

Is Interpersonal Attraction an Evolutionary Phenomena?

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Interpersonal attraction is an inherent element of social interaction. The definition says that attraction is the 'mutual interest and liking between two or more individuals.' (Psychology Dictionary, 2013). This essay will provide consideration whether or not attraction is an evolutionary phenomena. The first part critically introduces the evolutionary approach towards attraction in accordance to methods used to support it. The second part describes alternative, social theories to the phenomena with taking into account research done in this field. In this part similarity and complementarity theories will be supported.

The first assumption of evolutionary theory is that human behaviour has been developed throughout million years from the behaviour of our ancestors. Evolutionary psychologists suggest that basics of behaviour, in this case reasons of attraction towards others did not change at all from that time. Buss (2009) suggests that prehistoric people selected mates according to specific social scheme. He emphasizes on the fact that women preferred industrious and brave mates that bring support for them and their children. He uses the phrase 'imagine living as our ancestors did long ago' (Buss, 2009:106). The point is that it is impossible to carry out a research about mate preferences of prehistoric humans because none of them can be a whiteness anymore. The only methods that modern

person can use to 'examine' the behaviour of his ancestors is imagining and comparing to well-known self-experiences. There is no assurance that people millions years ago used the same way of thinking as they do now. That leads to a paradox: when people try to explain behaviour of their ancestors they use their own experience to do that. As well ...

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