Narcissistic Mate Selection in Humans
By Bradley Ingram & Anna Sevic

Why is narcissistic mate choice common in humans, why do humans select mates that share most features with themselves?

Definition of Narcissism: Preference for the perceived self over, to the exclusion of the perceived other.

Predicted Hypotheses:
- Protection for local adaptation
- Sexual selection for males with narcissistic personalities

Demonstrating Narcissistic Mate Selection in Humans:
- In a 2004 study of human couples, it was found that partners show much higher facial resemblances than can be expected by random pair formation (Alvarez et al.).
- Earlier than that, a 1985 study found that on nearly every metric humans select a mate that matches themselves (Buss et al.).
  - Age, race, personality, socioeconomic status, facial resemblance

Local Adaptations and Outcrossing
Why does protecting local adaptations from outcrossing improve fitness?
The relationship between human mate selection and local adaptation is poorly understood.
- However the previously mentioned Alvarez paper speculated that this behavior could be a strategy to prevent outcrossing

Strategies for Regulating Gene Flow
- A study of Desert Tortoises found that females prefer males she recognized and found not mate with males translocated from other populations
- A serious problem for conservation

Human Local Adaptations
Humans exhibit a number of climatic adaptations such as:
- High-altitude hypoxia,
- Nasal cavity shape,
- Skin color,
- Body mass,
- And hair distributions
Narcissism as an Attractive Trait

- A 2009 study, found that narcissism is positively correlated with attractiveness.
  - Overconfidence
  - Aggression
  - Security

Narcissism as a Behavior

- The same study found that narcissism leads to promiscuous behavior in males.
- A strategy which can lead to higher fitness in males.

How narcissism leads to aggression

The study, Threatening men's mate value influences aggression toward an intrasexual rival: the moderating role of narcissism by Brid et. al correlated the mate value (MV) with aggression and narcissism.

The Problem with Narcissistic Mate Selection

- It is no longer imparts a fitness advantage to protect local adaptations
- Selecting a narcissistic and aggressive mate is not a recipe for a healthy relationship

Questions?

- What is narcissism and how does it influence mate selection?
- How does increased gene flow inhibit local adaptation?
- From an evolutionary standpoint, why is narcissism attractive?