

Abstract

The thesis is divided into three parts. The first part is focused on the main theories of human mating strategies, such as sociosexual orientation and sexual strategies theory, which emphasizes intersexual differences as a result from the asymmetry of parental investment, and strategic pluralism theory, which highlights intrasexual variation in mating behavior. The second part consists of one review article published in the *Encyclopedia of Evolutionary Psychological Science* and one original research article published in *The Journal of Sex Research*, a peer-reviewed journal. In this part we explored possible evolutionary origins and adaptive values of paraphilic interests and their prevalence in the Czech population. The third part consist of one article published in the peer-reviewed journal *Personality and Individual Differences* and two research studies which are currently under peer-review in two international journals. The main aim of this part was to test whether individual differences in femininity-masculinity, Big Five personality traits, and propensity to sexual excitation and inhibition are associated with individual sociosexual orientation. A further aim was to test whether attention towards sexual stimuli is affected by an individual's level of sociosexual orientation and by depressive symptomatology. The results of these studies indicated high levels of variation in mating strategies, sexual behaviors and preferences, not only between but also within the sexes. Strategies which were actually employed depended not only on the sex but also on individual, environmental and cultural factors.

Keywords: Evolutionary psychology; Mating strategies; Sociosexuality; Paraphilias