



Survey reveals women are better speed-daters

Women are better at speed-dating and are more likely than men to find a compatible life partner, according to a live social science experiment.

The experiment's findings, published by Routledge in the current issue of *Sexual & Relationship Therapy Journal*, reveal that when gauging initial attraction in a speed-dating situation, women are more choosy than men and are better at predicting how successful their potential relationship could be in the longer term.

Almost half of men (40%) offered to date women during the experiment, compared with just one in three (33%) women. Every woman received at least one date offer but three men received none at all. Where women offered to date someone, they consistently chose men who had been shown to have a higher compatibility score.

Glenn Wilson, personality expert at King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, who helped to carry out the experiment, said:

“We were surprised to find that even after a 30 second encounter during which there is no conversation at all, women are able to select potential partners with a high compatibility score.

“We could say this is proof that love at first sight does exist, for women at least.”

According to the scientists responsible for the experiment, women are better able to detect like-minded or compatible potential partners based on series of behavioural and visual cues. These cues may include physical similarities such as build and facial features, hair style as well as more superficial features like beards, earrings and tattoos, style of dress, body language and accent. For women, height is a major factor in attraction and male preferences are most strongly influenced by female waist-hip ratio, a sign of fertility.

The results are surprising because the compatibility profiling test used in the experiment is designed to predict the long term success of a potential relationship rather than short term 'chemistry'. Despite this, the results show that even when speed-dating, women are drawn to men who would make better long term life partners.

Glenn Wilson concluded:

“While the speed-dating experiment revealed some exceptions to the rule, especially where men were unusually shy, in general women were able to select potential partners with a high compatibility score and the longer the meeting lasted, the more compatible their choice became.”

About the experiment: A sample group of 38 men and women between 25 and 38 years old were selected after answering an advertisement inviting single persons to participate in a speed-dating experiment. Before meeting, each potential partnership was assessed using an established compatibility quotient test.

To view a report on the experiment, visit the *informaworld* site:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a747702576>