. The more different target persons the single man treated dominantly, the more women think this kind of man had success in having a high number of sexual partners.

**Figure 2.** Desirability of the single men for different kinds of relationships



**Note:** Mean coefficients for the different single- men in regard to their desirability as a long-term mate/short-term mate and platonic friend ( $N = 168$ ). Two ratings for each participant are included in this figure, j.e. eighty-four ratings for each of the four single men. Information in parentheses mean: s/d: submissive towards close friends and the partner and dominant towards other men; s/s: submissive towards close friends and the partner and submissive towards other men; d/s: dominant towards close friends and the partner and submissive towards other men; d/d: dominant towards close friends and the partner and dominant towards other men

*Results for the relationship between trait anxiety and preference for a dominant partner*

Consistent with expectations for prediction five, that women higher in trait anxiety prefer a

more dominant man, the results revealed a positive correlation between trait anxiety and preference for a dominant partner in general  $r = 0.29$ ,  $N = 166$ ,  $p < .01$ ,  $d = .61$ . Even age ( $r = -0.16$ ,  $N = 166$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $d = .32$ ) and the persuasion “always catch the wrong man” ( $r = 0.17$ ,  $N = 166$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $d = .35$ ) correlate with the preference for a dominant partner (see table 3).

**Table 3:** Correlations between predictors

Predictors	1	2	3	4
1. Preference for a dominant mate	-	.29**	-.16*	.17*
2. Trait anxiety		-	-.03	.34**
3. Age			-	-.12
4. Persuasion always “always catch the wrong man”				-

\* Correlation is significant at the .05 level (two tailed).

\*\* Correlation is significant at the .01 level (two tailed).

Participants who scored higher in trait anxiety ( $M \pm SD = 2.07 \pm 1.07$ ) evaluated the single man who was not chosen as a date more desirable as a long-term mate,  $t_{122} = 2.43$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $d = .49$ , than participants scoring lower in trait anxiety ( $M \pm SD = 1.49 \pm 1.24$ ), but only if the not chosen single man treated more target persons (especially close target persons) more dominantly than the single man selected. We did not find a significant difference between women high and low in trait anxiety for the desirability as a short-term mate and the decision for a date.

## Discussion

### *Dating decisions*

As expected, women prefer men who treat them and their close family members and friends kindly and not dominantly. Dominant behavior towards other men increased the desirability of a date but only if the man is kind and not dominant in socially or emotionally closer relationships. These results are in line with those of the trait-rating studies of Lukaszewski & Roney (2010). It comes as a surprise that dominance towards other men is not approved by women, if men treat their partner and close friends and family members in a dominant way. A man who is dominant in close relationships and kind and not dominant towards other men was preferred as a date in comparison to a man who is dominant in all respects. This phenomenon may be explained when considering that both single men in condition six were regarded as

unattractive as a date. Thus participants were forced to make a decision between two not-profitable options. Given the obligation to choose one of two similarly, unattractive single men, the participants were vulnerable to the halo effect (Thorndike, 1920), risking that particular traits of a person produce a general impression which “outshines” the perception of other traits of the judged person. This means that the man who is kind and friendly towards other men was perceived as even nicer and more ready to compromise and therefore even towards oneself, while the dominant man in all kinds of relationships can not exhibit kind traits which can outshine his more unattractive character traits. Anecdotal explanations why the participants decided to date a certain single, support our assumption: participants described single number 38 (d/d), who is dominant towards all target persons, as arrogant (three times), despotic (three times), macho (two times) and egocentric (two times), whereas single number 27 (d/s), who is not dominant towards other men was described as more likeable (two times), more open (two times) more friendly (four times) and social (two times). Women who chose single no. 38 (d/d) often mentioned that they wanted an overtly dominant man, along the lines of “If you are going to do something, then do it” – which was consistent with our assumption. In further replications participants ought to be cautioned for possible cognitive heuristics.

Obviously women in this study want to date the man who is more interesting for them as a long-term partner. The desirability as a short-term mate does not carry weight for the decision as a date. Probably women are generally more interested in long-term relationships than in short-term relationships (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Analysis of 1,000 lonely heart advertisements (Bereczkei, Voros, Gal, & Bernath, 1997) revealed that more than twice as many women as men demanded long-term mating and more than twice as many men as women demanded short-term mating. Women seem to have a stronger longing for a long-term relationship than men. If women make a decision for a date with a certain man, they consider them as a potential long-term mate.

#### *Long-term and short-term attractiveness*

Dominant but less sensible males were not chosen as a long-term, but as a short-term mate. These findings are equivalent to other studies (Kruger & Fitzgerald, 2011; Snyder et al., 2008) but emphasize that the more a single man treats various persons dominantly, the more he will be preferred as a short-term mate by women. Consequently, the single man who treats close as well as foreign persons in a dominant way, is most attractive as a one-night-stand or sexual

affair. Men who treat their partner, friends and family kindly, are preferred as steady boyfriends, life partners or platonic friends. These results concur with the mixed mating strategy in females. Women prefer genetically overriding males (“cads”) as short-term partners and high investment (“dads”) males as long-term mates (Cashdan, 1996; Draper & Harpending, 1982). In their fertile phase of their cycle, women favour more masculine faces (Johnston, Hagel, Franklin, Fink, & Grammer, 2001) and body odour of men who score high in a dominance questionnaire (Havlicek, Roberts, & Flegr, 2005). This preference is much higher in fertile women in stable relationships than in fertile single women (Havlicek et al., 2005). Even extra-pair-mating behavior of women is driven by the menstrual cycle: Married women, who have sex with an extra-pair male do that mainly in their fertile period (Baker & Bellis, 1995; Bellis & Baker, 1990; Cashdan, 1996) and have more “high retention” orgasm (those that retain the largest amount of sperm) with their extra-pair male than with their regular partner (Baker & Bellis, 1993; Cashdan, 1996). We conclude that women seem to have the major reproductive success when they ensure the good genes for their offspring by copulating with a highly dominant male (“cad”) and living together with a man, who invests in shared progeny (“dad”). All in all, a man who dominates other men and supports his in-group seems to combine the highly coveted habits of both high investment mates and genetically superior mates. Our results revealed that this kind of man seems to be attractive as a short-term and as a long-term mate and is therefore probably the most preferred choice.

#### *Trait anxiety and preference for a dominant partner*

The study supports our assumption that women with high levels of trait anxiety generally show a greater preference for a dominant mate. This tendency does not show when deciding between two single men, but rather in the evaluation of the not chosen, albeit more dominant man as a long-term mate. In comparison with women with lower levels of trait anxiety, women with higher levels chose the more dominant, not selected man as the more desirable long-term mate. Furthermore we found a correlation between trait anxiety and a general preference for a dominant man (newly developed set of questions). This result is in line with Snyder's et. al. (2011) finding, that women who are afraid of becoming a victim of a crime prefer aggressive formidable men as long-term mates. We further note a positive relationship between trait anxiety and the perception of women always choosing the wrong man. Even the preference for a dominant man is positively related to this appraisal. Therefore, dysfunctional love relationships often seem to be associated with dominant traits of the male part on one

side and anxiety of the female part on the other side. This scheme was already supported in an extreme and pathological manner: Zayas & Shoda (2007) confirmed that women who reported more instances of psychological abuse preferred males as dating partners who show aggressive, violent and hostile behavior indicative of an abusive male personality. Inversely, men who reported more cases of inflicting psychological abuse showed a stronger preference for female dating partners with high attachment anxiety, compared to men who did not. We will not constitute the preference for dominant men as pathological, precisely because it is on an evolutionary perspective favorable to mate a dominant man. Above all, leading men can be particularly charming and charismatic. But if psychological strain due to recurring dysfunctional relationships exists, women ought to analyze and change their schemes of preferences for dominant men in order to break the vicious cycle.

*Critical view: "Transfer to the real world"*

The prediction that women prefer men who are kind towards them and dominant towards other men was supported by this study. But we do not know if there are men in real life who embody these specific traits. The characters of our four men were fictional and overdramatized behavior towards close and foreign targets in an extreme way. This means very high, rather than moderate, scores in dominance or kindness were generated. Perhaps highly divergent behaviors towards different target persons are improbable. Interpersonal aggression towards members of the same sex is positively related to interpersonal behavior towards members of the other sex (Lorber & O'Leary, 2004). On the other hand Cummins et al. (1977) confirmed that assertive behavior towards different target persons correlate only moderately. Only the self-reported assertiveness towards foreign people and not the assertive behavior in sum or to further target persons is related to assertive behavior towards foreign people in real life.

The results of the study indicate that women initially prefer the man who is willing and able to provide resources and only secondly the man who is by definition (table 1) willing but less able to offer protection and resources. Following the assumption that participants associate a university degree with increased resources and considering that the simulated single men were described as students from the same university, each of the single men is appealing as a future provider to the participants. Consequently, it was more profitable for women of our sample to choose a man who is kind and absolutely willing to share his resources. In order to better clarify what women view as the ideal, prospective partner, further studies with broader

representative samples, such as greater diversity in economic status and varying occupations, are necessary.

### *Conclusion*

This standardized laboratory study established a realistic scenario in which female participants decide between varying dominant single men. The results showed that attraction to male dominance depends on several variables. First of all, in order to better understand the spectrum of directional dominance, it is essential to know which target persons (close or foreign) were treated dominantly or kindly by the man – dominance seems appreciated only for relations outside the family. Secondly, the kind of relationship in question, e.g. one-nightstand or life partner, is crucial for categorizing which dominance type is considered by women to be most appealing. Finally, the individual disposition of the female participants' personalities (e.g. trait anxiety in this study) must be taken into account in order to provide more insight into partner selection.

# **Kapitel III: Female attraction to appetitive- aggressive men is modulated by the women's menstrual cycle and men's vulnerability to traumatic stress**

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## **Abstract**

Many studies have reported that during high fertility points in the menstrual cycle, women demonstrate increased preference for men with masculinized faces and bodies. In this study, we analyzed whether appetitive aggression in men serves as an additional signal for a favored partner choice. Appetitive aggression describes the intrinsic motivation to act violently even when not being threatened. This study evaluated the responses of 1212 women to one of four descriptions regarding a soldier's experience after returning from war. The four vignettes included trauma related symptoms with high or low appetitive aggression, or no trauma related symptoms with high or low appetitive aggression. Participants rated their desirability for the soldier in regards to potential long-term and short-term relationships. Results indicate that women preferred a soldier high in appetitive aggression as a short-term mate but not as a long-term relationship. This preference for the "warrior" was higher for women in their fertile window of the menstrual cycle. We conclude that women in their fertile window prefer men exhibiting higher appetitive aggression as a short-term partner, revealing appetitive aggression in men may serve as a signal for a higher genetic fitness.

## **Introduction**

**Khitan General:** What is best in life?

**Khitan Warrior:** The open steppe, a fleet horse, falcons at your wrist, and the wind in your hair.

**Khitan General:** Wrong! Conan, what is best in life?

**Conan:** To crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentations of their women!

**Khitan General:** [*Cheers*]...That is good.

(From the movie: "Conan the Barbarian", 1982)



Evolution may have favored those who go to war (Elbert et al., 2010; Jones, 2008). If so, it is reasonable to assume that the partner preference of women might have been decisive in this process. Indeed, it has frequently been noted that women can be interested in “bad boys” (Urbaniak & Kilmann, 2006), dominant men (Sadalla et al., 1987), or self-confident men in uniform (Hewitt & German, 1987). The parental investment of women is significantly higher than the investment of men (Trivers, 1972). Therefore, women need to be selective when choosing a mating partner. Apart from a man’s resources, his signals of good gene quality (i.e., heritable fitness) are essential in the selection process. Facial and body symmetry and a variety of masculine physical and behavioral traits constitute male signals of good heritable condition (Thornhill & Gangestad, 2008). For example, women find males with deeper voices (Feinberg, Jones, Little, Burt, & Perrett, 2005), muscular bodies (Frederick & Haselton, 2007) and dominant behavior more attractive (Sadalla et al., 1987). However, the preferences also depend on the time perspective of the relationship: Women maximize their reproductive success if they choose a more masculine man as a short-term mate and a man with a relatively more feminine face and a warmer, more agreeable personality (Fink & Penton-Voak, 2002) as a stable long-term partner (Kruger, 2006). Consequently, men with more masculine faces and bodies (Frederick & Haselton, 2007; Rhodes et al., 2005) and more dominant behavior (Snyder et al., 2008) have greater success in short-term, but not in long-term, mating. Men who are warm, kind and willing to invest considerable resources in their offspring are preferred as long-term mates (Li et al., 2002). Utilization of this worthwhile strategy results in both better genes in terms of assertiveness and more dynamic provision for the offspring. Archer and Thanzami (2009) found in a sample of Indian men that young males who perceive themselves as more attractive to women are more aggressive. Aggressive behavior comes in two different types, a reactive–impulsive form which is thought to counter threat and an appetitive form which results from the intrinsic rewarding properties of cues related to violence, hunting, and combat (Elbert et al., 2010; Weierstall et al., 2011). Appetitive aggression is thus “motivated out of itself from hunt and power: it is the aggression of the considerate aggressor, the hunter, the one in power and it is the form of aggression hitherto seldom scientifically examined.” (Allwood, Bell-Dolan, & Husain, 2002; Elbert et al., 2010). We predict that appetitive aggressiveness may signal heritable fitness in men. Therefore, we expect for women to prefer men with sizeable scores in appetitive aggression as short-term, but not long-term, mates.

In line with the aspect of reproduction, women’s mate preferences change across the

menstrual cycle, and they are more selective during estrus than during other points in the menstrual cycle. During their fertile period, women may particularly attend to men with signals of “good genes” and select them as a short-term mate as opposed to a stable, long-term partner (Thornhill & Gangestad, 2008). For example, women in their fertile window show differences in preferences when compared to women at non-fertile moments in their cycles. Such differences include a preference for the scent of highly dominant men (Havlicek et al., 2005), more masculine male faces (Johnston et al., 2001; Penton-Voak & Perrett, 2000; Penton-Voak et al., 1999), men with lower pitched voices (Puts, 2005), and higher social presence and intrasexual competitiveness as short-term mates (Gangestad, Simpson, Cousins, Garver-Apgar, & Christensen, 2004). If appetitive aggression is a cue for heritable fitness in men, we expect that women in their fertile period, compared to women in their non-fertile phase of their menstrual cycle, will prefer men who experience pleasure in being violent as short-term mates.

However, combatants that go to war or hunt are also exposed to a large number of traumatic stressors that render them vulnerable to developing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; (Elbert, Rockstroh, Kolassa, Schauer, & Neuner, 2006) and other forms of psychopathology (Allwood et al., 2002; Elbert et al., 2009; Kolassa & Elbert, 2007; Schaal & Elbert, 2006; Schaal, Jacob, Dusingizemungu, & Elbert, 2010). In line with the hypothesis of an increased fitness of men who have a propensity to behave cruelly, Weierstall and colleagues (2011; 2012) found evidence in various combatant populations that appetitive aggression can be a resilience factor against PTSD. But how appealing are men with trauma-related symptoms to women? Past research revealed an association between PTSD symptoms and intimate relationship problems, such as discord, physical and psychological aggression perpetration (Taft, Watkins, Stafford, Street, & Monson, 2011) as well as partner’s distress (Renshaw & Campbell, 2011). For the partners of traumatized individuals, it is hard to deal with the altered behavior of the affected person. Men with untreated and treated PTSD had significantly less sexual functioning in the domains of desire, arousal, orgasm, activity and satisfaction compared to healthy controls (Kotler et al., 2000). A study with 90 male combat veterans revealed that 80% experienced clinically relevant sexual problems, mainly either impotence or premature ejaculation (Letourneau, Schewe, & Frueh, 1997). Patients with PTSD show an elevated tonic level of cortisol compared with traumatized controls without PTSD (McFarlane, Barton, Yehuda, & Wittert, 2011; Steudte et al., 2011). Moore et al. (2011) found evidence that women rated the faces of men having lower levels of cortisol as more attractive than the faces of men with higher cortisol levels. This preference is higher during the fertile

window of the menstrual cycle compared to the luteal cycle phase. Persons with PTSD suffer in different areas of their lives due to psychological illness. Because of their sexual difficulties and relationship problems, we predicted that men with trauma symptoms would be less attractive as either stable long-term partners or short-term partners for women.

In this study we examine the effect of fictional descriptions of different single men on women. All single men were soldiers returning from war with different reactions to violent experiences. Female participants had to evaluate the desirability of a soldier as a long-term and short-term mate.

## **Materials and Methods**

### *Participants*

1586 German women completed an online survey. Three control questions at the end of the study checked whether the participant had read, understood and memorized the description in detail. They had to pick one of four possible answers. The correct answer was the exact wording from the text (see appendix). Women who did not correctly answer all three questions were excluded from the data set. One thousand two hundred and twelve women (mean age = 25.54 years,  $SD = 8.22$ ) were in the final sample. Sixty six percent were students, 24.8% employed, 5% in professional training and 3.8% job seeking. Seven hundred thirty four women were in a relationship (e.g., married) and 476 were single. One hundred fifty five women were mothers. Six hundred and six women used oral contraceptives and 598 did not, and 8 did not respond to that question. Participants received no financial compensation. All participants gave informed consent. The ethical review board of the University of Konstanz approved the study.

### *Stimulus Material*

Participants read a fictional scenario with the following content:

“Germany becomes a target of a series of terrorist attacks of Al Qaeda II with the consequence of increasing the number of German military troops in Afghanistan. After a long, but successful war, the combatants returned back home. One of the returning soldiers is Wilko.”

We chose the name ‘Wilko,’ an uncommon name in Germany, to ensure that participants have no personal connection to this name. The fictional war scenario appeared in this study because war is a situation in which traumatization is societally more accepted, if not even anticipated, and appetitively violent experiences occur without necessarily precipitating moral condemnation. Germany is not currently at war, thus requiring the provision of a fictional scenario. We named the enemy Al Qaida II, because Al Qaida is a well know terrorist group. It is generally agreed that this terrorist group poses a serious danger to civilians and that it would be morally acceptable to use force in order to counter this threat.

A description of Wilko followed (see appendix). Wilko was characterized as either being high (conditions 1 and 2) or low (conditions 3 and 4) in appetitive aggression. According to the descriptions, he would either have (conditions 1 and 3) or not have (conditions 2 and 4) trauma symptoms. The descriptions were validated in a pretest sample of 51 women (Age:  $M \pm SD = 29.20 \pm 10.01$ ). Participants received a written explanation about the disorder PTSD and appetitive aggression. Then they read one of four possible Wilko descriptions. They had to decide if Wilko has PTSD, and if he is appetitively aggressive on a 6-point Likert scale from 1 “not at all” to 6 “most intensive.” The Wilko descriptions were in conformity with the underlying constructs. The two descriptions of Wilko with trauma symptoms were rated higher in PTSD symptoms than the two descriptions of Wilko without trauma symptoms (trauma symptoms:  $M \pm SD = 4.69 \pm 1.05$ , no trauma symptoms:  $M \pm SD = 1.84 \pm 1.17$ ,  $t_{49} = 9.13$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 2.48$ ), but had no effect on the perception of Wilko as appetitively aggressive. The two descriptions of Wilko with high appetitive aggression were rated higher in appetitive aggression than the two descriptions of Wilko with low appetitive aggression (high appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 4.07 \pm 1.54$ , low appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 1.64 \pm 0.91$ ,  $t_{40.66} = 6.89$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 1.92$ ), but had no effect on the PTSD perception of Wilko.

### *Measures*

*Attractiveness for different kinds of relationships.* Participants had to consider Wilko in terms of different kinds of desired relationships (date, steady boyfriend, life partner, platonic friend, sexual affair, one night stand) on 7-point Likert scale from 0 “not at all” to 6 “most intensive.” For the factor desirability as a long-term mate, we summarized the evaluation for Wilko desirability as a life partner and desirability as a steady boyfriend. We summarized the evaluation for Wilko’s desirability as a sexual affair, desirability as a one-night stand and the evaluation as “sexually attractive” (see next point characterization) into the factor desirability

as a short-term mate.

*Characterization of the single man.* Women rated the soldier along dimensions that corresponded to those identified by Sadalla et al. (1987) using a 7-point semantic differential which consists of the following adjectives: dominant/submissive, sexually attractive/sexually unattractive, soft/hard, feminine/masculine, rugged/delicate, tough/tender, bad/good, warm/cold, nice/awful, pleasant/unpleasant, friendly/aggressive, unintelligent/intelligent, and healthy/ill. We used the rating “healthy/ill” as a manipulation check for trauma symptoms and the mean value of the ratings for “submissive/dominant, feminine/masculine, and friendly/aggressive” as manipulation check for appetitive aggression.

*Menstrual Cycle Analysis.* To calculate the fertile window of each women, we took into consideration the first day of her last menstrual cycle and the typical cycle length ( $M \pm SD = 27.51 \pm 3.64$ ). We estimated the fertile window of each woman, using an ovulation calculator (<http://www.umrechnung.org/eisprung-bestimmen-berechnen/zyklus-eisprungkalender-fruchtbare-tage.htm>). This calculator, based on medical data reported by Wilcox, Duncan, Weinberg, Trussel, and Beired (2001), assumes a fertile window from day 12-17 in a 28 days cycle (women who have longer cycles tend to ovulate later in cycle). The luteal phase was assumed to be 14 days, but we subtracted 13 days from the usual cycle length to estimate the cycle day of ovulation as 13 days provide a less biased estimate of the mean ovulation day (Trussell, Rodrguiz, & Ellertson, 1998). We divided the participants into three groups: fertile group - women who are in the follicular phase of their cycle ( $N = 119$ ), non-fertile group - women who are in other phases of their cycle ( $N = 440$ ) and oral contraceptives group - women who take oral contraceptives ( $N = 589$ ). The frequency distribution of fertile women in the different conditions was the following: 32 women received the description of Wilko with trauma symptoms and high appetitive aggression, 26 women received the description of Wilko without trauma symptoms and high appetitive aggression, 34 women received the trauma symptoms and low appetitive aggression condition and 27 women received the condition without trauma symptoms and low appetitive aggression of Wilko.

### *Procedure*

The online-survey was conducted for five months, using the software Unipark ([www.unipark.de](http://www.unipark.de)). It started with the informed consent, after which demographic variables were ascertained. Women had to indicate (a) the first day of their last menstruation, (b) the use of birth control pills and (c) their typical cycle length. It was their task first to read the

terror attack/war scenario carefully and to try to visualize this situation as vividly as possible. Then they were randomly assigned to one of the four possible characterizations of Wilko and given the task to read and imagine the described veteran ( $N_{\text{minimum}} = 287$ ,  $N_{\text{maximum}} = 317$  in every group). After that, they received the task to imagine being single and meeting the single Wilko. Participants rated the desirability of Wilko for different relationships and his characterization. Next, participants were asked to answer three control questions concerning the written description. Four different response options were offered for each question from which only one was the correct response. Participants could not go back to the description of Wilko. Only participants providing three correct answers were included in the final analyses.

## Results

### *Manipulation Check*

First we performed a manipulation check to prove whether the Wilko descriptions were in conformity with the underlying constructs. Therefore, we analyzed the rating for the dependent variable “healthy/ ill” for the single man with a 2 (trauma symptoms) x 2 (appetitively aggressive experiences of Wilko) between-groups ANOVA. For the variable “health/illness,” we found a significant main effect for the factor “traumatization of Wilko” ( $F_{1,1212} = 130.65$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .098$ ) but no main effect of the factor “appetitive aggression of Wilko” and no interaction of either factor ( $p > .05$ ). Women rated men presenting with trauma symptoms as more ill than men without trauma symptoms (trauma symptoms:  $M \pm SD = 3.4 \pm 1.54$ , no trauma symptoms:  $M \pm SD = 2.4 \pm 1.45$ ). Then we analyzed the dependent variable “appetitive aggression” for the single man with a 2 (trauma symptoms) x 2 (appetitively aggressive experiences of Wilko) between-groups ANOVA. For the variable “aggression/masculinity/dominance,” we saw a significant main effect for the factor “appetitive aggression of Wilko” ( $F_{1,1212} = 383.27$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta^2 = .24$ ), but not a main effect of the factor “traumatization of Wilko” and no significant interaction. Women rated men high in appetitive aggression higher in aggression, masculinity and dominance than men low in appetitive aggression (high appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 3.92 \pm 0.83$ , low appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 3.00 \pm 0.97$ ).

### *Results for ratings of long-term mate attractiveness*

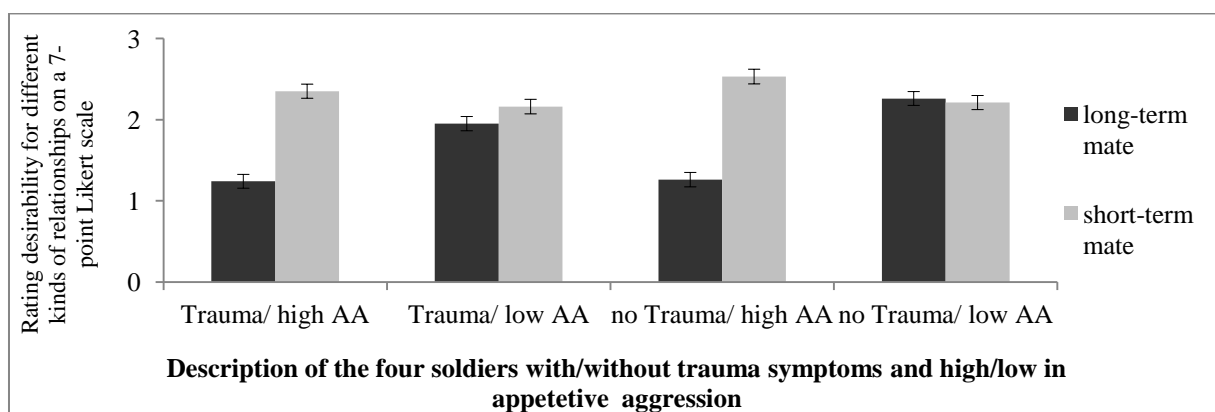
We analyzed the dependent variables “desirable as a long-term mate” for the single man with a 2 (trauma symptoms of Wilko) x 2 (appetitively aggressive experiences of Wilko) between-

groups ANOVA. We found a significant main effect for the factor “appetitively aggressive experiences” ( $F_{1,1208} = 79.22, p < .001, \eta^2 = .07$ ). Women rated a man with fewer appetitively aggressive experiences as more desirable as a long-term mate than a man who enjoys aggressive behavior. We found no significant main effect for the factor “trauma symptoms of Wilko” and no significant interaction of the factors trauma symptoms x appetitively aggressive experiences (see Figure 1). Women judged the desirability of a long-term-mate of a man low in appetitive aggression higher if the man is not traumatized, compared to a man with trauma symptoms (man with trauma symptoms/low appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 1.95 \pm 1.56$ , man without trauma symptoms/low appetitive aggression:  $M \pm SD = 2.26 \pm 1.74$ ,  $t_{605.03} = 2.26, p = .024, d = .18$ )

### Results for ratings of short-term mate attractiveness

We analyzed the dependent variables “desirable as a short-term mate” for the single man with a 2 (trauma symptoms of Wilko) x 2 (appetitively aggressive experiences of Wilko) between-groups ANOVA. For the factor “appetitively aggressive experiences,” we obtained a significant main effect ( $F_{1,1208} = 8.67, p = .003, \eta^2 = .007$ ). There was no significant main effect for the factor trauma symptoms and no significant interaction of the factors trauma symptoms x appetitively aggressive experiences. Women rated a man high in appetitively aggressive experiences as more desirable as a short-term mate than a man who does not enjoy aggressive behavior, but only if the man has no trauma symptoms ( $t_{599} = 2.55, p = .011, d = .21$ ). The difference in the desirability of men with trauma symptoms in regard to their appetitive aggression (high/low) is not significant (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Desirability for different kinds of relationships.

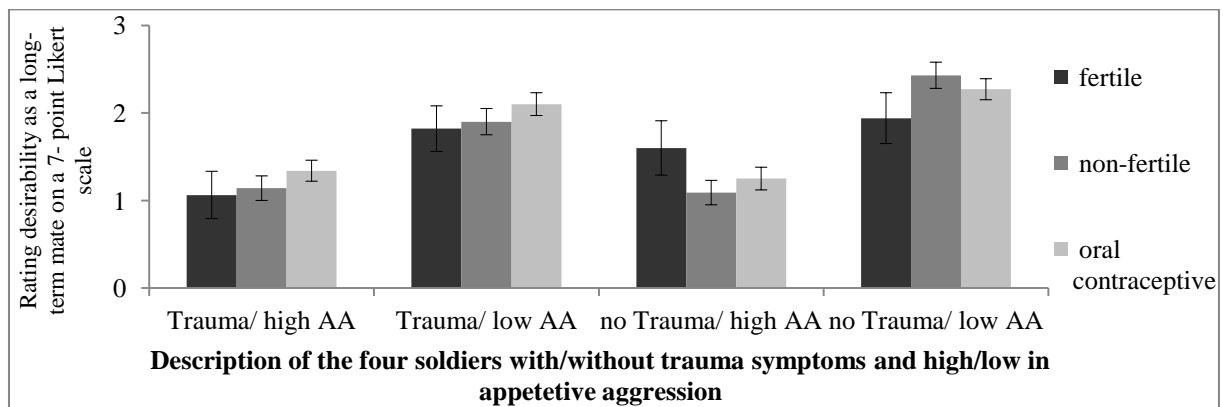


**Note:** Mean coefficients and standard errors for the men with or without trauma symptoms and with low or high appetitive aggression in regard to their desirability as a long-term mate and short-term mate.

### *The effect of the menstrual cycle on long-term mate attractiveness rating*

To detect whether women in different cycle phases and under artificial hormone influence (oral contraceptives) favor different types of men as long-term mates, we calculated a 2 (appetitive aggression) x 2 (trauma symptoms) x 3 (fertile/not fertile/oral contraceptives) ANOVA with unequal cell frequencies. The type III computation of the sum of squares was chosen. We found a main effect of the factor appetitive aggression ( $F_{1,1136} = 52.05, p < .001, \eta^2 = .044$ ), but no other significant main effects or interactions (see Figure 2). The difference between women in their fertile window and women not in their fertile window for the man without trauma symptoms and high in appetitive aggression was not significant ( $t = 1.67, p = .097$ ).

**Figure 2.** Desirability as a long-term mate.



**Note:** Mean coefficients and standard errors for the different men in regard to their desirability as a long-term mate. Rated by women in their fertile period (dark grey bars), non-fertile phase of their cycle (middle grey bars) and women who take oral contraceptives (light grey bars).

### *The effect of the menstrual cycle and of oral contraceptives on short-term mate attractiveness rating*

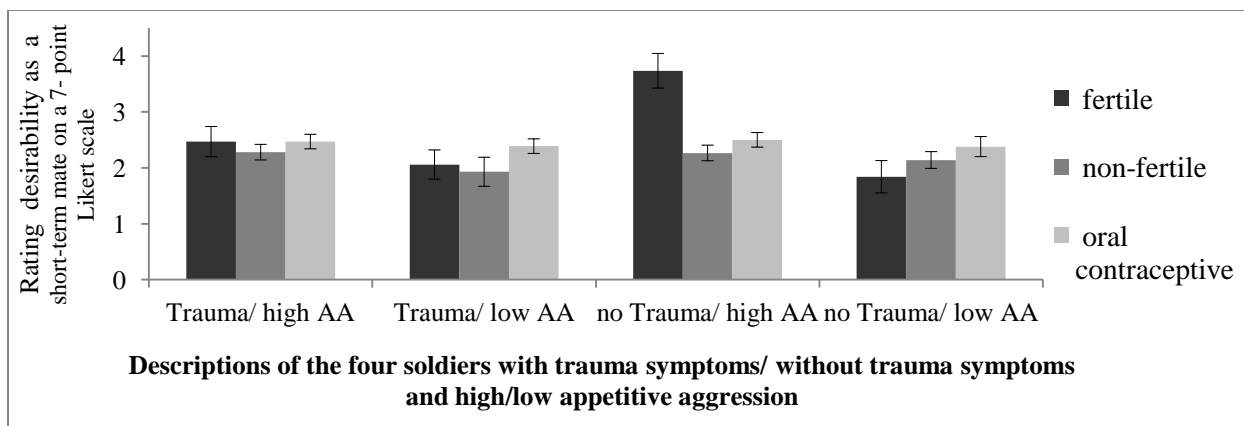
To detect whether women in different cycle phases and under artificial hormone influences (oral contraceptives) favor different types of men as short-term mates, we calculated a 2 (appetitive aggression) x 2 (trauma symptoms) x 3 (fertile/no fertile/oral contraceptives) ANOVA with unequal cell frequencies, and the type III computation of the sum of squares was chosen. We found a main effect of the factor appetitive aggression ( $F_{1,1135} = 19.03, p < .001, \eta^2 = .016$ ) and a main effect of the factor fertile ( $F_{1,1135} = 5.31, p = .005, \eta^2 = .009$ ) but no main effect for the factor trauma. We found a significant appetitive aggression x fertile interaction ( $F_{2,1135} = 5.71, p = .003, \eta^2 = .010$ ) and a significant trauma x appetitive aggression x fertile interaction ( $F_{2,1135} = 3.53, p = .029, \eta^2 = .006$ ) but no trauma x fertile nor appetitive



aggression x trauma interactions (see Figure 3).

Using a *t*-test for independent samples, we compared women in their fertile period of the cycle to those not in their fertile window on their ratings of the condition no trauma symptoms and high appetitive aggression of Wilko. We found a significant difference. Women in their fertile phase of the menstrual cycle found a man with high appetitive aggression more appealing as a short-term mate than women who are not in their fertile window (fertile group:  $M \pm SD = 3.74 \pm 1.60$ , non-fertile group:  $M \pm SD = 2.27 \pm 1.71$ ,  $t_{141} = 3.88$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = .88$ ).

**Figure 3.** Desirability as a short-term mate.



**Note:** Mean coefficients and standard errors for the different men in regard to their desirability as a short-term mate. Rated by women in their fertile period (dark grey bars), non-fertile phase of their cycle (middle grey bars) and women who take oral contraceptives (light grey bars).

## Discussion

Results suggest that men high in appetitive aggression scores are sexually preferred by women as short-term mates over those with a low score, particularly when the selector is in her fertile phase of the menstrual cycle. This result coincides with other studies demonstrating that typical, well-marked male attributes such as dominance and masculine facial features are sexually preferred by women in their fertile window (e.g. Havlicek et al., 2005; Penton-Voak & Perrett, 2000). When ovulating, women seem particularly selective and sensitive for a range of distinct markers of male features (Thornhill & Gangestad, 2008). This study indicates that not only the physical appearance but also behavioral traits – in this case, appetitive aggression in combination with no trauma symptoms – constitute signals for presumed genetic male fitness. Men who seek dominance and find pleasure in aggression are not a profitable option for a stable relationship because they pose a threat to the family, demonstrate less parental investment and engage in extra-pair copulation (Marlowe, 1999).

Consequently, as predicted, women in our study prefer men with low appetitive aggression as a long-term mate. Instead of a more aggressive man, a kinder, more sensitive man, might be a better option for a long-term mate (Buss & Barnes, 1986; Li et al., 2002).

While men high in appetitive aggression are deemed the least attractive potential long-term mates, regardless of the presence or absence of trauma symptoms, the presence of trauma symptoms mediates the attractiveness of the men with low appetitive aggression. Trauma symptoms in men with low appetitive aggression are evaluated as less attractive for long-term relationships compared to men lacking trauma symptoms and low in appetitive aggression. Traumatized men with higher appetitive aggression scores are found to be as attractive as similarly highly appetitively aggressive men lacking trauma symptoms. Men behaving less brutally during war are seemingly perceived as more sensitive and are therefore preferred. Appetitively aggressive men prove to be so strongly unattractive to women for stable long-term relationships that additional trauma symptoms have no further influence on the perception of a soldier. All in all, men without trauma symptoms and low in appetitive aggression are the most preferred options among the ex-combatants as long-term mates.

In this study women were tested once during their menstrual cycle. A within-subjects design, in which the same women are tested multiple times at different points of their cycle, might produce even greater effects owing to the control of inter-individual variations. Another restriction of this study is that we did not ask the women if they cycled regularly. Wilcox et al. (2001) showed that the likelihood of conception differ between women with regular cycles and women with irregular cycles. Therefore it might be useful to validate fertility hormone levels in future studies. Fictional descriptions of the different types of men we presented may limit the information value of our findings. However, the investigation of desirability of real men with/without expression of traumatization and low/high appetitive aggression might be distorted by many confounding variables. The advantage of this study is the standardization of the stimulus material, a large sample size and control questions ensuring participant attention to detail.

### *Conclusion*

The present investigation indicates that appetitive aggression in men may serve as a signal for high genetic fitness. Appetitive aggression enhanced the desirability of a short-term mate especially for women in their fertile window. Men with a combination of high appetitive aggression and lacking trauma symptoms are the most desirable option as short-term mates.

However, aggressiveness decreased the desirability as a long-term mate, whereas a partner with a low drive for aggressive behavior may be the better option.

### **Acknowledgements**

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## **Kapitel IV: The thrill of loving a dominant partner: Relationships between Preference for a dominant mate, Sensation Seeking and Trait Anxiety.**

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### **Abstract**

This study investigates whether particular personality traits predict the desire to choose a dominant partner. We specifically examined the traits of sensation seeking (SS) and trait anxiety as predictors of the preference for a dominant female/male partner. Sixty-eight men and one hundred and four women ( $N = 172$ ) participated in an online-survey. High Sensation Seekers were more likely to indicate a preference for a dominant partner. The Sensation seeking subscales boredom susceptibility (BS) and disinhibition (DIS) predict the preference for a dominant partner for both sexes. Individuals who try to avoid boredom (BS) and seek out exciting social activities (DIS) have a stronger desire for a dominant partner. For female participants, we detected experience seeking (ES) and trait anxiety as additional factors associated with the preference for a dominant partner. Women higher in trait anxiety have a higher preference for a dominant man. In contrast, women higher in experience seeking (ES) have a lower desire for a dominant partner. The results revealed a positive relationship between trait anxiety and experience seeking in women. Some women high in trait anxiety appear to relish an unconventional life style and seem to avoid a dominant partner.

### **Introduction**

Social dominance appears to play an asymmetrical role in partner selection for men and women. Women perceive so-called “nice guys”, who are submissive and willing to compromise, as boring (e.g. Herold & Milhausen, 1999; Urbaniak & Kilmann, 2006). It is the opposing qualities of dominance, strength and assertiveness that are attractive for women (e.g. Bryan et al., 2011; Sadalla et al., 1987). In contrast, for men, dominance behavior in women does not seem to increase their sexual attractiveness (Kenrick et al., 1994; Sadalla et al., 1987). Social dominance includes traits like being commanding, authoritative, masterful (Sadalla et al., 1987; Snyder et al., 2008) and powerful; being able to take charge, to be assertive and to be a leader (Bryan et al., 2011). Those character traits are not commonly associated with a kindhearted and sensitive person. In interpersonal interactions, dominant

individuals have their own goals in mind while neglecting the goals and needs of others (Kipnis, 1976). Moreover, they show less sensitivity to emotional cues, like for example facial expressions (Moeller et al., 2011). The definition of a dominant partner for this work is located at one extreme on a continuum ranging from dominant/assertive/leading to submissive/kind/ready to compromise.

It has frequently been suggested that, for women, male dominance is an important cue for a man's heritable fitness. For example, there is evidence that women in the fertile phase of their menstrual cycle prefer more dominant men as short-term mates to attain the best genes for their offspring (Thornhill & Gangestad, 2008): They prefer men with higher social presence and intrasexual competitiveness (Gangestad et al., 2004), they respond more positively to descriptions of men who enjoyed acting violently during war (Giebel, Weierstall, Schauer, & Elbert, 2013) and also preferred the scent of highly dominant men when they are in their fertile phase (Havlicek et al., 2005). In contrast, signals of good heritable fitness in women are youth, a low waist-to hip ratio (Singh, 1993) and skin homogeneity (Fink, Grammer, & Thornhill, 2001), however dominance is not mentioned (Buss, 2004a, pp. 195-202). Even from a sociocultural point of view, dominance is an integral part of the male role and absent in the description of the female role (Broverman, Vogel, Broverman, Clarkson, & Rosenkrantz, 1994). Therefore we expect that women have a higher preference for a dominant partner than men.

Thus, gender differences in the effect of dominance on partner preference are well-established and can be explained from an evolutionary point of view in terms of sexual selection. However, research has thus far not addressed the question of individual characteristics that determine the attraction to dominant partners, and whether these characteristics vary between the sexes. This would conform to a hypothesis of assortative mating: People seek out particular characteristics that complement their own unique attributes, rather than something that is generally attractive (Russell & Wells, 1994). So, are there certain traits that promote the attraction to a dominant partner? If a less dominant, but kindhearted partner is generally viewed as "boring", it might be expected that this perception is especially strong in individuals who are particularly averse to boredom and like new exciting impressions. These people would be more interested in a dominant partner than others. The concept of *Sensation Seeking* captures some aspects of this trait, being defined as "the seeking of varied, novel, complex and intense sensations and experiences and the willingness to take risks for the sake of such experiences" (Zuckerman, 2000, p. 225). High sensation seekers of both sexes have

more varied types of sexual experiences and partners (Zuckerman, Bone, Neary, Mangelsdorff, & Brustman, 1972, p. 315), show more risk-taking behavior e.g. in drinking, smoking, drugs and having sex (Giannetti, Casale, & Vanni, 2009; Zuckerman, 2007) and have a “short-term hedonistic attitude toward intimate relationships” (Zuckerman, 2000, p. 225) in comparison to low sensation seekers. Studies about assortative mating revealed that high sensation seekers are attracted to each other (Farley & Davis, 1977; Farley & Mueller, 1978). Research on the relationship between sensation seeking and the *Sixteen Personality Factor Test* (16 PF) (Cattell, Saunders, & Stice, 1950) offered the strongest correlation for the subscale Dominance (Zuckerman, 1979, p. 154). We therefore predict that sensation seeking is a predictor for the preference for a dominant partner for both sexes. In other words, we predict that they (sensation seekers) prefer men or women who have a high stimulation value (Zuckerman, 1994, pp. 178-179) and who are as tough and dominant as they are.

An additional personality trait that could be a predictor for women’s preference for a dominant partner, is trait anxiety. Snyder et al. (2011) showed in several online studies that women who are worried about becoming a victim of crime preferred aggressively dominant and physically formidable men as their long-term mates. Another noteworthy finding of the Snyder et al. (2011) studies was that the subjective vulnerability of women’s fear of crime was a relatively stable trait and was not influenced by preceding violent or safe photographs. Fear of becoming a victim of crime seems to be a part of general trait anxiety. We have already found statistical support for the idea that women high in trait anxiety could imagine a long-term relationship with a dominant partner more often than women low in trait anxiety (Giebel & Elbert, 2012). Therefore we expect that women who score higher in trait anxiety have a higher preference for dominant men. The complementary hypothesis, i.e. that dominant and self-confident women are attractive to anxious men, has to our knowledge, not yet been tested, so we have additionally examined this research question in our study.

This internet-based study examined the relationship between preference for a dominant partner, sensation seeking with all 4 subscales and trait anxiety and whether this varies between men and women.

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

Heterosexual Germans (104 women, age:  $M \pm SD = 25.43 \pm 5.99$  and 68 men, age:  $M \pm SD = 27.71 \pm 7.34$ ) took part in the online-study without receiving payment for participation. 108

people were students, 53 were employed, 4 were seeking jobs and 7 did not specify their status. All participants gave informed consent. The ethical review board of the University of Konstanz approved the study.

### *Procedure*

Participants were invited via social networks to participate in a study concerning partner preferences. They completed an online survey that was available for one month using the software EvaSys ([https://evasys.rz.uni-konstanz.de/EVASYS\\_01/index.php?mca=online/index/index&nOnlineTemplateId](https://evasys.rz.uni-konstanz.de/EVASYS_01/index.php?mca=online/index/index&nOnlineTemplateId).) After processing demographic variables, participants completed the trait version of the *State- Trait Anxiety Inventory*, then the *sensation seeking scale* (SSS-V) and finally the set of questions Preference for a dominant partner.

### *Dispositional measures*

#### *Preference for a dominant partner*

We developed a new set of questions for the general *preference for a dominant partner* (PDP) with six Items, drawing upon on key words associated with social dominance as demonstrated by Bryan (2011): “a very nice man/woman is often boring”, “dominant men/women are fascinating”, “sometimes I imagine being seduced by a strong and dominant man/woman”, “I often felt more in love with a dominant man/woman compared with a less dominant man”, “I like it when the man/woman takes on a leadership role in our relationship”, “I feel attracted to assertive men/women”. Participants have to refer the statements to the opposite sex and have to rate the extent to which they agree with the given statements. Each item was rated on a 7-point Likert- type scale ranging from 1= “not at all” to 7=“very strongly”. For every item a high value always refers to a preference for a dominant partner. For every participant the average score of all six items is calculated, and this can have a range between 1 and 7 ( $M \pm SD = 3.86 \pm 1.15$ ,  $N = 172$ ). In several prior studies we applied this set of questions to an entire sample of  $N= 1783$  participants (375 male,  $M_{Age} = 29.83$  years,  $SD = 11.01$ ). A factor analysis revealed a loading of all six items on one single factor, accounting for 61 % of the variance. The internal consistency was good with Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .87$ .

### *Sensation Seeking*

We used the German version of the *Sensation Seeking Scale* (Beauducel et al., 2003), form V with 40 items. The scale consists of 4 subscales: thrill and adventure seeking (TAS), Disinhibition (DIS), Experience Seeking (ES) and Boredom Susceptibility (BS). Each subscale includes 10 items. For each item participants had to make a forced choice between two statements (for example: ‘I like “wild” uninhibited parties.’ versus ‘I prefer quiet parties with good conversation.’). One of the statements always refers to a situation low in sensation seeking whereas the other statement always refers to a situation high in sensation seeking. A choice for low sensation seeking is always coded with “1”, a choice for high sensation seeking with “2”. The average sensation seeking score was calculated for each of the four subscales. The average score across all items in this sample was  $M \pm SD = 1.54 \pm 0.15$ ,  $N = 172$ ; Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .78$ .

### *Trait Anxiety*

Trait Anxiety was assessed with the German version of the 20- item (11 direct worded and 9 reverse worded) trait anxiety scale from the Trait-State-Anxiety-Inventory (Laux, 1981). It aims to measure the disposition of a person to respond with anxiety to situations perceived as threatening. Participants had to decide how they feel in general on a 4 point- Likert-scale ranging from 1= “almost never” to 4= “almost always” ( $M \pm SD = 1.91 \pm 0.45$ ,  $N = 163$ ; Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .91$ ).

## **Results**

### *Gender differences*

A *t*- test revealed that women had higher scores in preference for a dominant partner and also higher trait anxiety than men. Men scored higher in sensation seeking and three subscales of sensation seeking: thrill- and adventure seeking, disinhibition and boredom susceptibility. We found no gender difference for the subscale experience seeking (see table 1).



**Table 1.** Mean differences between men and women on preference for dominant partner, trait anxiety and sensation seeking

Variable	Men	Women	<i>t</i> (172)	<i>p</i>	<i>d</i>
Preference for a dominant partner (PDP)	3.57 ± 1.08	4.05 ± 1.17	2.74	0.007	0.43
Trait anxiety (STAI)	1.81 ± 0.44	1.98 ± 0.46	2.23	0.027	0.38
Sensation Seeking (SS)	1.59 ± 0.13	1.50 ± 0.15	4.01	0.000	0.64
TAS	1.73 ± 0.22	1.57 ± 0.27	4.02	0.000	0.65
DIS	1.57 ± 0.25	1.46 ± 0.23	2.49	0.014	0.46
ES	1.62 ± 0.19	1.62 ± 0.19	0.16	0.870	0.00
BS	1.46 ± 0.21	1.34 ± 0.19	3.86	0.000	0.60

**Note:** TAS = subscale thrill- and adventure seeking; DIS = subscale disinhibition; ES = subscale experience seeking, BS = subscale boredom susceptibility

*Variables predicting men's preference for a dominant partner*

Table 2 gives an overview of all one-way interactions between the preference for a dominant partner (PDP), trait anxiety (STAI) and the four sensation seeking subscales. We found the highest significant correlation between the preference for a dominant partner and the subscale boredom susceptibility. The correlation between preference for a dominant partner and the subscale disinhibition was also significant, as well as the correlation for the sensation seeking sum score. Thrill and adventure seeking and experience seeking were not significantly correlated with the preference for a dominant partner. We found no significant intercorrelation for the subscales of Sensation Seeking, except for the subscales boredom susceptibility and disinhibition. Trait anxiety did not correlate with any other variable.

**Table 2.** Pearson correlations among preference for a dominant partner, trait anxiety and sensation seeking for male participants

Variable	Correlations					
	PDP	STAI	SSS <sup>CS</sup>	TAS	DIS	ES
PDP	-					
STAI	.05	-				

SSS	.32*	-.16	-			
TAS	-.08	.10	.02	-		
DIS	.38**	-.14	.36**	.10	-	
ES	-.07	-.18	.20	-.01	.19	-
BS	.43**	-.20	.30*	.02	.35**	.21

**Note:** PDP = preference for a dominant partner; STAI = trait anxiety; SSS= sensation seeking scale; SSS<sup>CS</sup> = corrected sum score sensation seeking scale TAS = subscale thrill- and adventure seeking; DIS = subscale disinhibition; ES = subscale experience Seeking, BS = subscale boredom susceptibility \* $p < .05$ . ;\*\*  $p < .01$ .

To analyze the relationship among the different variables predicting men's preference for a dominant partner, a hierarchical linear regression analysis was calculated. Out of the different variables STAI, TAS, DIS, ES, BS and all possible two-way interactions, the minimum adequate model was selected according to the Akaike Information Criterion (Akaike, 1987), which included those predictors that explained PDP best. In the final model (table 3), accounting for 29 percent of the variance ( $F = 8.95$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $f^2 = .41$ ), boredom susceptibility and the interaction of boredom susceptibility and disinhibition explained the variable preference for a dominant partner best. Higher scores in boredom susceptibility and in a combination of disinhibition and boredom susceptibility, predict a higher preference in men for dominant partners.

**Table 3.** Summary of hierarchical regression analysis for variables predicting men's preference for a dominant partner ( $N = 68$ )

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>p</i>
BS	1.09	0.36	0.36	0.003
DIS	0.37	0.35	0.14	0.289
BSxDIS	1.63	0.70	0.28	0.023
$R^2_{adj}$	.29			

**Note:** BS = subscale boredom susceptibility;

DIS = subscale disinhibition; SSS = sensation seeking scale

The maximum cook's d value for the model was 0.42, indicating no severe influence of outliers and there was no evidence of multicollinearity in the regression (maximum variance inflation factor (VIF) = 1.32). Moreover, the residuals did not differ significantly from normal distribution (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test:  $z = .55$ ,  $p = .923$ ).

*Variables predicting women's preference for a dominant partner*

The correlation matrix for all variables is displayed in table 4. Preference for a dominant partner is correlated positively with women's trait anxiety, boredom susceptibility, disinhibition and sensation seeking, but not with TAS and ES. All four subscales of sensation seeking show a significant intercorrelation. Trait anxiety correlates positively with experience seeking.

**Table 4.** Pearson correlations among preference for a dominant partner, trait anxiety and sensation seeking for female participants

Variable	Correlations					
	PDP	STAI	SSS <sup>CS</sup>	TAS	DIS	ES
PDP	-					
STAI	.26**	-				
SSS	.27**	.04	-			
TAS	.17	-.18	.37**	-		
DIS	.30**	.02	.43**	.36**	-	
ES	-.03	.24*	.36**	.27**	.27**	-
BS	.36**	.19	.35**	.21*	.31**	.30**

**Note:** PDP = preference for a dominant partner; STAI = trait anxiety; SSS = sensation seeking scale; SSS<sup>CS</sup> = corrected sum score sensation seeking scale, TAS = subscale thrill- and adventure seeking; DIS = subscale disinhibition; ES = subscale experience seeking, BS = subscale boredom susceptibility

\* $p < .05$ . ;\*\*  $p < .01$ .

A hierarchical regression analysis revealed that the minimum adequate model according to AIC accounted for 24 percent of the variance ( $F = 8.00$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $f^2 = .32$ ) and contained boredom susceptibility, disinhibition, experience seeking and trait anxiety as the best predictors for women's preference for a dominant partner. Higher scores in boredom susceptibility, disinhibition and trait anxiety, predict higher preferences for a male dominant partner (see table 5). However, an inverse relation was found for experience seeking: The higher the scores in experience seeking, the lower is the preference for a dominant partner (see table 5). Regression diagnostics revealed neither a significant influence of outliers (maximum cook's  $d = .14$ ) nor of multicollinearity (maximum VIF = 1.21). The residuals did not differ from normal distribution either (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test:  $z = .67$ ,  $p = .767$ ).

Consequently, the negative beta value for experience seeking cannot be traced back to biases or shortcomings in the model calculation.

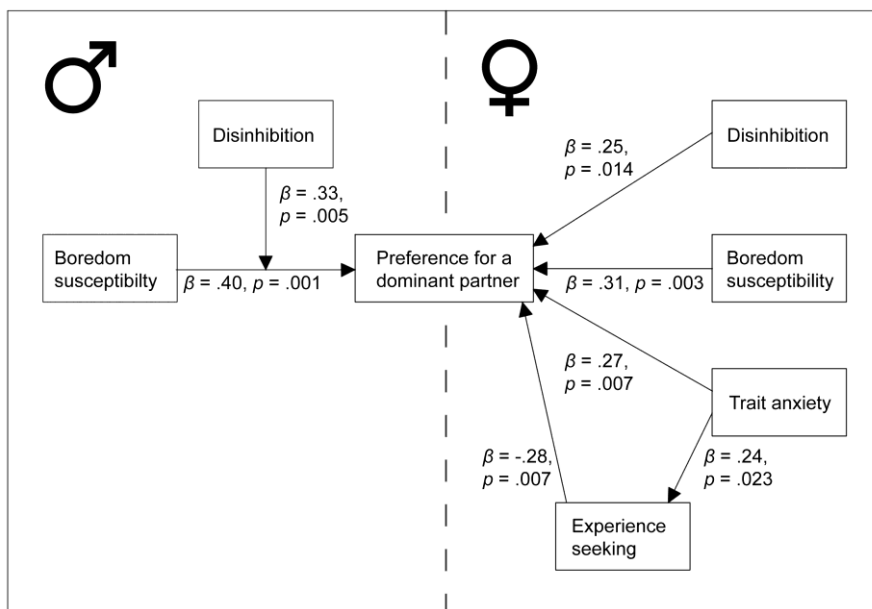
**Table 5.** Summary of hierarchical regression analysis for variables predicting women’s preference for a dominant partner ( $N = 103$ )

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>p</i>
BS	2.42	0.79	0.31	0.003
DIS	1.82	0.73	0.25	0.014
STAI	1.86	0.67	0.27	0.007
ES	-1.98	0.71	-0.28	0.007
$R^2_{adj}$		.24		

**Note:** BS= subscale boredom susceptibility; DIS = subscale disinhibition;  
STAI= trait anxiety; ES = experience seeking

Results reveal that for both sexes the subscales boredom susceptibility and disinhibition play an important role for the preference of a dominant partner. Women have the additional factors trait anxiety and experience seeking (see figure 1).

**Figure 1:** Variables that have an influence for the preference of a dominant partner



**Note:** Analyses are separated for both sexes. Non significant elements are not included.

## **Discussion**

### *Predictors for the preference for a dominant partner for both sexes*

As predicted, we found a positive relationship between sensation seeking and the preference for a dominant partner for both sexes. In particular, the subscales boredom susceptibility (BS) and disinhibition (DIS) predicted the preference for a dominant partner in our study. People who have higher scores in BS do not like repetition and social dealings with boring people (Zuckerman, 1994, p. 32). To feel comfortable and avoid boredom, they prefer the presence of different persons and individuals with exciting personalities. The results of this study demonstrate that dominant members of the opposite sex are interesting, attractive and appealing for people with high scores in BS. People who like new and exciting social activities like parties, social drinking and sex (description of the DIS subscale Zuckerman, 1994, p. 32) also prefer a dominant partner. To elaborate this further, sensation seeking, DIS and BS are correlated to the what Hendrick and Hendrick (1986) describe as a *ludus love style* (S. Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987). The *ludus love*, one of six different types of love classified by Hendrick and Hendrick (1986), describes a less committed, playful type of love. By this logic, sensation seekers choose a dominant person, because they are more likely to be able to provide them with this sort of relationship. For example, previous studies have shown that dominant men are preferred as short-term mates but not as long-term mates by women (Giebel & Elbert, 2012; Snyder et al., 2008).

We found no relationship between the preference for a dominant partner and the sensation seeking subscale thrill and adventure seeking (TAS) for both sexes. People, who like physically risky activities with (description of TAS subscale Zuckerman, 1994, p. 31), for example parachuting or diving do not find a dominant partner more or less attractive.

### *Sex differences and predictors for women's preference for a dominant partner*

Women show a higher preference for a dominant mate than men. The results are also in line with Sadalla's (1987) findings that female dominance does not enhance their attractiveness, but male dominance does. Women scored lower in the sum score of sensation seeking, thrill and adventure seeking, disinhibition, boredom susceptibility and higher in trait anxiety than men. These results are in line with prior studies of gender differences for sensation seeking (e.g. Ball, Farnill, & Wangeman, 1984; Kurtz & Zuckerman, 1978) and trait anxiety (Simon & Thomas, 1983).

Our findings extend the above cited gender research in showing that mate choices have an

element of assortative mate selection in addition to that of sexual selection. In other words, it is not just that females prefer a dominant partner, and men do not, particular combinations of personal qualities are also important. For female participants there are two different types of personality traits that additionally predict the preference for a dominant partner: sensation seeking (DIS and BS) and trait anxiety. Neither of the two traits correlated with each other. The two different personality traits potentially have different reasons for their common preference for dominant men. We suggest that women high in trait anxiety prefer a dominant man not for specifically sexual reasons, rather because they seek protection and a feeling of security, a notion that is supported by Snyder's (2011) result that women who worried about becoming victim of a crime prefer a dominant man as a long-term mate. Moreover, we did not observe such a relationship for men, which would be plausible assuming that the protective effect would only hold for dominant men but not for dominant women.

Another finding is a positive relationship between trait anxiety and experience seeking in women. It appears that women high in trait anxiety reveal two different ways of managing their lives. Some of them seem seek a strong and dominant man who seems to offer them protection. Other women high in trait anxiety try to compensate for their general fear with a more cosmopolitan life style, which includes openness to novel experiences. This second group of women does not like a dominant man as a partner. A possible explanation for this result is that women who cherish a bohemian life style and novel experiences concerning art, music and travel (description of ES subscale Zuckerman, 1994, p. 31) might feel oppressed by a dominant partner who seems to be a paragon of a classical patriarch. In line with assortative mating strategy (Russell & Wells, 1994) we speculate that women with high scores in ES might prefer creative, unconventional artists, philosophers as a partner, or a tolerant man, who supports her alternative and free lifestyle. We did not find a relationship between men's ES and preference for a dominant woman.

### *Limitations and future outlook*

The set of questions to detect "preference for a dominant partner" could be improved, as in its present form, it does not distinguish well between long-term and short-term attractiveness (Li, Kenrick 2006). This differentiation could be important for future projects, to further differentiate whether people specifically want a short-term or long-term relationship with a dominant man/woman (Giebel & Elbert, 2012). Besides this, different kinds of dominance could be further differentiated, for example, physical and financial dominance (Bryan 2011).

We determined social dominance as the issue of interest, using synonyms defined by Bryan (2011). The actual version of the set of questions measures a positive attitude towards a dominant member of the opposite sex in regard to their sexual attractiveness and feelings for fascination and infatuation for them. Past research primarily used fictional descriptions of dominant persons (Urbaniak & Kilmann, 2003), video material of dominant gestures body positions (Sadalla et al., 1987), or physical attributes like the scent of dominant men (Havlicek et al., 2005). This is the first study implementing a questionnaire to measure the preference for a dominant partner consciously. However the wide application of the questionnaire in the past demonstrated its convergent validity, in that women with higher preferences for dominant men also showed an increased preference for a dominant man represented in a fictional lonely hearts advertisement. The good internal consistency and factor loading on one single component tested in a big sample size ( $N > 1700$ ) speaks for the reliability of the question set.

### *Conclusion*

The preference for a dominant partner is stronger in women than in men. This result is in line with sexual selection-based viewpoints that dominant behavior in men conveys reproductive advantages. In addition to this our study shows that partner choice has an additional element that might be better described in terms of assortative partner selection: Dominant partners are more stimulating and attractive for men and women who avoid boring people (BS) and seek exciting social activities (DIS). Women who score higher in trait anxiety also have a heightened preference for dominant men, possibly because they expect protection from a strong and confident man as a long-term mate (negative assortative mating (Houtman & Falls, 1994)). Women with high levels in experience seeking (ES) have a lower preference for a dominant man.

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## **Kapitel V: Prisoner personal ads: the responsive women and their higher needs for sensations and desires for dominant partners**

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### **Abstract**

What type of individual would answer the personal advertisement of a prisoner, specifically those who have committed a violent crime resulting in the death of another person? 317 women read one of six possible personal advertisements of either a male prison inmate or a non-imprisoned man and had to decide whether or not they would respond. The inmate advertisement received almost the same amount of responses as the advertisements of non-imprisoned men. Women who would respond to a personal ad of an imprisoned man indicate greater sensation seeking and a higher preference for a dominant partner than women who would not respond. In contrast, we did not find a significant difference for these variables between women who would and those who would not respond to an advertisement of a non-imprisoned man. The reasons as to why some women are interested in prison inmates potentially lie in the attraction towards extreme male dominance and the desire for excitement in their life.

### **Introduction**

“... Murderers are often viewed as more than male: the most macho, strong, violent and brutal of all... If a woman is seeking excitement, passion, a meaning of life, loving a murderer can make her feel intensely alive.” (Isenberg, S. 225)

Many prison inmates in the world try to overcome their feelings of loneliness, boredom and the lack of sharing things by participating in pen pal programs or publishing a personal ad in a newspaper to get to know friends and partners (e.g.: [www.writeaprisoner.com](http://www.writeaprisoner.com); <http://www.initiative-gegen-die-todesstrafe.de/brieffreunde.html>). However, romantic feelings between pen pals can develop and potentially eventuate in a love relationship. Generally, a prisoner would not conventionally be found attractive as a partner as the committed crime would likely be found repulsive and the individual thereby perceived as dangerous by the women. Additionally, imprisonment inhibits mutual daily living, including shared outdoor



and domestic activities as well as regular sexual relations. Why are some women interested in getting to know prisoners? In her book “Women who love men who kill,” Sheila Isenberg (1991) investigated love relationships between inmates and their female partners. She interviewed various women, constituted their life stories (including childhood and former relationships), their current love relationship with the inmate, and future goals. Her conclusions highlight a typical pattern in the life story of the women, advantages of a partner in prison, strategies to deal with the partner’s offense, and the similarities between these unique relationships. After interviewing American women in love relationships with inmates, Isenberg (1991) observed no differences in age, education and income level in comparison to women who do not have a relationship with a prisoner. She describes these women as “little girls lost” who often lacked a father in childhood and survived violent experiences in former relationships. These women – she argued, would be drawn to extreme male dominance, looking for excitement by loving a dangerous man and want to maintain romantic passion in their relationship by deprivation and suffering (p. 224). Some commonalities shared by women in love with inmates include varying degrees of denial of their partner’s violent offense, enjoying undivided attention and reveling in being loved by men the rest of society have deemed dangerous. Additionally, the majority of women make contact with inmates is by answering personal advertisements. Apart from such commonalities, however, the different individual characteristics of the women attracted to prison inmates, specifically murderers, remain quantitatively unexplored. What are the character traits of women who would answer the personal ad of prisoner? How many women would reply to the personal advertisement of man imprisoned for a violent crime in comparison to the same personal ad of a man who is not imprisoned?

In this study we present women with the personal ads of men, either free or imprisoned, and observe how many women would potentially answer such an ad. We examine the character traits and demographic variables of the women who would answer to that personal ad in comparison to the women who would not reply. Isenberg (1991) emphasizes sensation seeking and the attraction to male dominance as driving forces for women who reply to the personal ads of prisoners. We measured these variables with questionnaires in an online experiment.

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

317 German women ( $M \pm SD = 24.03 \pm 6.01$ ) completed an online-experiment. 90% were students; about 50% were single and about 50% in a relationship. Participants received no financial compensation. All participants gave informed consent. The ethical review board of the University of Konstanz approved the study.

### *Stimulusmaterial*

Participants read one of six possible classified advertisements (see Appendix). The structure of the advertisement was based on real advertisements of prisoners in the United States. Key words in this advertisement are mainly “lonely” and “share” (Isenberg, 1991, p. 93). We used synonyms of these phrases and developed two different “basic” advertisements to enhance the validity. Inmates who committed murder either omit details about the crime in their advertisement or describe their crime more ethically (e.g. kill somebody for self-defense). We added two different crimes in the two different basic advertisements. One crime was described with the following sentence: “Currently I’m an inmate, because I killed the murderer of my best friend,” the second crime with this sentence: “Currently I’m an inmate, innocent, but falsely convicted because I killed somebody in self defense.” We added each of these two different sentences to the two basic advertisements.

### *Design*

In this experiment, there is Condition I and Condition II. Condition I consists of two similar advertisements lacking a crime. The two advertisements are generic versions of the same personal content simply describing a man. Condition II offers the same basic advertisements offered in Condition I but includes details of the inmate’s crime and explanation. Condition II therefore has two subtypes: Condition IIa representing homicide by reason of revenge or Condition IIb representing homicide by reason of self-defense. In total, there were six different advertisements.

## *Measures*

### *Attractiveness for different kinds of relationships*

Participants had to consider the man, based on his self-description in the advertisement, in terms of different kinds of relationships (date, steady boyfriend, life partner, platonic friend, pen pal sexual affair, one night stand) on 7-point Likert scale from 0 “not at all” to 6 “most intensive.” For the factor “desirability as a long-term mate,” we summarized the evaluation for his desirability as a life partner and desirability as steady boyfriend. We summarized the evaluation for the man’s desirability as a one-night stand and/or as a sexual affair into the factor “desirability as a short-term mate.”

### *Response to the advertisement*

We asked the participants if they would reply to the man who wrote the advertisement. There were the same numbers of participants in each condition. We compared the number of replies/no replies for the different conditions and proofed the results with a Chi-Square-Test for statistical significance.

### *Characterization of the single- man*

Women rated the man along dimensions that corresponded to those identified by Sadalla et al. (1987) using a 7-point semantic differential which consists of the following adjectives: dominant/submissive, soft/hard, feminine/masculine, bad/good, boring/exciting, pleasant/unpleasant, friendly/aggressive normal/strange, harmless/dangerous. We configured a Factor analyses and generated the average score of the item pairs belonging to the distinct factors.

### *The Need Inventory of Sensation Seeking (NISS)*

Based on the concept of Sensation Seeking (Zuckerman, 1979) as a character trait, Roth and Hammelstein (2012) developed a new assessment method to measure Sensation Seeking as a motivational disposition. The instrument with 17 items consists of two scales: Need for stimulation (NS) with 11 items, e.g. “I prefer strong and impressive experiences.” and Avoidance to Rest (AR) with 6 items (all items reversed coded), e.g. “I like to take time out to relax.” Each item was rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1= “almost never” to 5 = “almost always”. The sum score of all six items for every participant was calculated that

can have a range between 17 and 85 ( $M \pm SD = 49.31 \pm 9.91$ ,  $n = 317$ ). Sensation Seeking is defined by Roth and Hammelstein (2012) as a “need for novelty and intensity which develops its motivational power via the registration of discrepancies between the as-is and the to-be state.” Therefore the instrument measures not the concrete behavior itself (e.g. skydiving) as the SSS-V does (Arnett, 1994; Beauducel et al., 2003) but rather assesses the underlying motivational aims (e.g. feeling the excitement in the body). The NISS shows better reliability (Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .74$ ) and validity than the SSS-V (Roth & Hammelstein, 2012).

### *Preference for a dominant partner*

A new set of questions for the general *preference for a dominant partner* (PDP) with six items was developed drawing upon on key words associated with social dominance as demonstrated by Bryan (2011): “A very nice man is often boring,” “Dominant men are fascinating,” “Sometimes I imagine being seduced by a strong and dominant man,” “ I often felt more in love with a dominant man compared with a less dominant man,” “I like it when the man takes on a leadership role in our relationship,” and “I feel attracted to assertive men.” Each item was rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 0 = “not at all” to 6 = “very strong.” For each item, high values signify a preference for a dominant partner. For every participant the average score of all six items is calculated to have a range between 0 and 6 ( $M \pm SD = 3.02 \pm 1.25$ ,  $N = 317$ ). In several prior studies we applied this set of questions to an entire sample of  $N=1783$  participants (375 male, age:  $M \pm SD = 29.83 \pm 11.01$ ). A factor analysis revealed a loading of all six items on one single factor, accounting for 61 % of the variance. The internal consistency, with Cronbach’s  $\alpha = .87$ , was good.

### *Procedure*

The online-survey was conducted for six months, using the software unipark ([www.unipark.de](http://www.unipark.de)). It started with the informed consent, after which demographic variables were ascertained. Women were randomly assigned to one of the six possible classified advertisements and given the task to read and imagine the described man. Participants rated the desirability of the man for different relationships and then decided whether or not they would reply to the man in the advertisement. The characterization of the single man, the NISS inventory, and trait scale of the State-Trait-Anxiety- Scale (STAI, which does not appear in the result section, because we found no further significant results) are presented in the stated order.

## Results

*Factor Analysis* We performed a principal components analysis using a varimax rotation for all advertisements in order to examine the 12 separate adjectives for characterization. The structure is displayed in Table 1. We found two distinct factors, which we named “Unlikeable” and “Dominance.” We calculated an average score for the two factors. Comparing the two different basic advertisements with a *t*-test, we found no differences between factor 1 and factor 2. Both men were perceived as equally likeable and dominant (all *t*-values smaller than 0.88). We found a difference for both factors between men with different crimes. Men who committed homicide for reasons of *revenge* were perceived as significantly more unlikeable (homicide for revenge:  $M \pm SD = 4.95 \pm 1.19$ , homicide in self-defense:  $M \pm SD = 4.57 \pm 0.98$ ,  $t_{156} = 2.18$ ,  $p = .031$ ,  $d = .35$ ) and dominant (homicide for revenge:  $M \pm SD = 4.56 \pm 1.15$ , homicide in self-defense:  $M \pm SD = 4.20 \pm 1.12$ ,  $t_{155} = 2.02$ ,  $p = .045$ ,  $d = .32$ ) than men who convicted for homicide by reasoning of *self-defense*. Advertisements of men in prison are perceived by the women as significantly more unlikeable (men in prison:  $M \pm SD = 4.76 \pm 1.11$ , men not in prison:  $M \pm SD = 3.37 \pm 0.99$ ,  $t_{315} = 11.79$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 1.33$ ) and dominant (men in prison:  $M \pm SD = 4.39 \pm 1.15$ , men not in prison:  $M \pm SD = 3.19 \pm 1.22$ ,  $t_{315} = 8.99$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = 1.02$ ) than advertisements of men who are not imprisoned.

**Table 1.** Orthogonal Factor Structure From Factor Analyses From Semantically Differential

<i>Factor I Unlikeable</i>		<i>Factor II Dominance</i>	
Unpleasant	87	Dominant	79
Vicious	79	Hard	79
Strange	77	Exciting	74
Aggressive	76	Masculine	74
Dangerous	74	Self- confident	73

*Chi-squared analyses* In order to analyze the number of women who would answer the classified advertisements, we performed a Chi-squared-test. We found no significant difference in the number of responses between men who are in prison and men who are not,  $\chi^2(1) = 2.2$ ,  $p = .14$ ,  $\phi = .04$  (see table 2).

**Table 2.** Amount of women who would and would not contact the man of the classified advertisement

	Reply	No Reply	Sum
Man in prison	16	142	158
Man not in prison	25	134	159
Sum	41	276	317

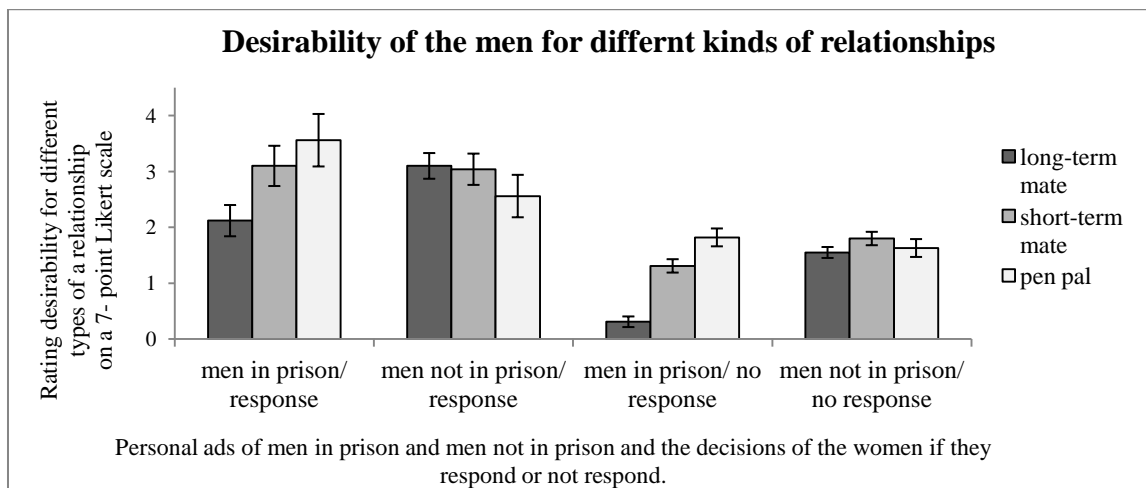
*Attractiveness for the different types of relationships*

We analyzed the dependent variables “desirable as a long-term mate” for the men with a 2 (men in prisoner/ men not in prison) x 2 (reply of the women to the advertisement) between-groups ANOVA. We found a significant main effect for the factor “men in prison” ( $F_{1,317} = 32.48, p < .001, \eta^2 = .09$ ) and a significant main effect of the factor “response of the women to the advertisement” ( $F_{1,317} = 75.13, p < .001, \eta^2 = .19$ ), but we found no significant interaction between the two factors. Men not in prison were preferred as long-term mates in comparison to imprisoned men. Irrespectively of being in prison or not women who would reply to the classified advertisements prefer the men as a long-term mate compared to the women who would not respond.

For the dependent variables “desirable as a short-term mate,” we performed a 2 (men in prison/ men not in prison) x 2 (reply of the women to the advertisement) between-groups ANOVA. We observed a significant main effect for the factor *reply to the women to the advertisement* ( $F_{1,317} = 30.68, p < .001, \eta^2 = .09$ ), but no other significant main effect or interaction. Women who would reply to the inmate’s classified advertisements prefer them as short-term mates compared to women who would not respond. We found no significant difference between the two different crimes. Men who were convicted of homicide by reasoning of revenge were as desirable as a long-term or short-term mates as men who were convicted of homicide by reasoning of self-defense.

For the dependent variables “desirable as a pen pal,” we performed a 2 (men in prison/ men not in prison) x 2 (reply of the women to the advertisement) between-groups ANOVA. We observed a significant main effect for the factor *reply to the women to the advertisement* ( $F_{1,317} = 17.26, p < .001, \eta^2 = .052$ ) but no other significant main effect or interaction.

**Figure 1:** Desirability of men in prison/ not in prison for different kinds of relationships



*Differences between women who would reply to the advertisement and those who would not reply*

*Analysis for advertisements of men in prison/men not in prison:*

Because of the limited sample size of women who would reply to a man in prison ( $N = 16$ ), we checked each dependent variable for normal distribution with the Kolmogorov Smirnov Test. Each variable was normally distributed, with  $Z < 1.16$  for each dependent variable. Using the Levene-Test, variance homogeneity was also confirmed for all analyzed variables ( $F < 2.43$ ). Using a t-test, we analyzed the differences in the need for sensations and preference for a dominant partner in the women who would reply to the advertisement in comparison to women who would not. Women who would respond to an advertisement of a man in prison show a significantly higher sensation seeking, including a higher need for stimulation, higher avoidance to rest and show a higher preference for a dominant partner than women who would not respond to an advertisement of an imprisoned man (see table 3). For the demographic variables we found no significant differences in age, education level, relationship status and income level between the women who would respond to the man and those who would not (all  $t$ - values smaller than 0.99).

**Table 3:** Mean Differences between women who would reply to the advertisement and women who would not reply on Preference for dominant partner and Sensation Seeking

Variable	Reply	No Reply	$t$ (317)	$p$	$d$
Need Inventory of	$56.88 \pm 13.54$	$49.13 \pm 10.10$	2.80	0.006	0.74

Sensation Seeking (NISS)					
Need for stimulation	37.37 ± 9.91	32.58 ± 7.82	2.26	0.025	0.60
Avoidance to rest	19.50 ± 5.13	16.56 ± 4.54	2.43	0.016	0.64
Preference for a dominant partner (PDP)	3.74 ± 1.19	3.01 ± 1.22	2.27	0.025	0.60

*Analysis for advertisements of men who are not in prison:*

We did the same analysis (*t*-test, comparing the women who would reply to the advertisement with the women who would not, normal distribution and variance homogeneity were also given) for the advertisement of men who are not in prison. Neither did we find a significant difference for sensation seeking (including need for stimulation and avoidance to rest) nor for the preference for a dominant partner. We found no significant differences in age, education level, relationship status and income level between women who would answer the man and who would not (all *t*- values smaller then 1.00).

## **Discussion**

The personal ads of men imprisoned for homicide inspire a strikingly similar number of response letters as those of men not in prison. This surprising result contradicts the conventional assumption that prison inmates would be perceived as undesirable relationship partners. It seems that, for some women, knowledge of a man being convicted for a violent crime such as homicide glosses over the typically undesirable status of that man, rendering him as a fascinating potential partner. When considering the ad of an inmate, women who would reply have a higher preference for dominant partners and higher sensation seeking than those who would not reply. Conversely, when considering the ad of a man not in prison, there is no difference in preference for dominance or sensation seeking between women who would reply and those who would not. This result coincides with Isenberg's (1991) conclusion that women who are in love with prisoners are attracted to extreme male dominance and have a desire for excitement.

The factor male dominance seems to play an important role when we try to explain female attraction to a man in prison. Male dominance in humans is not attractive for long-term relationships but rather for short-term mating (Sadalla et al., 1987). This preference for dominant men (Havlicek et al., 2005) and men with higher social presence and intrasexual competitiveness as short-term partners is higher for women when they are in their fertile



window of their cycles (Gangestad, Simpson, Cousins, Garver-Apgar, & Christensen, 2004) . Male dominance seems to be a signal for heritable fitness in men. Giebel et al. (2013) found evidence that appetitively aggressive men, i.e., men who enjoy engaging in aggressive acts, are preferred as short-term mates by women in their fertile window. Appetitive aggression results from the intrinsic rewarding properties of cues related to violence, hunting, and combat and differs from the reactive form of aggression thought to counter threat (Elbert et al., 2010; Weierstall et al., 2011). Crimes committed not for reasons of self-defense but rather for reward, invoking feelings of power and pleasure simply by behaving aggressively, belong to the appetitive type of aggression. Women who would respond to men in prison consider them to be more ideal as a short-term mate than as a long-term mate, whereas women who would reply to the personal ad of men who are not in prison, consider these men equally desirable as both a long and short-term mate. This result coincides with the finding that attributes of extreme masculinity in men, such as masculine bodies and faces (Frederick & Haselton, 2007; Rhodes et al., 2005), dominant behavior (Snyder et al., 2008) and appetitively aggressive behavior in men are preferred for a short-term relationship. Isenberg (1991) emphasized that women in relationships with men in prison often initiate the pen pal correspondence which later develops into a romantic relationship. Women in this study also prefer imprisoned men chiefly as pen pals.

The second important factor, which could explain the decision to answer an inmate's personal ad, is sensation seeking. Contact with a prisoner, one who has been convicted of committing a violent crime and who is avoided by most people, has a high potential to be exciting, special and forbidden. Women who have a higher need for stimulation and a higher avoidance to rest, find writing a man in prison to be a thrilling experience. This result coincides with the findings that women who avoid individuals they find boring and seek exciting social activities have higher preference for a dominant partner (Giebel, Schawohl, Moran, & Weierstall, 2012). Women who have experienced sexual childhood abuse show higher risk taking behavior such as nicotine, alcohol and/or drug abuse during pregnancy (Grimstad, Backe, Jacobsen, & Schei, 1998; Grimstad & Schei, 1999). There is a likely connection between childhood abuse and risk taking behavior and the desire to initiate a relationship with a prisoner. Perpetrators are often victims themselves, having survived various forms of childhood abuse and trauma (Glasser et al., 2001; Thomas & Fremouw, 2009). Women that experienced abuse during their childhoods may identify with these prisoners and seek out relationships with them. Childhood abuse can play a key role in the phenomenon of women falling in love with prisoners, because these women not only often demonstrate higher risk

taking behavior and higher sensation seeking than women who did not survive child-abuse (Bornovalova, Gwadz, Kahler, Aklin, & Lejuez, 2008), but they may additionally be attracted to men who experienced traumatic events similar to theirs during childhood.

Another finding coinciding with Isenberg's observation is the fact that we did not find differences in the demographic variables age, education level, relationship status and income level between women who would answer to an advertisement of a man in prison and those who would not. Women of all social classes and education levels have the potential to fall in love with a prisoner. Given that the experience of sexual adversity during childhood is independent of social class, and assuming that seeking protection is an important factor for the interest in imprisoned men, no such difference is to be expected.

The women in our study merely imagined if they would reply to an advertisement of a man in prison. However their decision had no real life consequences, and therefore reduced risk was involved in making the decision. This study did not look at the items observed by Isenberg (1991), such as problematic childhood experiences and/or dysfunctional patterns in former relationships of the women interested in male prisoners. Future studies should focus on these elements and should also consider the meaning of the type of crime committed. This is the first quantitative study examining the women's interest in prison inmates who were convicted for violent crimes resulting in the death of others. The personal ads were standardized and differed only by the one sentence providing information as to the imprisonment status and justification of the man. This standardization allowed statistical comparison.

### *Conclusion*

The personal ad of a prison inmate elicits almost the same number of responses as the ads of a man not in prison. Lonely men, no matter if they are in prison or not, can hope to find a pen pal or a partner by running an advertisement in a newspaper with a distinct chance of a woman responding. In the presently tested variables, there seem to be little differences between women who would respond to the ad of a man not in prison and those who would not. However, when considering an ad from a prison inmate, in comparison to women who would not respond to such an ad, women who would respond have a higher preference for dominant partners and higher needs for sensations.

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## **Kapitel VI: The Perception of a Woman's Love in a Relationship with a Prisoner is Erotic and Altruistic**

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### **Abstract**

Studies have reported the effects of imprisonment on the wives and girlfriends of prisoners, but have not investigated how these women perceive love and commitment. This study analyzes four different styles of love: *eros* (romantic love), *storge* (amicably love), *mania* (possessive love), and *agape* (altruistic love) in a sample of 96 women who are in relationships with prisoners. The same love styles were compared to a control sample of  $N = 96$  women. They were selected from a larger sample of 859 women such that the variables age and duration of the relationship of the two groups were matched. Results show that women in relationships with prisoners score higher on the *eros* and *agape* love styles in comparison to the women from the control group. Those women who stay in love with prisoners seem to endure the negative consequences of their partners' imprisonment through feelings of deep love, commitment, and altruistic care.

### **Introduction**

Women who are in relationships with prisoners are exposed to a variety of serious problems, such as financial problems, loneliness, sexual frustration, raising children alone, and stigmatization (Hannem, 2009; Morris, 1965; Schneller, 1976). Several studies examined the daily problems of women whose partners are imprisoned but did not analyze the love relationships of the couples. How do these women perceive their relationships? Which love styles are predominant?

Previous studies distinguished six different love styles: *eros* (romantic love), *ludus* (playful love), *storge* (amicably love), *pragma* (pragmatic love), *mania* (possessive love), and *agape* (altruistic love) (C. Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986). We did not assume that women love prisoners for pragmatic reasons, like financial or status benefits. It seems to be equally improbable that women in love with prisoners celebrate a playful style of love with them and other different short-term partners. In her book, "Women Who Love Men Who Kill," Sheila Isenberg (Isenberg, 1991) characterized the love between prisoners and their partners as a

romantic passion (*eros*) which gets inspired by deprivation. It is also imaginable that the relationship is more a friendship than an intense, passionate love (*storge*) because the couples have restricted chances of sharing sexual intimacy and the partners' offense could have an adverse sexual effect. Another possible explanation for why women stay with their partners even when the latter are imprisoned could be that they demonstrate a highly dependent and possessive love style based on their own uncertainty as well as uncertainty in their lover (*mania*). The love towards men in prison appears selfless, caring, and altruistic because the women have to endure loneliness and stigmatization and they cannot be sure that their effort will pay off one day (*agape*).

In this study, we test these four of six different love styles (*eros*, *storge*, *mania*, and *agape*) for women who are in a relationship with prisoners and compare the results to women whose partners are not imprisoned, but are the same age and in a relationship with the same duration.

## **Methods**

### *Participants*

Ninety-six German and Swiss women who were in a relationship with a prisoner participated in this study (Age:  $M = 32.77$ , 17- 63; duration of the relationship: 0.10- 46 years,  $M \pm SD = 5.54 \pm 7.09$ ).  $N = 78$  women answered the survey online, most of whom were acquired from an advertisement in [www.knastcafe.de](http://www.knastcafe.de). Eighteen women answered a written, pen and paper version of the questionnaire. These women were asked to participate by four different chaplains in various prisons in Germany ( $N = 9$ ) and by staff of the JVA Pöschwies, Switzerland ( $N = 9$ ). The crimes of the partners were mainly bodily injury (39), robbery (27), narcotics offense (25), rape (11), fraud (7), child assault (6), and seven other types of offenses. Twenty-eight men were convicted for two or more different offenses. Ninety women read either the verdict or were informed by the therapist about the offense of their partner. Eighty-three women were in a relationship with their partner before he was imprisoned. Nine women have a platonic relationship.

The 859 women who participated in the online study were mostly staff and students from the University of Konstanz. Ninety-six women were chosen in such a manner that they matched in the variables age and duration of the relationship with the women who have a partner in prison (Age:  $M = 32.77$ , 17- 62; duration of the relationship: 0.10- 44 years,  $M \pm SD = 5.94 \pm 8.16$ ). This control sample differs from the sample of women with partners in prison in the education level and the number of mothers. Women with men in prison were more often

mothers ( $N = 62$  versus  $N = 26$ ) and more often finished an apprenticeship ( $N = 65$  versus  $N = 40$ ), but fewer attended college or university ( $N = 12$  versus  $N = 48$ ).

### *Material*

We used four subscales of the “Marburger Einstellungs-Inventar zu Liebesstilen (MEIL)” (Bierhoff et al., 1993), which is a validated and standardized German instrument used to measure different love styles. It is partially based on six basic love styles that were investigated by Lee (1973) and Hendrick & Hendrick (1986). The instrument measures the love styles named *eros*, *storge*, *ludus*, *pragma*, *mania*, and *agape* using 10 items for each subscale on a nine-point Likert scale. We selected the four scales *eros*, *storge*, *mania*, and *agape* for this study. *Eros* describes a romantic and erotic type of love with strong commitment, whereas *storge* reflects love as deep friendship and a solid, down to earth relationship. *Mania* describes a possessive style of love with little freedom in the relationship and the propensity for intense jealousy. The scale *agape* captured an altruistic style of love with the effect that people focus on the needs of their partner and try to do anything and everything to help him or her. We simplified some of the original items to make sure that participants with a lower level of education would understand all of the questions (see Appendix). Cronbachs  $\alpha$  ranged from .82 to .91 for each scale.

### *Procedure*

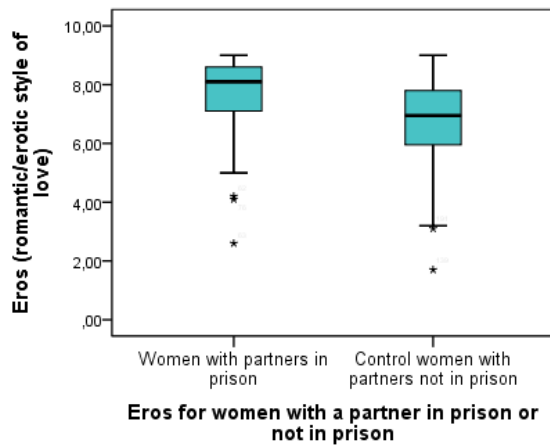
The participants received either the pen and paper version of the questionnaire or completed the identical online version. First, demographic variables and information about the relationship and about the offence of their partner were ascertained. The participants answered the 40 items from the MEIL. Women in the control group did not receive questions concerning the imprisonment. Participants received no financial compensation. All participants gave informed consent. The ethical review board of the University of Konstanz approved the study.

### **Results**

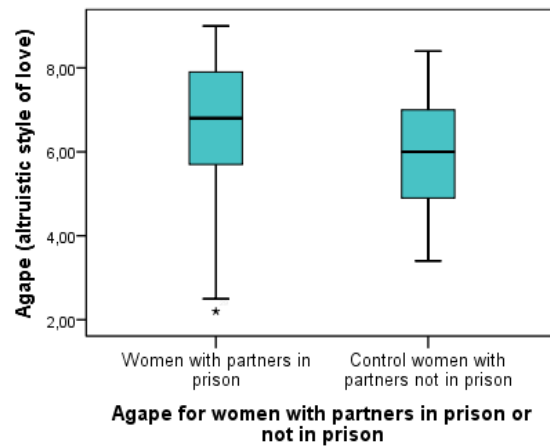
We found a significant difference in *eros* and *agape*, but not in *storge* and *mania* between the women with partners in prison and the control group of women. Women with men in prison have higher values in the love style *eros* (women with partners in prison:  $M \pm SD = 7.75 \pm 1.21$  control group:  $M \pm SD = 6.70 \pm 1.45$ ,  $t_{187} = 5.39$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $d = .79$ ) and *agape* (women

with partners in prison:  $M \pm SD = 6.54 \pm 1.77$ , control group:  $M \pm SD = 5.94 \pm 1.30$ ,  $t_{172.17} = 2.69$ ,  $p = .008$ ,  $d = .39$ ) than women with partners who are not in prison.

**Figure 1:** Boxplots *eros* love style for women with partners in prison and control group of women



**Figure 2:** Boxplots *agape* love style for women with partners in prison and control group of women



A linear regression analyze for the factor *eros* confirmed the effect of the variable imprisoned partner and revealed an additional effect of the variable university degree, but revealed no further influence of the variables finishing an apprenticeship or being a mother (see table 1). An imprisoned partner and a university degree predict higher scores in *eros* love style in women. A linear regression analyze for the factor *agape* revealed an influence on the variables, loving a partner in prison, being a mother and finished an apprenticeship (see table 2). Loving an imprisoned partner, being a mother and have not finished an apprenticeship predict higher scores in *agape* love style in women. Most of the women in our sample started the relationships before their partners became imprisoned. Only 13 women got to know their partners as prisoners. These two groups of women do not differ from each other in any of the love styles. We also differentiated the women regarding the offense of their partner, e.g., if it was a sexual crime. Again, we found no significant difference for any of the love style subscales.

**Table 1**

Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Eros Love Style (N = 192)

Variable	B	SE	$\beta$	p
Imprisoned Partner	1.22	0.21	0.43	0.000
University Degree	0.47	0.23	0.15	0.038
$R^2_{adj}$	.15			

**Table 2**

Summary of Hierarchical Regression Analysis for Variables Predicting Agape Love Style (N = 192)

Variable	B	SE	$\beta$	p
Imprisoned Partner	0.55	0.24	0.17	0.026
Being A Mother	0.50	0.24	0.16	0.039
Finished An Apprenticeship	-0.50	0.23	-0.26	0.023
$R^2_{adj}$	.06			

## Discussion

Women who are in a relationship with prisoners perceive their own feelings for their partners as highly romantic and erotic and they feel a strong commitment to their partners. This result coincides with Sheila Isenberg's (1991) observation that women in love with prisoners view their relationships as something special, as "true love" which is deep, romantic, and full of passion. Because of the cross-sectional design of this study, we do not know the causality between the high scores of *eros* love and the effect of the imprisonment of the partner. These women could be so attracted to extreme male dominance and aggression with an almost hybristophilic character (Money, 1986) that they actually have chosen aggressive men who had the potential to become delinquent and convicted of a crime in the future. Another explanation could be that the women are only able to endure their difficult situation if they really love their partners deeply and without any doubts. Women who have started the relationship before their partners became imprisoned and those who started the relationship during the imprisonment do not differ from each other in any of the love styles. Furthermore, the reason for the conviction and ergo the severity of the crime had no effect on the different love styles. That is why we interpret our results more in the direction that women maintain their relationships with men in prison only if they feel deep romantic love for them and not because they all have hybristophilic tendencies. As a limitation of this study we should consider that the women's answers could be subject to cognitive biases. A relationship with a prisoner is socially not appreciated and women who participated in this study expect that the results will be published. The *eros* style of love is eminently respectable. Maybe women who are in a relationship with prisoners try to present their relationship in a very positive manner according to the motto: True love knows no limits. What speaks against such a bias of social desirability is the result that women with their partners in prison did not differ from the

control group regarding the love style *mania*, which is a socially more undesirable love style.

Women who are in relationships with men in prison score higher in *agape*, the altruistic love style, than the women in the control group. The daily life of these women grew more complicated because of the imprisonment: Most of them have to find a job because they lost their main earners; they have to console their children, who lost their father, and have to explain them where he is; perhaps they have to deal with the fact that their partners have lied to them and committed a violent crime (Kern, 2002). They are only allowed to visit their partners for 30 minutes in a visitor room two times a month (example of the JVA Freiburg, Germany) and they try to support their partners emotionally by writing letters, organizationally by finding a good lawyer, and financially by sending care packages to the prison. Their lives changed completely with the imprisonment of their partners and it is not surprising that they perceive their love relationship as more altruistic and selfless in comparison to the control group of women. The altruistic love style is also higher for women who are mothers and who did not finished an apprenticeship.

This study shows that women who are in a relationship with prisoners describe their love as highly romantic, erotic, with a huge amount of commitment, and an altruistic focus on the needs of their partners.



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## **Abgrenzung der Eigenleistung**

**Studie 1:** Male dominance in different relationships and its consequences for female mating choice

Die Literaturrecherche, die Idee für die Studie, die Items für den Fragbogen zur Erfassung der Präferenz für einen dominanten Partner, das Versuchsdesign und erste Entwürfe für die Vignetten stammen von mir. Die Vignetten wurden gemeinsam mit Maggie Schuer und Thomas Elbert verfeinert. Die Idee Trait-Angst bei den Probandinnen zu messen, kommt von Thomas Elbert. Ich habe die Studie mit den Teilnehmerinnen selbstständig durchgeführt, die Daten ausgewertet und den Artikel geschrieben. Thomas Elbert und Maggie Schauer haben den Entwurf kommentiert. Danie Meyer-Parlapanis hat als englische Muttersprachlerin sprachliche Korrekturen an dem Text vorgenommen.

**Studie 2:** Female attraction to appetitive- aggressive men is modulated by the women's menstrual cycle and men's vulnerability to traumatic stress

Die Literaturrecherche, die Idee für die Studie, das Versuchsdesign und erste Entwürfe für die Vignetten stammen von mir. Die Vignetten wurden gemeinsam mit Thomas Elbert, Roland Weierstall, und Maggie Schuer verfeinert. Ich habe die Onlinestudie und die Nacherhebung selbstständig durchgeführt, die Daten ausgewertet und den Artikel geschrieben. Thomas Elbert und Roland Weierstall haben den Entwurf kommentiert. Danie Meyer-Parlapanis hat als englische Muttersprachlerin sprachliche Korrekturen an dem Text vorgenommen.

**Studie 3:** The thrill of loving a dominant partner: Relationships between Preference for a dominant mate, Sensation Seeking and Trait Anxiety.

Die Literaturrecherche, die Idee für die Studie und die Auswahl der Fragbögen stammen von mir. Anne Schawohl, die ich als Diplomandin betreut habe, hat die Datenerhebung durchgeführt. Ich habe das Datenmaterial ausgewertet und den Artikel geschrieben. Roland Weierstall hat zusätzliche Statistiken (Berechnungen zum Cooks d- Wert) berechnet und in dem Artikel integriert. James Moran hat als englischer Muttersprachler die Textkorrektur vorgenommen.

**Studie 4:** Prisoner Personal Ads: the Responsive Women and their Higher Needs for Sensation Seeking and Desires for Dominant Partners

Die Literaturrecherche, die Idee für die Studie, das Versuchsdesign und erste Entwürfe für die Vignetten stammen von mir. Die Vignetten wurden gemeinsam mit Thomas Elbert verfeinert. Ich habe die Onlinestudie selbstständig durchgeführt, ausgewertet und den Artikel geschrieben. Thomas Elbert hat den Entwurf kommentiert. Danie Meyer-Parlapanis hat als englische Muttersprachlerin sprachliche Korrekturen an dem Text vorgenommen.

**Studie 5:** Prisoner Personal Ads: the Responsive Women and their Higher Needs for Sensations and Desires for Dominant Partners

Der Fragebogen wurde in Absprache mit Thomas Elbert, Astrid Rossegger und Jerome Endrass entworfen. Ich habe die Onlinestudie selbstständig durchgeführt, die Daten ausgewertet und den Artikel geschrieben. Thomas Elbert hat den Entwurf kommentiert.

## **Appendix**

### **Vignetten Studie 1**

Description of the single- men Nr. 93(s/d), 75(s/s), 27(d/s), 38(d/d):

Single man number 93 behaves supportively towards his partner and trusts in her power of judgment and decision-making. He shows an interest in the needs and feelings of his partner. Towards closely related persons (partner, close friends and relatives), he is willing to compromise but will also take a firm stand when necessary. Towards other men, he shows strong presence and does not allow himself to be interrupted during conversations. Other men are usually willing to accept a subordinate role to him.

Single man number 75 behaves supportively towards his partner and trusts in her power of judgment and decision-making. He shows an interest in the needs and feelings of his partner. Towards closely related persons (partner, close friends and relatives), he is willing to compromise but will also take a firm stand when necessary. Towards other men he is very friendly. He lets himself be interrupted during conversations more often than he interrupts others and integrates himself into a group of men easily.

Single man number 27 is a man who likes making the decisions in a partnership. He wants to offer his partner broad shoulders to lean on und financial safety. Towards closely related persons (partner, close friends and relatives) he takes the leadership role and behaves with strong self confidence and assertiveness. Towards other men he is very friendly. He lets himself be interrupted during conversations more often than he interrupts others and integrates himself into a group of men easily.

Single man number 38 is a man who likes making the decisions in a partnership. He wants to offer his partner broad shoulders on which to lean as well as financial safety. Towards closely related persons (partner, close friends and relatives), he takes the leadership role and behaves as highly self-confident and assertive. Towards other men he shows a strong presence and does not let himself be interrupted during conversation. Other men are usually willing to accept a subordinate role to him.

## **Vignetten Studie 2**

### ***Wilko, condition 1 (with trauma symptoms, high appetitive aggression):***

Wilko is a very friendly, caring and attractive young man. He was trained in close combat and sent to the northeast of Afghanistan. After his return from the war zone, many things are different. Wilko is vigilant and careful. At night he often wakes, bathed in sweat. He becomes frightened when he hears unexpected noises, he is easily irritated and sometimes has trouble concentrating. Wilko only talks to his closest relatives about his war experiences. He fondly remembers the time when he hunted and defeated the enemy in close combat. He wanted to defend his country, his family and future generations. The memory of the bloody injuries and pain that he inflicted on the enemy, confirms him in his self-image of being a good combatant.

### ***Wilko, condition 2 (without trauma symptoms, high appetitive aggression):***

Wilko is a very friendly, caring and attractive young man. He was trained in close combat and sent to the northeast of Afghanistan. After his return from the war zone his behavior returns to its normal civilian routine. Wilko has integrated himself back into everyday life very quickly and sets himself new goals for his profession and private life. He is balanced and able to sleep well, despite unpleasant memories. He particularly enjoys spending time with friends and takes pleasure in a range of different activities. Wilko only talks to his closest relatives about his war experiences. He fondly remembers the time when he hunted and defeated the enemy in close combat. He wanted to defend his country, his family and future generations. The memory of the bloody injuries and pain that he inflicted the enemy, confirms him in his self-image of being a good combatant.

### ***Wilko, condition 3 (with trauma symptoms, low appetitive aggression):***

Wilko is a very friendly, caring and attractive young man. He was trained in close combat and sent to the northeast of Afghanistan. After his return from the war zone many things were different. Wilko is vigilant and careful. At night he often wakes up bathed in sweat. He becomes frightened when he hears unexpected noises, he is irritated easily and sometimes has trouble concentrating. Wilko only talks to his closest relatives about his war experiences. When he speaks about it, it is obvious that he only fought because that was his job and he had to follow orders. He had to defend his country, his family and future generations, and he had



to act in accordance to this duty. He would prefer to erase the memories of the bloody injuries and pain that he inflicted upon the enemy.

***Wilko, condition 4 (without trauma symptoms, low appetitive aggression):***

Wilko is a very friendly, caring and attractive young man. He was trained in close combat and sent to the northeast of Afghanistan. After his return from the war zone his behavior returns to its normal civilian routine. Wilko has integrated himself back into everyday life very quickly and sets himself new goals for his profession and private life. He is balanced and able to sleep well, despite unpleasant memories. He particularly enjoys spending time with friends and takes pleasure in a range of different activities. Wilko only talks to his closest relatives about his war experiences. When he speaks about it, it is obvious that he only fought because that was his job and he had to follow orders. He had to defend his country, his family and future generations, and he had act in accordance with his duty. He would prefer to erase the memories of the bloody injuries and pain that he inflicted upon the enemy.

Control questions in the end of the study:

Where was Wilko stationed?

- 1) Iraq
- 2) Afghanistan
- 3) Libya
- 4) Kosovo

Did Wilko change after he returned from war?

- 1) Wilko's behavior changed very little after the war and he sets himself new goals for his profession and private life.
- 2) Wilko is physically injured.
- 3) Wilko is vigilant and careful.
- 4) Wilko's changes very little after returning from battle, and he longs to go on another tour of duty.

How does Wilko deal with his war experiences?

- 1) He handles them by trying to communicate intensively about his experiences with other soldiers.
- 2) He tries to divert himself by enjoying a wild nightlife.
- 3) He fondly remembers the time when he hunted and defeated the enemy in close combat.
- 4) He would prefer to erase the memories of the bloody injuries and pain that he inflicted upon the enemy.

#### **Vignetten Studie 4**

##### *Basic advertisement 1:*

**Ich warte auf dich!** Attraktiver, sportlicher Er, 189 cm, sucht verständnisvolle und starke Frau. Biete viel Einfühlungsvermögen. Fühle mich einsam und sehne mich nach Austausch. Antworte zu 100%.

**I'm waiting for you!** Attractive, athletic man, 189 cm, seeks a strong yet understanding woman. I offer an empathetic ear. I'm lonesome and yearn to share my life with someone. I will definitely reply to you.

##### *Basic advertisement 2:*

**Ich warte auf dich!** Attraktiver, sportlicher Er, 189 cm, sucht verständnisvolle und selbstbewusste Frau. Ich bin sehr einfühlsam. Lass mich nicht länger allein, ich sehne mich nach einer guten Gesprächspartnerin. Antworte dir auf jeden Fall.

**I'm waiting for you!** Attractive, athletic man, 189 cm, seeks a self-confident yet understanding woman. I'm very gentle. Please don't leave me to be alone any longer. I'm yearning for someone to talk to. I will answer you no matter what.

##### *Basic advertisement 1 + Crime 1:*

**Ich warte auf dich!** Attraktiver, sportlicher Er, 189 cm, sucht verständnisvolle und starke Frau. Biete viel Einfühlungsvermögen. Zurzeit sitze ich leider in Haft, weil ich den Mörder meines besten Freundes getötet habe. Fühle mich einsam und sehne mich nach Austausch. Antworte zu 100%.

**I'm waiting for you!** Attractive, athletic man, 189 cm, seeks a strong yet understanding

woman. I offer an empathetic ear. Currently I'm an inmate because I killed the murderer of my best friend. I'm lonesome and yearn to share my life with someone. I will definitely reply to you.

*Basic advertisement 2 + Crime 1:*

**Ich warte auf dich!** Attraktiver, sportlicher Er, 189 cm, sucht verständnisvolle und selbstbewusste Frau. Ich bin sehr einfühlsam. Zurzeit sitze ich leider in Haft, weil ich den Mörder meines besten Freundes getötet habe. Lass mich nicht länger allein, ich sehne mich nach einer guten Gesprächspartnerin. Antworte dir auf jeden Fall.

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*Basic advertisement 1 + Crime 2:*

**Ich warte auf dich!** Attraktiver, sportlicher Er, 189 cm, sucht verständnisvolle und starke Frau. Biete viel Einfühlungsvermögen. Zurzeit sitze ich leider in Haft, verurteilt für einen Notwehrakt an dessen tödlichen Ausgang ich unschuldig bin. Fühle mich einsam und sehne mich nach Austausch. Antworte zu 100%.

**I'm waiting for you!** Attractive, athletic man, 189 cm, seeks a strong yet understanding woman. I offer an empathetic ear. Currently I'm an inmate, convicted innocently because I killed somebody in self-defense. I'm lonesome and yearn to share my life with someone. I will definitely reply to you.

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yearning for someone to talk to. I will answer you no matter what.

### **Items Marburger Einstellungsinventar zu Liebestilen (Studie 5)**

10 items for the love style *eros*:

My partner and I really understand each other.

My lover and I were meant for each other.

My lover fits my ideal of physical attractiveness.

My lover and I have the right physical “chemistry” between us.

Our lovemaking is very intense and satisfying.

My partner has a strong sex appeal for me.

If I see my partner unexpectedly, I feel an inner arousal.

Our sexual relationship is very satisfying and leaves nothing to be desired.

If I have not seen my partner for a long time, I feel a longing for him.

The erotic experiences I have had with my partner are the most beautiful of my life.

10 items for the love style *storge*:

I cannot love unless I have first had caring for a while.

The best kind of love grows out of a long friendship.

It is hard to say exactly when my lover and I fell in love. Our friendship merged gradually into love over a long time.

Love is really a deep friendship, not a mysterious emotion.

My most satisfying love relationships have developed from good friendships.

Only after a certain intimacy has developed, can I love truly somebody.

The best foundation for love is a good knowledge and acceptance of each other.

Love does not develop “at first sight,” but rather grows over time.

I can’t imagine love without a true equal partnership.

I can only love somebody if I have an amicable relationship with him.

10 items for the love style *mania*:

When my relationships end, I get so depressed that I have even thought of suicide.

Sometimes I get so excited about being in love that I can’t sleep.

When my lover doesn't pay attention to me, I feel sick.

When I am in love, I have trouble concentrating on anything else.

I cannot relax if I suspect that my lover is with someone else.

If my lover ignores me for a while, I sometimes do stupid things to get his attention.

My mood depends strongly on the quality of our relationship.

If I have a dispute with my partner, I get very depressed.

If I have trouble in my relationship, this affects other areas of my life.

I can't imagine life without my partner.

10 items for the love style *agape*:

I try to use my own strength to help my lover through difficult times.

I would rather suffer myself than let my lover suffer.

I cannot be happy unless I place my lover's happiness before my own.

I am usually willing to sacrifice my own wishes to let my lover achieve his.

Even when my partner is angry with me, I love him unconditionally.

I would endure all things for the sake of my lover.

It is a great satisfaction for me if I can help my partner.

Often I drop everything to help my partner.

I would do anything for my partner, if it is important for him.

True partnership is only imaginable when we take care of each other.