ATTRIBUTIONS OF DECEPTION IN DATING SITUATIONS

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Mate selection criteria for humans, and the concept of deception as a mating strategy, have both been demonstrated by past research. This study provides evidence that men and women believe that the mate selection criteria used by one sex corresponds to the deceptive tactics used by the opposite sex. A survey of the deceptive techniques used by men and women was completed by 62 women and 30 men. Results showed that both men and women believe that men attempt to deceive women about their financial status and level of commitment, and that women attempt to deceive men about their physical attractiveness. Thus, both sexes expect deception by the opposite sex in evolutionary relevant areas of mate choice. These results support the theory that men and women attempt to deceive potential mates about evolutionary relevant characteristics, but the opposite sex is aware of these likely deceptions.