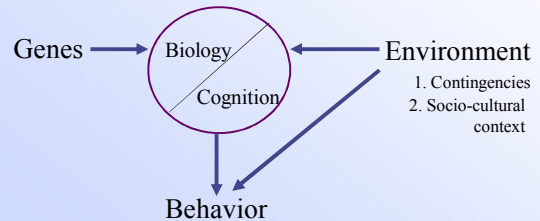


Love and Sex Lecture 24

IV. LOVE AND SEX

A. Love and Sex as Motivations

- We have examined genetic and socio-cultural basis of behavior
 - It has forced changes in how we think about behavior:



IV. LOVE AND SEX

A. Love and Sex as Motivations

- Today, we will apply this model to the study of love and sex. We will examine...
 - Genetic Factors (evolution)
 - Socio-Cultural Factors (norms and roles)
 - Individual Factors (cognitive)
- Broadly speaking love and sex are motivations
 - Other motivations include food, and work.
 - Motivation is an inferred process within a person or animal that causes movement towards a goal or away from an unpleasant situation.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **1. Need for affiliation.**
 - We have an inborn motive to associate with other people by seeking friends, companionship and love.
- **2. Mating strategies:** Characteristics in the opposite sex that attracts you?
- Evolutionary perspective: Men
 - Men's evolutionary interest lies in making a contribution to the gene pool by reproducing (as often as possible) with healthy woman.
 - Healthy generally means beautiful.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **Evolutionary perspective: Women**
 - Women's evolutionary interest lies in insuring that their (infrequent) contribution to the gene pool is protected
 - Protection is needed to support the child while the woman is pregnant and somewhat incapacitated.
 - Protection is also needed to support the child after the child is born while the mother has child care responsibilities.
 - Finding a "sperm donor" who will protect the mother and unborn child from before to years after birth is of utmost concern.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- So, from evolution alone we can predict that...
 - Men will be most interested in physical characteristics related to health and beauty.
 - They are at no loss to communicate that directly and forthrightly
 - Women will be as interested not only in physical characteristics related to health and beauty but also in psychological characteristics related to success and resource availability and trustworthiness.
 - Characteristics related to success and the availability of resources include intelligent, rich, and funny.
 - Characteristics related to trustworthiness include kind, generous, respectful, etc.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- Other factors in liking and loving cited by the textbook also reflect men's and women's interests have in making a contribution to the gene pool.
- **Similarity.** People of like attributes attract.
 - Keeping the gene pool intact.
- **Proximity.** We tend to like and marry people we live near.
 - 50% of us will marry someone from within a 5 mile radius of where we live.
 - Keeping the gene pool intact.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **3. Courtship Strategies**
- Courtship strategies are ways to communicating attraction
- Evolution has provided animals with various ways to express one sexual interest in elaborate Courtship Rituals.
 - The courtship rituals of many animals involves cycles of approach and avoid behavior.
 - In the human case, the coy retreat is called flirtation.
 - Why the oscillations between yes and no?

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- Each animal in courtship has to inform the other that his or her intention is not aggressive.
 - Males especially have communicate non-hostile intentions by performing various appeasement rituals that allay females' fears.
 - Sometimes appeasement gestures are derived from the species' infancy.
 - Birds woo intended mates by offering bits of food, as parents do to their fledgling. Here the announcement is that the males intentions are as gentle as those of a parent to its young.
 - The courting ritual may be only an remnant of the parent-infant feeding pattern as in touching beaks or billing.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- So, from evolution alone we can predict that...
 - Men's interest in reproductive success with healthy women suggests that they will communicate that interest directly and forthrightly.
 - Their courting rituals should involve demonstrating success and resource availability and trustworthiness
 - Women's interest in reproductive suggests with healthy men who are successful, with resource availability, and trustworthy will be coy in their communication.
 - Their courting ritual should involve the acceptance of gifts and various tests of trustworthiness.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **4. Evolution: Rape and homosexuality**
- Rape: Would appear to fit the profile of reproductive success in men and so may be behavior which was selected for in evolution.
- Problems:
 1. Rapists have other psychological problems than rape.
 - Rapists have problems with aggression.
 2. They show no interest in promoting women's well-being (quite the opposite).

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **Homosexual Orientation**
- The incidence of homosexuality is a stable 3-4%
- Much of what you may think is the cause of homosexuality is not.
- Homosexuality is related to it is not:
 - Childhood relations with parents
 - Homosexual encounters
 - Not related to feelings about the other gender
 - Not related to hormonal level
 - Victimization

IV. LOVE AND SEX

B. Genetics of Love and Sex

- **Biology of Homosexuality**
 - **Brain Neuroanatomy:** LeVay found differences in the hypothalamus and corpus collosium in gay and straight men.
 - But are these a consequence other problems of the homosexual men (all died from AIDs).
 - **Genetic Influence:** 52% vs. 22% homosexuality concordance rate in identical and fraternal twins
 - **Prenatal hormonal exposure.** If exposed in utero to atypical hormones, men may have a sexual attraction to other men.
 - Some gay men have spatial abilities like women.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

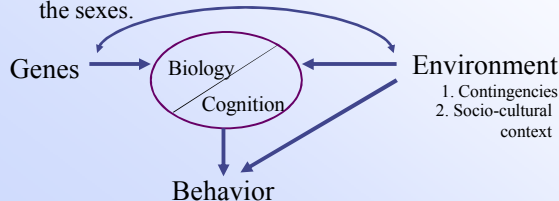
C. Socio-cultural aspects

- **1. Gender Stereotypes**
- Love and sex may not only be motivated by our genetic heritage, but also by our cultural roles and norms as men and women.
 - In our culture when it comes to sex
 - men are to be virile, unemotional, and aggressive
 - women are to be chaste, coy, emotional, and non-aggressive.
 - As in all other cases with norms and roles, violation will bring condemnation on you from both sexes.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Socio-cultural aspects

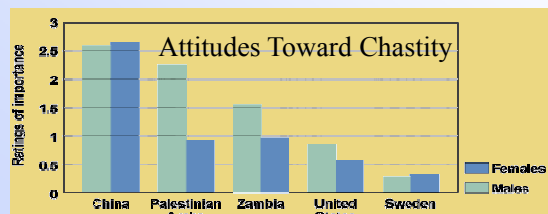
- The socio-cultural and evolutionary characteristics of sex roles seem to agree!
 - Such gene and socio-cultural agreement is more the rule than the exception. But (as is typical) cultural stereotypes overstate biological differences between the sexes.



IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Socio-cultural aspects

- Love and sex may be cultural stereotypes, but they are not fixed over time or culture.
 - Attitudes about one's partner's chastity has changed over generation and varies across cultures.



IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Socio-cultural aspects

- **2. The Culture of Desire**
- Culture matters in the regulation of love and sex
 - Kissing is not universal but a culturally specific activity.
 - Cultural norms, parental lessons, friends, and the media are the basis of learning appropriate behavior in the arena of love and sex.
 - Men and women form sexual scripts (implicit rules that specify appropriate sexual behavior for a person in a given situation).
 - The script varies gender, age, and culture.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Individual aspects

- **1. Psychology of Desire**
- Beyond genes and cultures, individuals have their own personal reason for love and sex.
 - Many different motives for sex:
 - Peer approval: To conform to peer pressure.
 - Partner approval: To appease one's partner.
 - Self-affirmation: To be reassured of one's desirability.
 - Coping: As a way to cope with negative emotions and disappointments.
 - Intimacy: To feel emotionally close to someone.
 - Enhancement: For pleasure or emotional satisfaction.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Individual aspects

- **2. The meaning of love.**
- Love itself has personal and individual meaning.
 - Sternberg's triangle theory of love allows for many different types of love
 - It is based on three characteristics of loving relationships:
 - Intimacy: Feeling free to talk about anything. Feeling close to and understood by the loved ones.
 - Passion: Euphoria and sexual excitement
 - Commitment: Needing to be with others and being loyal.

IV. LOVE AND SEX

C. Individual aspects

- Varieties of love occur because of differing combinations of three elements
- Examples:
 - Liking: Intimacy alone
 - Companionate love: Intimacy + Commitment
 - Romantic love: Intimacy + Passion

