

## Abstract

Recent studies propose two theories explaining the particular mechanisms of mate choice. Theory of homogamy suggests that individuals prefer partners with personality traits similar to their own. In contrast, theory of complementarity states that people choose mates with opposite personality traits. The main aims of this study were i) to test homogamy and complementarity of dominance in long-term heterosexual and homosexual male couples and ii) to examine whether this similarity predicts higher relationship satisfaction. We also tested whether heterosexual couples differ from same-sex couples in the level of assessed homogamy. Dominance was measured in four different domains: dominance as a personal trait, dominance in social groups, partner dominance and sexual dominance. The research sample consisted of 76 male heterosexuals (mean age 24, SD = 4) and their long-term partners (mean age 22, SD = 3.34) and 36 male homosexuals (mean age 30, SD = 8.25) and their long-term partners (mean age 29, SD = 6.99). All participants completed anonymous set of questionnaires (International Personality Item Pool (IPIP), Rank Style With Peers Questionnaire (RSPQ), Sexual Relationship Power Scale (SRPS), along with a questionnaire focused on sexual dominance, and Spanier's test of dyadic adjustment). Our findings point to couple similarity in partner dominance and complementarity in sexual dominance. Heterosexual couples differed from homosexual couples in the level of similarity in sexual dominance. Further, our results also show that couple similarity in partner and sexual dominance influenced partner satisfaction in heterosexual and homosexual couples. Partner satisfaction in homosexual couples was also influenced by similarity in dominance in social groups.

Keywords: homogamy, complementarity, dominance, partner satisfaction