

## Short term mating strategies and attraction to masculinity in point-light walkers.

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Strategic pluralism suggests that women engage in short-term sexual relationships when the benefits to doing so outweigh the costs. We investigated attraction to indicators of good genes (namely, masculinity as demonstrated by point-light walkers) in women varying in menstrual cycle status and sociosexual orientation. When women are fertile, they have the ability to gain genetic benefits from a male partner and should also be attracted to high levels of masculinity in men as a signal of genetic benefits. Sociosexual orientation is an individual difference that indicates openness to short-term mating and, thus, should influence aspects of mating strategy. Women with an unrestricted sociosexual orientation, as compared to women with a restricted sociosexual orientation, are more likely to engage in short-term relationships and obtain fewer nongenetic resources from their mates. Thus, they should place heavy emphasis on male masculinity as a sign of genetic benefits available from their mates. In this study, women indicated the walker most attractive to them on a constructed continuum of male and female point-light walkers. In Study 1, fertile women, as compared to nonfertile women, showed a greater attraction to masculinity. In Study 2, women demonstrated a strong positive relationship between sociosexuality and attraction to masculinity.