Primary and Secondary Psychopathy and Mate Preference: Do Psychopaths Find Their Counterparts Attractive

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the Requirements of the Cardiff Metropolitan University for the Degree of Bachelor of Science
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own independent investigation under the supervision of my tutor. The various sources to which I am indebted are clearly indicated. This dissertation has not been accepted in substance for any other degree, and is not being submitted concurrently for any other degree.
I would firstly like to thank my family for their continuing support and encouragement, and of course for always sending me ‘pupdates’ of Jilly Bean the family dog to keep me going. Secondly I would like the friends I have made in university, have made the last three years so much fun, along with my flat mate who is always looking after me and ensuring I’m well fed with her amazing Polish cooking. Most thanks go to [Name] for giving me the confidence to go to university and supporting me throughout the entire degree with his nuggets of knowledge.

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“Did I gradgitate this time yet?” – Tall Morty – Rick and Morty, 2017
Previous literature suggests psychopaths are attractive for romantic relationships, and that they engage in assortative mating. The aim of this study was to identify whether this is due to the affective (primary) or behavioural (secondary) components of psychopathy and if there are differences in longevity. 167 female and 48 male participants were recruited primarily through a university participant panel and the data were collected via an online survey programme. In this study participants ranked the attractiveness (long and short term relationships) of personality vignettes, 3 of each high and low primary and secondary psychopathy profiles which were paired with pictures of individuals of the opposite sex an of average attractiveness. Participants then completed the Psychopathy sub-scale of the Short Dark Triad. The present study builds on the work of Blanchard, Lyons and Centifanti (2016) by addressing limitations and using a more specific form of analysis. The results found no patterns of assortative mating, however a significant interaction was identified between longevity of attractiveness attractiveness and the vignette type, with a significant preference being found in both sexes for high primary and high secondary vignettes in short term relationships, suggesting both primary and secondary psychopaths are attractive for short term relationships.
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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 – Overview

The mating patterns of males and females are significantly different (Jaffe & Chacon-Puignau, 1995) and it is suggested that humans often show preferences for mates who are similar to themselves (Watson, Klohnen, Casillas, Nus Simms, Haig & Berry, 2004). Psychopaths are typically seen as unpleasant, yet they successfully engage in relationships and research suggests they engage in assortative mating, actively choosing romantic partners similar to themselves (Blanchard Lyons & Centifanti, 2016). The attractiveness of psychopathy is of interest for many reasons and has many real world applications, one being that of jury bias as it is suggested the jury may romanticise psychopathic traits and make poorly informed legal decisions (Kopkin, 2016). The aim of the present study is to gain a better understanding on the mating patterns of psychopaths and to understand which aspects of it are considered appealing. This is important to identify as relationships between psychopaths have been argued to be highly destructive and are positively correlated with relationship breakdown, distress, and domestic violence (Han, Weed & Butcher, 2003; Holtzworth-Munroe, Meehan, Herron, Rehman & Stuart, 2003; Savard, Sabourin & Lussier, 2006).

1.2 – Background

The term psychopath is one used in both clinical and commonplace language (Sandvik, 2014) with the concept of psychopathy being traced back to as early as 1806, where Philipe Pinel coined a condition “madness without delirium” (Pinel, 1806). From this, a more specific and inclusive term pertaining to those with vicious or criminal inclinations was formed (Gattie & Holt-Hughes, 1914). Following which, decades of further speculation and formulation has led us to today’s understanding of the previously unexplained concept of psychopathy. The notion of psychopathy as a syndrome was outlined in the early work of Hervey Cleckley, in his book The Mask of Sanity (1941) in which he included 16 criteria to enable effective diagnosis of psychopathy as a disorder. In his book Cleckley suggested the behavioural, interpersonal and affective symptoms including antisocial behaviour and absence of remorse were ‘masked’ using characteristics such as superficial charm and intellect (Cleckley, 1982). This proposal was later empirically endorsed by Robert Hare who has since developed one of the most widely known measures of psychopathy, the Psychopathy Check List Revised (PCL-R, Hare, 2003).
Psychopathy is an encompassing term which is composed of multiple elements pertaining to the emotional, interpersonal and behavioural spectrum (Blair & Blair, 2005). Psychopaths are defined as having a lack of empathy, disregard for societal norms and high manipulation which is linked to an increased risk of engaging in antisocial behaviours (Neumann, 2007; Sandvik, Hansen, Johnsen, & Laberg, 2014) with common behaviours including a lack of remorse, promiscuity and risky sexual behaviour (Fulton, Marcus & Payne, 2010). A universal all-inclusive definition of psychopathy is yet to be established (Vien & Beech, 2006; Hare & Neumann, 2006; Skeem, Polaschek, Patrick, & Lilienfeld, 2011). The only agreed aspects are that psychopathy is an integration of motivational dispositions, developmental factors, individual differences and mental health (Sloan, 1997). In more recent years the label psychopath in its everyday use falls further away from the scientific conceptualisations. Through means such as the media the term psychopath has become somewhat poorly defined. Media portrayals of psychopaths such as Hannibal Lector and Norman Bates often come accompanied with common themes of egregious violence and insanity (Stevens, 2008), whereas in reality this is often not the case (Keesler, 2014). Many of the non-clinical public display psychopathic dimensional traits (Chabrol & Leichsenring, 2006) and the constellation of personality characteristics that make up psychopathy have been observed both across time and cross-culturally. Similar personality patterns have been identified from Alaska and Nigerian communities (Murphy, 1976) to Icelandic Sagas (Hoyersten & Breathnach, 2001). Although thought to be more prevalent in men, possibly due to most research using a sample of incarcerated males (Cima & Raine, 2009; Hicks, Vaidyanathan & Patrick, 2010), psychopathy is not gender exclusive. Female psychopaths in particular have been identified as being seductive and manipulative, using sensuality and sexuality to control, dominate and hurt others (Forouzan & Cooke, 2005). It is estimated that only 1% of the general public meet the criteria for psychopathy, rising to 15% in offenders (Coid, Yang, Roberts & Hare, 2009), however in spite of the negatively perceived aspects, psychopathy does not always lead to negative behaviours such as violence and crime.

In current literature, it is not uniformly agreed if psychopathy constitutes as a clinical disorder. Psychopathy is not currently recognised as a disorder in either the 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) or the 10th edition of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD-10). Contrastingly it is described by the British National Health Service as a severe form of Antisocial Personality Disorder (NHS, 2015). This concept has been further supported by the work of Coid and Ullrich (2010) who suggested psychopathy is a representation of
the extremity of antisocial personality pathology on a continuum. There is significant overlap between antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) and psychopathy, with only a small percentage of those meeting the criteria for ASPD also meeting that of psychopathy (Pickersgill, 2009).

It is argued that the ‘psychopathic personality’ is representative of a division of individuals who are qualitatively different to the typical population (Huss & Langhinrichsen-Rohling, 2000). Similarly there is also debate regarding whether psychopathy is a taxonomic (comprising separate and distinct classes) or dimensional (incorporating abnormalities as a scale) phenomenon, and which way it is best measured. From a pragmatic perspective, supporting a fully taxonomic argument would render it difficult to justify a study with focus on psychopathy in community samples where the base rate would be low, therefore a dimensional approach seems more applicable for the present study. It appears that the clinical classification of psychopathy as a disorder and the approaches of measurement are still available for discussion therefore for the purposes of the current study only psychopathic traits will be measured and discussed.

The notion of subgroups of psychopathy is one which has been theorised for many years. In 1941 Karpman postulated a division between two distinct psychopathy types, he coined these ‘idiopatic’ and ‘symptomatic’. The idiopathic grouping has later been referred to as primary psychopathy which pertains to the interpersonal characteristics, those who fall into the primary subgroup would typically display traits such as glib, superficial charm, manipulation, shallow affect and callous lack of empathy. The symptomatic grouping, also referred to as secondary psychopathy, pertains to the behavioural characteristics. Those in the secondary psychopathy category would typically exhibit traits such as antisocial behaviour, impulsivity, lack of forethought for long term goals and a parasitic lifestyle (Blair & Blair, 2005). One of the key differences thought to distinguish primary and secondary psychopathy is the suggestion that the symptoms of primary psychopaths reflects an affective deficit which is inherent, whereas secondary symptoms reflect early psychosocial learning resulting in affective disturbances (Karpman, 1948). Moreover findings of prison inmates who were abused as children related positively and directly to secondary psychopathy characteristics (Cooke & Michie, 2001; Lilienfeld, Skeem & Poythress, 2004). After many years of theorising about possible subdivisions of psychopathy, only in recent research have these been studied empirically (Carlisle, 2014). Cluster analytic research of psychopathic offenders have repeatedly highlighted subdivisions of psychopathy which map onto the concept of primary and secondary
psychopathy (Hare, 1991; Marcus, Fulton & Edens, 2013) along with many other validations of this theory (Neuman, MacCoon, Vaughn & Sadeh, 2005; Skeem, Johnason, Andershed, Kerr & Louden, 2007; Yildirim & Derksen, 2015). Primary psychopaths are often referred to as ‘successful psychopaths’ (Gao & Raine, 2010) this term is used as, unlike secondary psychopaths, primary psychopaths sparsely result in frequent arrest or convictions, suggesting that the way in which the psychopathic traits have been manifested enables them to refrain from serious anti-social behaviour (Patrick, 2005) or at least from getting caught. It has also been argued that certain psychopathic traits such as glibness, superficial charm and fearlessness might serve as useful assets in professions such as business and law (Hall & Benning, 2006). By this view of successful psychopaths, many researchers argue that psychopathy in each of its sub-groupings may be an evolutionarily adaptive strategy which will be discussed further.

It is argued that psychopathy originally manifested as an evolutionarily adaptive strategy. Evolutionary theory suggests that human nature as we now know it is a result of adaptations and evolution of psychological mechanisms used to counter problems such as survival and reproducing (Buss & Greiling, 1999). It is suggested that active behaviours such as impeding the efforts of others, stealing, mate poaching, ensuring compliance and cheating are used to increase the control of the desired outcome. The cheater strategy is thought to be effective yet requires the cheater to be manipulative, callous, and lacking in empathy (Baughman, Jonason, Lyons & Vernon, 2014). The theory of the cheating strategy is also referred to as the Cheater-Hawk hypothesis and is highly congruent with primary psychopathic traits, as studies have found positive relationships between primary psychopathy and cheating behaviours included in the cheater strategy (Book & Quinsey, 2004; Coyne & Thomas, 2008). The Cheater-Hawk hypothesis (Book & Quinsey, 2004) suggests that manipulative behaviours associated with primary psychopathy characteristics are an adaption resulting from cheating their way through things such as social interactions which they may find challenging due to a deficit in reading and displaying emotions and empathy. A secondary part of the Cheater-Hawk hypothesis is the Warrior-Hawk hypothesis (Book & Quinsey, 2004). This theory mirrors that of secondary psychopathy as they are theorised to be prober-retaliators as they react impulsively aggressive in situations which most people would deem inappropriate (Book & Quinsey, 2004). Findings support the conceptualisation that psychopathy is representative of a fast life history strategy, characterised by exploiting others for
personal gain including behaviours such as manipulation (cheater-hawk) and aggression (warrior-hawk) (Book, Methot-Jones, Blais, Hosker-Field, Volk, Visser & D’Agata, 2016). Other evolutionary adaptive elements of psychopathy include that of mating strategies (Barr & Quinsey, 2004). Mating strategies employed by psychopathic males such as sexual coercion, preference for short term relationships, and desire to engage in uncommitted sexual behaviour (Knight & Sims-Knight, 2004) are hypothesised to provide an evolutionary benefit for males in regard to reproduction. Theories speculate that the proclivity for interpersonal sex can be evolutionarily adaptive and therefore may be naturally selected for males (Malamuth, 1998; Knight & Guay, 2006). Evolutionary theorist argue that this is possible through frequency-dependent selection (Buss & Greiling, 1999), suggesting genes which advocate the cheating behaviours have been able to survive and therefore are passed on despite the fact that group cohesion became more adaptive in our evolution.

To summarise, the link between psychopathy and cheating strategies could be explained by evolutionary adaption, suggesting that psychopathy is an effective trait which may have been selected through natural, sexual selection or possibly both due to its evolutionary advantage of providing a reproductively viable life strategy during human evolution (Rice & Harris, 1995). It is also suggested that the adaptive traits were selected as in the case of males, they increased inclusive fitness in our evolutionary past (Dawkins, 1978; Harris, Skilling & Rice, 2001) resulting in an evolutionary influence on the mating strategies of psychopaths, as will be discussed further.

Psychopaths are typically seen as callous, manipulative, impulsive and irresponsible (Hare, 2003) therefore it would be expected that people would avoid relationships with them. However the study of psychopaths and mating preference has suggested that psychopaths and psychopathic traits are attractive for relationships (Jonason Luevano & Adams, 2012) notably in the short term (Jonason, Lyons & Blanchard, 2015). One explanation of this may be due to the media representations of psychopaths as ‘anti-heroes’ and ‘bad-boys’ who are presented as appealing. The media is awash with characters which embody dark personalities such as psychopathy (Jonason et al, 2012). In previous years around the mid-20th century psychopaths were displayed with the aforementioned negative ‘evil’ connotations, whereas with the turn of the century came a new breed of pop-culture psychopaths (Keesler, 2014). Contrastingly with previous media, more recent portrayals of psychopaths are of them in the role of an audience favoured protagonist. Research has shown that through the use of empathetic narrative
techniques, viewers are encouraged to empathise with and idealise psychopaths (Bentham, 2014) the resulting effect of this could be members of the lay community finding psychopaths endearing (Keesler, 2014). It has been found that individuals of the lay community with greater exposure to protagonist psychopaths endorse significantly more positive distractor traits, resulting in a tendency to romanticise and perceive psychopathy as an attractive quality (Keesler, 2014). However it should be noted that as a function of being on television most media depicted psychopaths are also physically attractive (Bentham, 2014). While misrepresented, the misunderstanding of the concept of a psychopath is positively slanted, and with more media renditions of attractive psychopaths a socially constructed normality of attraction towards psychopaths could become established (Jonason et al, 2012).

Other ways in which psychopaths may be found attractive could be due to the personality traits typical of psychopathy, such as how women in short term conditions are proposedly attracted to ‘bad-boys’ who promote confidence, hard headedness and inclination towards risk taking behaviour, all of which are also accurate descriptors of psychopathy (Carter, Campbell & Muncer, 2014). Furthermore it has been suggested that highly psychopathic individuals are found to be attractive due to their superficial charm, outgoing characteristics and the use of self-promotive mate attraction behaviours (Patrick, Fowles & Krueger, 2009). Included in the aforementioned self-promotive behaviours utilised by psychopaths are the use of effective adornment, involving the manipulation of physical attributes and qualities such as flashy or provocative clothing to create a physically attractive veneer (Holtzman & Strube, 2012) similar to ‘peacocking’. It is suggested that psychopaths actively try and make positive first impressions using effective adornment (Visser, Pozzebon, Bogaert & Ashton, 2010) and it could be theorised that influencing factors such as the ‘halo effect’, whereby physical attractiveness is associated with a host of other positive traits (Nisbett & Wilson, 1977), could encourage psychopaths to be found more attractive. Moreover, psychopaths are proposed to use derogation tactics by behaving in ways such as spreading nasty rumours about potential competitors for a mate, making themselves appear more favourable in comparison, this idea is highly plausible given their penchant for manipulation and exploitation of others (Grieve & Mahar, 2010).

The attractiveness of psychopaths can also be examined from an evolutionary perspective and it has been argued that psychopathy is no longer treated as maladaptive but confer reproductive and survival benefits (Jonason, Li, Webster & Schmitt, 2009; Glenn, Kurzban & Raine, 2011; Jonason, Webster, Schmitt, Li & Crysael, 2012). One
possibility of why women may find psychopathic men attractive could be due to the close relationship between traits which women find indicators of genetic quality, and the traits which are associated with psychopathy, as the traits (such as charisma and socially dominant behaviours) apply to both (Kruger, Fisher & Jobling, 2003; Babiak, Neumann & Hare, 2010; Durante, Griskevicius, Simpson, Cantu & Li, 2012) this is highlighted as the ‘good genes hypothesis’ in previous literature (Blanchard, Lyons & Centifanti, 2016). However less is known about male’s preference to female psychopaths.

Psychopaths and those harbouring Dark Triad traits have been argued to engage in assortative mating in recent literature (Blanchard et al, 2016; Jonason, Lyons & Blanchard, 2015). Assortative mating refers to the process of selecting romantic partners similar to oneself on a range of factors including physical, psychological and socioeconomic. Moreover, evolutionary psychologists propose that assortative mating is an adaptive function due to the increase of familial genetic relatedness (Thiessen & Gregg, 1980). Assortative mating has previously been evidenced in personality constellations related to secondary psychopathy such as antisocial behaviours (Krueger, Moffitt, Caspi, Bleske & Silva, 1998) and criminal inclinations (Boutwell, Beaver & Barnes, 2012), contrastingly little is known about assortative mating in primary psychopaths. However it has been suggested that primary psychopaths may be more inclined to pursue relationships with other primary psychopaths due to enjoyment from the drama of the relationship (Jonason, Valentine, Li & Haberson, 2011).

1.3 Rationale, Summary and Aims

Currently there is limited research on why psychopaths may engage in assortative mating, especially that which examines the two distinctive facets of psychopathy. One study conducted by Blanchard et al (2016) does just that. The results of which found that the control group (individuals scoring low in both facets of psychopathy) showed preference to those low in primary and secondary psychopathy, contrary to previous literature (Jonason et al, 2015). It was noted that this may be due to the average age of the female participants, as in the Blanchard et al (2016) study the average age was significantly higher than that of previous studies which found preference for psychopathic men. However patterns of assortative mating in females was identified, with both high primary and high secondary females showing preference for their male counterparts.

The present study will build on the work of the aforementioned Blanchard et al (2016) study whilst addressing some of its limitations. The previously highlighted issue with participants age is expected to be somewhat controlled as the participants will be
predominantly composed of undergraduate students. The methods of analysis in the present study will differ to the Blanchard et al (2016) study as an analysis of variance (3-way mix ANOVA) will be used rather than a regression model due to the between subjects categories of the IV's and the type of data that will be collected. One limitation noted in the Blanchard et al (2016) study was that they did not control for ovulation, which is argued can distort how females evaluate potential mates (Durante et al, 2012), therefore data from female participants amidst ovulation will be filtered out prior to analysis. The materials used will also differ, Blanchard et al (2016) used the SRP-3 to measure the psychopathy levels of the participant, however the materials are not available to the researcher therefore the psychopathy sub-scale of the Short Dark Triad (SDT) will be used in its place. The SDT will concurrently test the generality of the original findings using a shorter, easier to administer alternative. An evaluative comparison study between the SRP and the SDT identifies that this is an appropriate substitute (Jones & Paulhus, 2002) (please see psychometric evaluations under materials). A community sample was selected as most previous literature pertinent to psychopathy uses samples of incarcerated males, not only does this make the results ungeneralizable outside of such a setting but it also disambiguates the findings of psychopathy from those who are generally antisocial (Gao & Raine, 2010). Furthermore, studies of psychopathy as a whole, using prison samples mainly house secondary psychopaths and few studies distinguish between the two (Coyne & Thomas, 2008) the present study will attempt to address further this understudied area.

It is argued that studies examining relationships and personality disorders seldom consider one of the most ‘destructive’ personality disorders – psychopathy, and that subclinical psychopathy is largely neglected in research (Williams, Spidel & Paulhus, 2005). The purpose of the proposed study is to contribute to the understudied but emerging research area regarding the allure of those who harbour psychopathic traits, distinctions between affective or behavioural components, whether those individuals engage in assortative mating and to note possible consequences. Based on previous literature it is expected that the results of the proposed study will show a significant 3 way interaction with regards to female participants but not males, displaying patterns of effect similar to that of previous work in (Blanchard et al, 2016) however the materials used will be more applicable to real world situations therefore increasing ecological validity.
2.1 Participants

An opportunity sample used for this study which consisted of 215 participants most of whom were recruited via the university participant panel from a university in Wales. An undergraduate sample was used due to convenience of recruitment. GPower analysis for 3-way mixed ANOVA’s suggests that this sample is adequate for observing moderate effect sizes for anticipated interactions. All participants were aged 18 and above with the average age group being 25-34 (St Dev. =1.36). The male to female split was as follows; F=167, M=48. The data from homosexual and bisexual participants were filtered out before analysis, not excluded. In addition to prevent distortion of results, the data collected from females who were ovulating at time of study was also filtered out which will be discussed further in the results section.

2.2 Design

The design for this study was a mixed within and between subjects factorial design using naturalistic between group participant allocation. The design contains multiple independent variables (IV) the first being Psychopathy Status of Participant which is a between groups variable with three levels (high primary psychopathy, high secondary psychopathy, low in both/control). The second also being a between groups factor of Sex of Participant with two levels (male, female). The final IV is a within factor of Vignette Type, male vignettes for female participants and vice versa, with four levels (low primary psychopathy, high primary psychopathy, low secondary psychopathy, high secondary psychopathy).

The reported attractiveness of the person profiles serves as the Dependent Variable (DV), with two levels, measuring attractiveness pertaining to short-term relationships (one night stands, fling etc) and of long-term relationships (marriage, potential spouse).
2.3 Materials

The Short Dark Triad (SDT).

The psychopathy sub scale of the SDT will be used to measure the psychopathic traits of the participant. The SDT will be used in place of the now commercialized Self Report Psychopathy Scale (SRP) which has been identified as an appropriate substitute (Jones & Paulhus, 2002). The scale consists of 15 statements which can be used to describe the participant’s self, 4 of the 15 questions being reversed scoring items. The psychopathic traits measured are divided into two facets, the affective traits of psychopathy which correlate with primary psychopathy (Callous Affect, Short-Term Manipulation) and the behavioural traits which correlate with secondary psychopathy (Antisocial Behaviour, Erratic Lifestyle). The response format for this measure is a self-report, 5-point Likert scale identifying how much the participant identifies with each statement, 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (neither agree or disagree), 4 (agree), 5 (strongly agree).

The Short Dark Triad revealed adequate discriminant and criterion validity (Maples, Lamkin & Miller, 2014), studies also indicate that the SDT provides efficient, reliable and valid measures of the Dark Triad of personalities (Cronbach’s Alpha = .80) (Jones & Paulhus, 2002).

Personality Profile Vignettes.

The dependent variable will be measured using personality profile vignettes taken from the study being replicated (Blanchard et al, 2016). The vignettes were composed of 12 sex specific personality profiles, three each for high and low primary psychopathy and high and low secondary psychopathy (See Appendix A). The primary psychopathic profiles depict the individuals as un-empathetic and manipulative whereas the secondary psychopathic profiles depict impulsive, risky characters. Each personality profile was paired with a picture of an individual of the opposite sex (deemed in a pilot study to be of average physical attractiveness) to increase ecological validity. The attractiveness was measured on 2 10cm visual analogue scales, one measuring attractiveness for short term relationships (such as one night stands) and the other measuring attractiveness for long term relationships (such as potential marital partners). The vignettes were identified as having moderate to good internal consistency (Cronbach’s Alpha = .55 to .86).
\textbf{2.3 Procedure}

The data was collected via an online survey programme called Qualtrics. Participants were able to use the university participant panel to find and partake in the study in exchange for course credits or via a direct link. Once the link had been accessed an information page was displayed prior to starting the survey, providing information about the study, possible risks and contact information, participants were notified that by completing the study they provided consent. The participants had to acknowledge the information page to continue. Upon starting the survey the participants were asked to state their age, gender, sexual orientation and female participants were asked if they were currently ovulating (a definition was provided alongside the question). No personally identifying information was collected. Participants would then complete the psychopathy sub-scale of the SDT using 5 point Likert scales, followed by the rating of attractiveness of the vignettes (in long and short term conditions) on two 10cm visual analogue scales of personality vignettes accompanied by pictures of individuals of the opposite sex of average attractiveness (identified in pilot study). The order the vignettes were displayed in was the same order as the original study (Blanchard et al, 2016) as shown in appendix A. The order of the scales were alternated throughout to limit order effects.

Following the completion of the survey the participants were presented with a debrief page including contact details and relevant support should they need it, and thanked for their time.

\textbf{2.4 Method of Analysis}

4 2x4x2 mixed analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 23) was used to show any possible interactions between psychopathy state of participant and the attractiveness of psychopathic vignettes in short and long term conditions. All analyses used .05 alpha and Bonferroni adjustments for multiple comparisons. 4 three-way ANOVA’s were used as it is the most efficient method for testing significant differences between sample means. Furthermore the ANOVA models use one DV and multiple IV’s which works effectively with interval and normal data (Coolican, 2013). Males and females were analysed separately.
3.1 ANOVA 1 – (Females) Primary Psychopathy State of Participant, Vignette Type and Longevity of Attractiveness

The first 3-way ANOVA was conducted using the female sample with psychopathy type of the vignettes (low primary, high primary, low secondary, high secondary) and the longevity of the reported attractiveness (short and long term) as the within-subject factors and the participants primary psychopathic trait state (high or low) as the between-subjects factor. The analysis of between subjects effects found no significant main effect of psychopathy status of participant on the reported attractiveness of the different vignette types $F(1,102) = 20.40$, $MSE = 20.40$, $p = .36$, $\eta^2 = (.027)$ Figure 1 below presents the pattern of main effect, contrary to previous research the figure indicates no assortative mating, but is suggestive of a general avoidance for the high primary trait vignettes.

![Figure 1. Pattern of Main Effect of Psychopathy Status of Participant on Attractiveness Scores of Vignettes.](image)

Figure 1. Pattern of Main Effect of Psychopathy Status of Participant on Attractiveness Scores of Vignettes.
There was however a significant 2 way interaction between longevity and the vignette type $F(3,306) = 93.86, MSE = 409.50, p = .00, \eta^2 = .03$ as shown in figure 1.2. Overall the high secondary vignettes were preferred the most for short term relationships and the high primary vignettes preferred least for long term. The most obvious interaction is that of the high secondary vignette which shows a sizeable difference between the attractiveness for short and long term relationships. No 3 way interaction between psychopathy status of participant and attractiveness of vignettes in short and long term conditions was observed, again suggesting no pattern of assortative mating.

Post hoc pairwise comparisons revealed that the interaction of attractiveness of vignettes was determined by the longevity. Females significantly preferred the low primary vignette for long term over short term relationships [$T(102)= -6.99, P= .00$] whereas the high primary vignettes were significantly preferred for short term relationships [$T(102)= 7.49, P= .00$]. The pairwise comparisons relating to the low secondary traits vignette revealed that females showed significant preference for long term over short term relationships [$T(102)= -1.93, P= .00$] whereas the inverse was found for the high secondary psychopathic trait vignette as short term relationships were significantly preferred [$T(102)=17.00, P= .00$].

![Figure 1.2 Interaction Pattern between Psychopathy Variants of Vignette and Longevity](image)
3.2 ANOVA 2 – (Females) Secondary Psychopathy Status, Vignette Type and Longevity of Attractiveness

The second 3-way ANOVA was conducted using the same variables, only with secondary psychopathic traits (high and low) in place of the primary traits in ANOVA 1. As in ANOVA 1 the analysis of between subjects effects found no significant main effect of psychopathy status of participant on the reported attractiveness of the different vignette types \( F(1,102) = 0.30, \) \( MSE = 7.21, \) \( p = .30, \) \( \eta^2 = (.02) \) Figure 2 below presents the pattern of main effect, the figure is indicative of no assortative mating patterns, and similarly to the ANOVA 1 is suggestive of a general avoidance for the high primary trait vignettes from both high and low secondary trait females.

There was another significant 2 way interaction between longevity and vignette type \( F(3,306) = 93.86, \) \( MSE = 409.50, \) \( p = .00, \) \( \eta^2 = (.002) \) as shown in figure 2.2, with the highest preference being for the high secondary vignette for short term relationships contrasting with the avoidance of high secondary vignettes in long term conditions. But again no 3 way interaction.
Pairwise comparisons again revealed that females significantly preferred the low primary vignette for long term over short term relationships \[T(102) = -6.79, P = .00\]. Moreover the high primary vignettes were significantly preferred for short term relationships \[T(102) = 7.84, P = .00\]. In line with ANOVA 1 results revealed that females showed significant preference for the low secondary psychopathic for long term over short term relationships \[T(102) = -2.40, P = .01\] while the inverse was found for the high secondary psychopathic trait vignette as short term relationships were significantly preferred \[T(102) = 16.91, P = .00\].

![Psychopathy of Vignettes x Longevity - Females](image)

**Figure 2.2 Interaction Pattern between Psychopathy Variants of Vignette and Longevity**

### 3.3 ANOVA 3 (Males) Primary Psychopathy Status, Vignette Type and Longevity of Attractiveness

The third 3-way ANOVA was conducted using the male sample with the same variables as ANOVA 1. The analysis of between subjects effects found no significant main effect of psychopathy status of participant on the reported attractiveness of the different vignette types \(F(1,43) = 1.33, MSE = 20.55, p = .26, \eta^2 = .01\). Figure 3 below presents the pattern.
of main effect, the figure indicates no assortative mating, but is suggestive of high primary psychopathic males showing a slight aversion to their female counterparts.

![High and Low Primary Psychopathy x Psychopathy of Vignettes - Males](image)

**Figure 3. Pattern of Main Effect of Psychopathy Status of Participant on Attractiveness Scores of Vignettes.**

As with ANOVA 1 and 2 a significant 2 way interaction between longevity and vignette type was identified $F(3,129) = 49.01$, $MSE = 204.40$, $p = .00$, $\eta^2 = (.01)$ as shown in figure 3.2. As with ANOVA 1 and 2 the high secondary vignette for short term relationships was the most preferred overall, but unlike ANOVA 1 and 2 the difference is not as drastic in comparison to the other scores. The figure shows a high preference for the female vignettes which portray persons with high secondary psychopathic traits, but notably in the short term, high secondary traits are not observed as attractive in long term relationships. As ANOVA 1 and 2 suggested again no 3 way interaction was found.
As with the female sample pairwise comparisons revealed that males significantly preferred the low primary vignette for long term over short term relationships [$T(43.00) = 5.42, P = .00$] furthermore the high primary vignettes were significantly preferred for short term relationships [$T(43.00) = 6.73, P = .00$]. In line with ANOVA 1 and 2, results revealed that males also showed significant preference for the low secondary psychopathic for long term over short term relationships [$T(43.00) = -3.09, P = .00$] while again the inverse was found for the high secondary psychopathic trait vignette and short term relationships were significantly preferred [$T(43.00) = 11.23, P = .00$].

**3.4 ANOVA 4 - (Males) Secondary Psychopathy Status, Vignette Type and Longevity of Attractiveness**

The final 3-way ANOVA was conducted using the male sample with the same variables as ANOVA 2. As in all 3 previous ANOVA's the analysis of between subjects effects found no significant main effect of psychopathy status of participant on the reported attractiveness of the different vignette types $F(1,43) = 0.37$, $MSE = .60$, $p = .85$, $\eta^2 = .01$. Figure 4 below presents the pattern of main effect and presents no evidence of assortative mating patterns.
As with all the prior ANOVA’s a significant 2 way interaction between longevity and the vignette type was observed $F(3,129) = .92, \ MSE = 3.84, \ p = .00, \ \eta^2 = (.01)$ as shown in figure 4.2. The figure highlights a significant attraction towards high secondary psychopathic females for short term relationships. Furthermore no 3 way interaction was found.

Figure 4. Pattern of Main Effect of Psychopathy Status of Participant on Attractiveness Scores of Vignettes.

Figure 4.2 Interaction Pattern between Psychopathy Variants of Vignette and Longevity.
The final pairwise comparisons highlighted similar patterns to that of the previous 3 ANOVAS, high and low secondary trait males showed significant preference for low primary vignettes for long term relationships over short term \[T(41.00)=-5.36, \ P=.00\] along with preference for high primary vignettes for short term relationships over long term \[T(41.00)=6.21, \ P=.00\]. Moreover the same pattern was found with preference for low secondary psychopathy traits in the long term \[T(41.00)=-2.80, \ P=.00\] and high secondary psychopathic traits in short term relationships \[T(41.00)=11.46, \ P=.00\].

**CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION**

During the introduction it was identified that the concept of psychopathy is often thought to be split into two distinct subgroups, primary and secondary psychopathy (Karpman, 1941; Blair & Bair, 2005; Neuman, et al, 2005; Skeem et al, 2007; Carlisle, 2014; Yildrim & Derksen, 2015). This idea has also been reflected in the two factor structure of the PCL-R (Hare, 1991; Markus et al, 2013) which is thought to be the ‘gold standard of psychopathy measures’ (Hare & Neumann, 2009). Furthermore the perceived attractiveness of dark personality traits such as narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy have long been of interest to psychologists (Rauthmann & Kolar, 2013; Carter et al, 2014) and previous studies have suggested that dark personalities including psychopaths engage in assortative mating, whereby psychopaths find their counterparts attractive more so than a control group (Jonason et al, 2011; Blanchard et al, 2016; Jonason et al, 2016). However little research explores the interaction of assortative mating patterns between the specified sub-groups of primary and secondary psychopathy. Furthermore even less literature is available which incorporates differences in the longevity of the relationships in which psychopathic traits are measured for perceived attractiveness. Building on the work of Blanchard, Lyons and Centifanti (2016) this study provides a refined look into the interactions between the sub groups of psychopathy traits (primary and secondary) and mating preferences in short and long term conditions. The following discussion will provide a summary of main findings of the present study prior to an overall interpretation relative to previous literature. Limitations of the study will be addressed along with suggestions for future research.
Based on previous findings, a significant 3 way interaction between the psychopathy state of participant, the attractiveness of the types of vignette and longevity was expected. A sex difference was also expected as has been found in previous findings, where only females showed significant preference for their psychopathic male counterparts, and males showing no significant preferences and exhibiting a non-discriminant mating style (Blanchard et al, 2016). The present study yielded no 3 way interactions, however in each of the four factorial analyses a significant interaction between the attractiveness of vignettes and the longevity of the poised relationships was identified.

The analyses of female and male participants in the primary psychopathy condition found no resemblance to the predicted trends of assortative mating, with the analyses showing no 3 way interaction. However the attractiveness of the vignette types and longevity produced a significant 2 way interaction, with a significant preference being identified for both the high psychopathic vignettes (primary and secondary) for short term relationships and an inverse relationship found for long term relationships where the low psychopathic vignettes were preferred.

As with the primary psychopathy participants, the secondary psychopathy condition male and females resulted in no 3 way interaction but again a significant 2 way interaction between longevity and vignette types was found. Both sexes showed preferences for the high psychopathic (primary and secondary) vignettes in short term conditions, and preferences for the low psychopathic vignettes in long term conditions.

The findings of the present study were inconsistent with previous literature, which hypothesised a 3 way interaction with patterns of assortative mating. Possible explanations and implications of this will be explored throughout the discussion in relation to previous findings.

As previously mentioned the findings of the present study found no indication of assortative mating which contradicts the aforementioned evolutionary theory and previous findings, particularly the findings of the original study (Blanchard et al, 2016) which found patterns of assortative mating in high primary and secondary psychopathic females but not males. Previous findings of assortative mating in psychopathic females could be due to the co-occurrence of narcissistic traits, as previous literature has identified significant overlap between the two constructs (Campbell & Miller, 2011; Lynam, 2011; Klipfel, 2015; Tokarev, Phillips, Hughes & Irwing, 2017) at a descriptive and phenotypical level (Burston, 1989). Furthermore assortative mating in highly narcissistic individuals has been observed in studies previously (Campbell, Foster & Finkel, 2002; Smith et al,
Moreover, since the original study along with many others had no measure of narcissism, the theory of a narcissistic trait interference provides a viable alternative explanation for the original and past findings. As no evidence of assortative mating was found in psychopathic males previously, the male findings of the present study are consistent with previous literature.

Although the predicted pattern of assortative mating was not present, the significant interaction between longevity and vignette type was very much of interest. The pattern of results highlighted that both males and females found the vignettes high in both primary and secondary psychopathy significantly more attractive for short term over long term relationships. The findings from the present study were congruent with that of previous research (Aitken, Lyons & Jonason, 2013). The findings from the present and past studies then begs the question ‘why are psychopaths attractive for short term relationships only?’ explanations of which can be offered from both evolutionary and social disciplines. From a social psychology stance the aforementioned media influence could provide a viable explanation, whereby the westernised population is bombarded by media pop-culture displaying protagonists harbouring psychopathic traits in an endearing light. Furthermore, it is possible that people may form associations between psychopathic traits and the way in which they are idealised in modern television, resulting in a socially conditioned attraction to the traits of psychopathy (Jonason et al, 2012). However it is likely the relationship would rapidly break down resulting in only short term relationships being established with highly psychopathic people. There is also the possibility of the aforementioned narcissistic trait interference due to the overlap of narcissism and psychopathy (Campbell & Miller, 2011; Lynam, 2011; Klipfel, 2015; Tokarev et al, 2017). Moreover, there is a body of research suggesting the attractiveness of narcissistic personality types for short term, not long term relationships (Brunell & Campbell, 2011; Dufner, Rauthmann, Czarna & Denissen, 2013; Keller, Blincoe, Gilert, Dewall, Haak & Widiger, 2014). Previous literature also proposed that narcissistic individuals are perceived as having high mate appeal (Brunell & Campbell, 2011) due to the relationship between narcissistic characteristics and romantically attractive characteristics such as high self-confidence and effective adornment (Back, Schmukle & Egloff, 2010; Odom-Dixon, 2014) similarly to that of the psychopath (Patrick et al, 2009; Holtzman & Strube, 2012). The similarities between psychopathy and narcissism again provide a viable theory to the findings.

Evolutionary psychology also offers possible explanations, preceding findings suggest that females show short term preference for males who display dark triad
characteristics such as psychopathy (Aitken et al, 2013; Carter et al, 2014). Contrastingly, one key dynamic of mating strategies highlighted in previous literature is that women tend to be more reluctant than men to engage in short term mating strategies. It was previously unknown if female’s short term preference for these characteristics was a result of exploitation by psychopathic males or if it was due to a contingent choice which evolved to enhance female’s reproductive success (Carter et al, 2013) the present study suggests the latter. A sexual selection explanation suggests that pursuing short term relationships with psychopathic males may provide short term evolutionary benefits for females pertaining to the aforementioned good genes hypothesis, whereby characteristics thought to be indicators of genetic quality also form accurate descriptors of psychopathy resulting in females responding to a misinterpretation of genetic quality (Bassett & Moss, 2004; Hall & Benning, 2006). Furthermore females might adapt short term mating strategies with psychopathic males to gain access to resources, protection and better genes for potential offspring (Gangestad, Garver-Apgar, Simpson, & Cousins, 2007; Gangestad & Thornhill, 2008). Although short term mating strategies are more evolutionarily adaptive for males due to their higher fitness variance and lower obligatory parental investment (Trivers, 1972; Buss & Schmitt, 1993), women may adopt a more strategic mating pattern and engage in uncommitted short term mating where the good genes are representative of a trade-off for a lack of male parental investment (Gangestad, 1993). A secondary explanation is derived from the perspective of sexual conflict, suggesting that men use manipulative tactics to persuade females to adhere to their preferred short term strategy (Petrides, Vernon, Schermer, & Veselka, 2011). It is suggested that males higher in dark personality traits such as psychopathy are well-placed to implement such manipulative mating strategies (Archer & Mehdikhani, 2003).

With regards to the male preference for psychopathic females in short term relationships, a mid-level theory derived from evolutionary theory provides a feasible explanation. Life history theory (MacArthur & Wilson, 1967; Wilson, 1975) describes resource allocation for somatic and reproductive effort. Humans tend to prescribe to slower life strategies than other species, however individual differences such as stability of sociological conditions encountered as a child (Brumbach, Figueredo & Ellis, 2009) or childhood abuse (Figueredo, Vasquez, Brumbach, Schneider, Scefcak, Tal & Jacobs, 2006) can result in a divergent strategy. A slow life strategy is associated with secure childhood attachment patterns and supportive communication and long term mating efforts (Olderbak & Figuerdo, 2009). Moreover, psychopathy is an indicator of a faster life as suggested through diminished self-control and a short term mating proclivity (Wilson &
Wilson, 2007). Life history theory is consistent with other theories such as Trivers’ (1972) Parental investment theory, which could address why males would adhere to a fast life strategy including short term mating strategies due to males having lower biologically obligated parental investment (Buss & Schmitt, 1993). Sexual selection theory, sexual conflict theory and life history theory could all provide evolutionary accounts for the findings of the present study suggesting both males and females find individuals high in psychopathic traits considerably more attractive for short term relationships over long term relationships.

The current study presented several strengths and weaknesses relative to methodology and sample. One possible limitation is the unequal sex split of the participants as the data collection yielded 167 female participants and only 48 male participants. At the time of data collection the unequal split was disregarded due to the prediction of no significant preferences shown for males. However due to the results of this study identifying a preference for high psychopathic characteristics in short term conditions, in future research a more even sex split would be more appropriate. The materials used also offer their own problems as all the materials were self-report measures which are subject to self-biasing (Adams, Soumerai, Lomas & Ross-Degnan, 1999) and giving socially desirable answers (Herbery, Clemow, Pbert, Ockene & Ockene, 1995), however for exploratory studies they are deemed appropriate (Blanchard et al, 2016). To ideally replicate the original study conducted by Blanchard et al (2016) the SRP-3 would have been used, however due to the commercialisation of the SRP-3 it was unavailable, furthermore to counter the issues with self-report measures ideally measures like the PCL-R would be used to provide a more unbiased evaluation of psychopathy. However due to the present study only examining psychopathic traits the SDT was acceptable. It should also be noted that the attractiveness scores of the control vignettes (low primary and low secondary) also differed with the low primary vignette being preferred in most conditions suggesting that the validity and reliability of the vignettes should perhaps be reconsidered. When researching psychopathy and mating patterns it became abundantly clear to the researcher that there is very little research available in this topic area with regards to homosexual participants. For future recommendations the present study could be replicated using only a homosexual sample to address the current gap in literature.

To conclude, by investigating primary and secondary psychopathy as distinct from one another, the present study contributes to the understudied yet emerging topic area which
explores the attractiveness and mating preferences of psychopaths. The findings uncovered a significant interaction between the psychopathy levels of vignettes and longevity of perceived attractiveness, highlighting a preference in both sexes towards psychopathic characters for short term relationships, in line with previous research. Moreover the inverse was found for long term conditions where both males and females showed significant preference for the low psychopathic vignettes. Furthermore, contrastingly to previous literature no patterns of assortative mating were identified. The findings of the present study can be used to highlight and pre-empt potential dangers regarding the short term allure of psychopathic persons. As has been previously mentioned, psychopaths have a proclivity for promiscuity and risky sexual behaviours (McCoul & Haslam, 2001). Furthermore, it is suggested that these behaviours may place psychopathic individuals at a higher risk of sexually transmitted infection over non-psychopaths (Hudek-Knezevic, Kardum & Krapic, 2008), as well as those who engage in short term mating with them. As there is still limited research examining mating preferences between the two sub-divisions of psychopathy there is room for future research and improvements.
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APPENDIX A - Vignettes

Male Vignettes

High primary psychopathy male 1:

He gets what he wants and is happy to flatter people along the way to get there. He thinks that people are untrustworthy and thinks that it is fair enough to be dishonest to avoid being taken advantage of. He admires businessmen like Donald Trump for their ruthless attitude to success. He is unaffected by causes like homeless and animal charities. Recreationally, he enjoys horror movies and boxing. Women find his flattering demeanour attractive.

Low primary psychopathy male 1:

Enjoys his nine to five job and has no ambition to climb the career ladder. He is honest and down to earth. He relaxes at the weekend by playing football and watching television. He doesn’t like the idea of “chatting up” a woman on a night out and would rather meet a partner through a friend.

High primary psychopathy male 2:

Believes he tells it how it is, thinks that most people’s problems are down to them being oversensitive, and is confident in telling them this. He thinks we live in a dog-eat-dog world, and
therefore it is necessary to plan ways of manipulating other people to climb the career ladder. He is charming and is popular because of it. He is not a family man as he feels that emotional connections can hold you back in life.

Low primary psychopathy male 2:

Is well liked within his social group. His female friends find he is good to talk to as he understands their problems and gives good advice. He is vegetarian and fund raises for various charities. He hopes to settle down and have children someday. He enjoys spending time with his family.

High primary psychopathy male 3:

Thinks he would be a good participant on The Apprentice as he is good at persuading other people to do things for him, partly because of his charisma. However, he has a reputation of being harsh when he thinks that someone should hear the truth about themselves, and doesn’t feel guilty about doing this. He is good at telling a story in social situations, but is known for making things up about himself or the story to make it sound better. He finds horror films funny and enjoys winding people up when they get scared by them.

Low primary psychopathy male 3:
Works in the care industry, as he likes helping people less fortunate than himself - although this means that he is on a low wage. Has no desire to reach management level. He still has his best friends from when he was growing up and has close female friends. He likes watching documentaries and is concerned about climate change. He dislikes politicians as he thinks that they are dishonest and self-serving.

High secondary psychopathy male 1:

Has a “live fast, die young” approach to life. He loves being the centre of attention at parties, usually by doing something outrageous and risky. He enjoys watching Sons of Anarchy and has thought about joining a biker gang. As he can’t hold a job down for long, he deals cannabis with his mates, but this has made him a popular member of his peer group. His friends think he’s a good “laugh” because he’s good at avoiding getting into trouble with the police.

Low secondary psychopathy male 1:

Leads a stable life. He has a regular job and his boss thinks that he is reliable and conscientious about his work. Even though he likes to go out on the weekend with his friends and get drunk, he doesn’t take drugs. Every Wednesday he plays football with his colleagues after work. He is good with money so that he can save for nice meals out and holidays.

High secondary psychopathy male 2:
Has a reputation for being “wild”. This means that he is exciting to be around, but can be unreliable as he forgets appointments etc. He can be empathetic but also gets frustrated and aggressive when something goes wrong or when he can’t get his own way, and often “mouths off” at people without thinking. He likes to gamble and when he does win, he’ll spend the money on a night out getting drunk with his mates and is happy to buy the drinks for everyone.

Low secondary psychopathy male 2:

Is a teacher in secondary school and enjoys his job, even though it means that he has to bring work home with him in order to get it done. He has an economic car and drives it sensibly so that he can save money on fuel. He has had long-term relationships before and is currently internet dating, although he finds it difficult as he hates to show off on his profile in order to catch the attention of women and wants to avoid casual encounters.

High secondary psychopathy male 3:

Is a good person to have around if a confrontation happens on a night out, as he is good in a fight. However his friends also know not to wind him up as he can take it personally and get aggressive. He has a criminal record, as do most of his friends - mainly for low-level crimes such stealing and vandalism. He tries to avoid getting arrested nowadays as he has a job, although he’s almost lost it on a number of occasions from not bothering to turn up. He is good fun to be around sometimes as he’ll do things on the spur of the moment and is up for partying all night into the next day.
Low secondary psychopathy male 3:

Owns his own home and worked hard to save money to buy it. His friends are similar to him and they enjoy going every year on a beach holiday somewhere. He’s careful to avoid any sort of negative encounter when he is out as he hates fighting. He is also good at staying calm in high-pressured situations and getting people to see reason in the heat of the moment. He thinks that it is cliché to have a bad attitude to authority and therefore stayed out of trouble during school and beyond.

Female Vignettes

High primary psychopathy female 1:

Gets what she wants and is happy to flatter people along the way to get there. She thinks that people are untrustworthy and thinks that it is fair enough to be dishonest to avoid being taken advantage of. She admires celebrities like Kim Kardashian for exploiting the press. She is unaffected by causes like homeless and animal charities. A lot of men find her attractive as she spends time and money (including cosmetic surgery) on her appearance and looks very glamorous although she is yet to find anyone that she thinks is good enough for her.

Low primary psychopathy female 1:

Enjoys her nine to five job and has no ambition to climb the career ladder. She is honest and down to earth. She relaxes at the weekend by enjoying a glass of wine with friends, watching a film and taking her dogs out for longs walks. She doesn’t like being "chatted up" in the pub and would rather meet a partner through a friend.
High primary psychopathy female 2:

Believes she tells it how it is, thinks that most people’s problems are down to them being oversensitive, and is confident in telling them this. She thinks we live in a dog-eat-dog world, and therefore it is necessary to plan ways of flattering other people to climb the career ladder. She is charming and always has a number of men who fancy her. She is not interested in having children as she feels that they would hold her back in life.

Low primary psychopathy female 2:

Is well-liked within her social group. She is vegetarian and fund raises for various charities. She hopes to settle down and have children someday. She enjoys spending time with her family. Sometimes her empathetic nature prevents her from gaining the success that she deserves.

High primary psychopathy female 3:

Thinks she would be a good participant on The Apprentice as she is good at persuading other people to do things for her, partly because of her charisma. However, she does have a reputation of being harsh when she thinks that someone should hear the truth about themselves, and doesn’t feel guilty about doing so either. She is good at telling a story in social situations, but is known for making things up about herself or the story to make it sounds better. She hates "Chick Lit" films such as Bridget Jones Diary and Love Actually, and would rather watch a horror movie instead (just for a laugh rather than to be scared).

Low primary psychopathy female 3:
Works in the care-industry as she likes helping people less fortunate than her, although this means that she is on a low wage. She has no desire to reach management level. She still has her best friends from childhood and has close male friends. She likes watching documentaries and is concerned about climate change. She dislikes politicians as she thinks that they are dishonest and self-serving.

High secondary psychopathy female 1:

Has a “live fast, die young” approach to life. She loves being the centre of attention at parties, usually by doing something outrageous and risky. She loves to get drunk and have a good time, although she can end up a mess in the process. She has on occasion been told off by the police for disorderly conduct when she has been on a night out. She has had a variety of jobs, but can't keep them for long as she invariably gets annoyed with her boss or customers and either gets sacked or walks out. Her friends find her entertaining because of the situations she gets herself into.

Low secondary psychopathy female 1:

Leads a stable life. She has a regular job and her boss thinks that she is reliable and conscientious about her work. Even though she likes to go out on the weekend with his friends and get drunk, she generally looks after herself by eating well and keeping fit. Every Wednesday she visits her mum for a catch up. She is good with money so that she can save for nice meals out and holidays.

High secondary psychopathy female 2:

Has a reputation for being “wild”. This means that she is exciting to be around, but can be unreliable as she forgets appointments, etc. She can be empathetic but also gets frustrated and aggressive
when something goes wrong or when she can’t get her own way, and often “mouths off” at people without thinking. She spends too much money on clothes and make-up, but gives away anything she doesn’t wear to her friends for free.

Low secondary psychopathy female 2:

Is a teacher in secondary school and enjoys her job even though it means that she has to bring work home with her in order to get it done. She has an economic car, and drives it sensibly so that she can save money on fuel. She has had long-term relationships before and is currently internet dating, although she finds it difficult as she hates to show off on her profile in order to catch the attention of men and wants to avoid casual encounters.

High secondary psychopathy female 3:

Stands up for her friends no matter what, even if it leads to a fight on a night out. Even so, her friends know her to be unpredictable in her moods and she doesn’t react well to being wound up. She used to go shoplifting but stopped after she got caught by the police, mainly because she needs to be at home to look after her mum. She is good fun to be around, as she’ll do things on the spur of the moment and is up for partying all night into the next day.

Low secondary psychopathy female 3:

Owns her own home and worked hard to save money to buy it. Her friends are similar to her and they enjoy going on a beach holiday somewhere every year. She likes to keep her life as simple as possible and avoids anything too exciting - so she doesn’t get drunk and prefers hiking and meditation. She is also good at staying calm in high-pressured situations and getting people to see
reason in the heat of the moment. She thinks that it is cliché to have a bad attitude to authority and has therefore stayed out of trouble during school and beyond.

**APPENDIX B – Consent Form and Participant Information Sheet**

Participant information sheet

Title of Project: **Primary and Secondary Psychopathy and Mating Preference.**

The Study

This study will look at assortative mating in psychopaths and will examine whether this is due to the affective (primary) or behavioural (secondary) components of psychopathy and if there are differences between the sexes. Physical attractiveness will also be examined to decide if it is an influential factor.

What Happens If You Agree To Participate

You will be asked to complete a survey titled “Personality Style and Mating Preference” where you will be presented with 12 personality vignettes accompanied by photographs of people of varying attractiveness. You will be asked to rate the profiles for attractiveness for long and short term relationships. Next you will be asked to complete the Short Dark Triad (Jones & Paulhus, 2013)

Exclusion Criteria

Participants must be over 18 years old.

Potential Risks

There are no high potential risks, only possibility of boredom and fatigue.

Potential Benefits

By taking part in this study you may increase your own knowledge of research methods while also contributing to the data collection of an undergraduate dissertation.
Withdrawal, Anonymity and Confidentiality

No names or any form of participant information aside from age and sex will be required. The data collected will only be seen by myself and my supervisor Andrew Watt. All data will be stored on a password protected USB pen to which only I have access. Due to the anonymity participants will not be able to withdraw data as I would not be able to match data set to specific individuals.

Participant Consent Form

Reference Number:

Title of Project: Primary and Secondary Psychopathy and Mate Preference

Name of Researcher: [Redacted]

By completing this online survey you give consent for data to be used in an undergraduate dissertation.

By completing this online survey you confirm that you have read and understand the information sheet for the above study. You have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, and that you understand that participation is voluntary and that you are free to withdraw at any time before leaving the experiment, without giving any reason. And finally that you agree to take part in the above study.
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