Special Edition: Matters of the Heart

To recognise Heart Month and Valentine’s Day, we have developed a special Elsevier Research Selection, dedicated to stories about the heart, love, relationships and issues.

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Perfect personalities

Personal Traits, Cohabitation, and Marriage

*Social Science Research* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2014.01.002

**We’ll live with the good looking guy, but we’ll marry the nice guy**

This study, published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, explored the effects of personal traits on living with or marrying a romantic partner. Data on personal traits was collected from nearly 10,000 individuals of both sexes. The traits included: physical attractiveness and personality. Results showed that individuals may be more discerning about those who they accept marital offers from than those who offer cohabiting. For men, having an above-average personality is associated with a higher likelihood of them getting married, whereas above-average physical appearance is more likely to result in them cohabiting, which does not lead to marriage.

Perceptions of infidelity risk predict women’s preferences for low male voice pitch in short-term over long-term relationship contexts

*Personality and Individual Differences* | http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2013.08.029
Men with low voices make good short-term prospects
Typically, women rate a lower-pitched man’s voice as more attractive than a higher-pitched man’s voice. At the same time, women also perceive men with lower-pitched voices as less likely to be faithful. This study, published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, looked at perceptions of fidelity predicted by women’s voice preferences. Results showed women who rated lower-pitched men are more likely to commit infidelity, also rated them as a short-term relationship prospect.

Making a connection

How affective technologies can influence intimate interactions and improve social connectedness
*International Journal of Human-Computer Studies* | [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2013.09.007](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2013.09.007)

Emoticons help to create intimacy in social networks
Digital communication such as text or instant messaging has brought with it new ways of using words and symbols. This study, published in the *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, looked at the use of emoticons and the impact they have on intimate interactions and social connectedness. Results showed that increases in communicated emoticons lead to a strong raised level of perceived intimacy, as long as they were user-initiated and not automatic. It was also found that affective technology has the power to enhance our social connectedness and, thereby, improve our health and well-being.

Loneliness and Facebook motives in adolescence: A longitudinal inquiry into directionality of effect
*Journal of Adolescence* | [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2013.11.003](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2013.11.003)

New Facebook friends can help to ease loneliness
As Facebook has become more popular, many people worry that adolescents lose the ability to socialise in the real word. This study, published in the *Journal of Adolescence*, explored the relationship between Facebook use and peer-related loneliness. Results showed that adolescents use the social network for two purposes: firstly, utilizing their social skills and connecting with peers; secondly to make new friends. Those who used the site for social skills show an increase in loneliness over time, whereas those using the site to make new friends were more likely to feel less lonely.

Love prejudices

What’s love got to do with it? Sexual prejudice predicts unitization of men in same-sex romantic relationships

Sexual prejudices affect how we see romantic couples
This study, published in *Personality and Individual Differences*, set out to test the hypothesis that those high in sexual prejudice would fail to form a single mental representation of a same-sex couple. Results showed that prejudiced individuals were more likely to rate same-sex couples as lower in cohesiveness than heterosexual couples, and prejudice predicted the use of couple category in impressions of romantically involved men.
Racial differences in the influence of female adolescents’ body size on dating and sex

*Economics & Human Biology* | [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2013.11.001](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2013.11.001)

**Obese white women lose out on love**

Body size is a prominent aspect of appearance and can play a role in attraction and the development of relationships. But does race play a part too? A study, published in *Economics & Human Biology*, investigates the effect of body size on dating and sexual experiences of White (non-Hispanic) and African American (non-Hispanic) female adolescents. Researchers found that obese white female adolescents are less likely to have been in a romantic relationship or to have experienced any kind of intimate relationship by the age of 19 than non-obese white females. No differences were observed between obese and non-obese African American females.

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**Heart Health**

**Epidemiology of Heart Failure and Scope of the Problem**

*Cardiology Clinics* | [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ccl.2013.09.009](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ccl.2013.09.009)

**Heart failure a major global issue**

Of the major forms of cardiovascular disease, heart failure is the only one that is increasing in incidence and prevalence in most developed countries. With more than 23 million people worldwide being affected by heart failure each year, and a rise in mortality from the condition, survival rate is bleaker than it is for many cancers patients. This study, published in *Cardiology Clinics*, reveals the full scope of the issue of heart failure.

**Cardiac arrest and hypothermia treatment-function and life satisfaction among survivors in the first 6 months**


**Induced Hypothermia improves quality of life for cardiac arrest survivors**

When an individual suffers a heart attack, it often leads to other, knock-on incidents. Return of spontaneous circulation may trigger post-resuscitation syndrome which can entail neurological damage. In order to prevent this, many patients are given therapeutic hypothermia treatment, which lowers a patient's body temperature in order to help reduce these risks. This study, published in *Resuscitation*, looked at the quality of life in survivors of cardiac arrest that underwent hypothermia treatment to prevent spontaneous circulation. Results showed that at six months, satisfaction with life as a whole was seen in 70% of patients.

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