

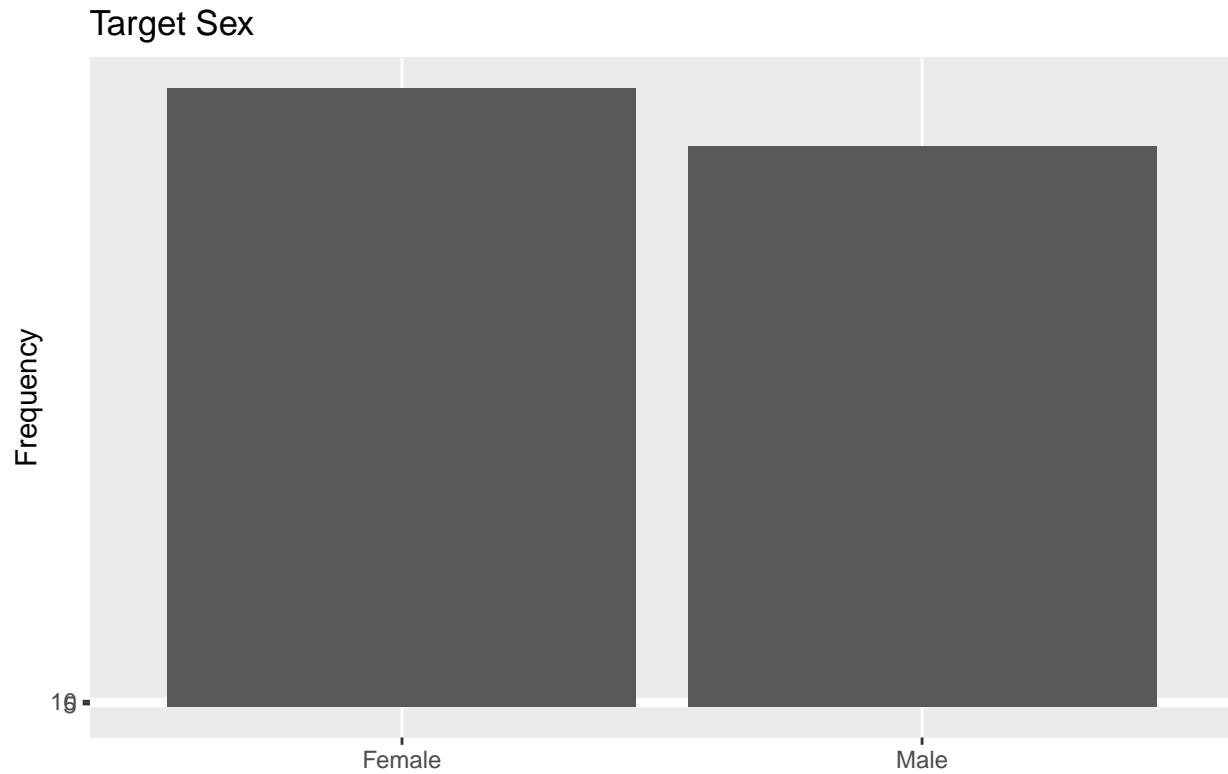
Milestone 5

Mike Silva

4/4/2020

In this paper, Tingley et al. study how olfactory senses connect to assortive mating by ideology in humans. This explains how liberals tend to mate with other liberals, and conservatives tend to mate with other conservatives. The science behind olfactory sensibility in mates is exhibited best in animals, specifically mammals. As the paper explains, smell can signal mate immunocompetence, social compatibility, and other characteristics associated with mate quality and optimal reproduction. Tingley et al. perform a study where they surveyed 146 people on questions regarding the attractiveness of unknown liberals and conservatives. The models created from the survey outlined the affect that ideology and gender had on predicting someone's attractiveness after smelling their odor. They find that there is a positive coefficient for the targets and evaluators having matching ideologies, and a negative coefficient when the ideologies do not align. The coefficients explain the increase or decrease in attractiveness of the subjects. This further leads to a conclusion that olfactory attractiveness is just one of the many ways to explain attraction in mates. Studies have illustrated that characteristics like waist to hip ratio on women and the ability to provide resources in men, along with several other characteristics can also explain attraction in mates. Tingley et al further explain that olfactory attraction is something that is subconscious. Humans don't necessarily set out to smell each other in order to decide whether they're attracted to one another. Rather, our olfactory senses, connected with the parts of our brain that generate emotions, subconsciously tell us that we are interested in someone, and we tend to make those positive connections with members of the same ideology. The data and code used in this analysis replication is available on my github.¹

¹(“Mike Silva Replication Project Github,” n.d.)



This graph illustrates the targeted sexes of the participants. This is taken from a random sample of 21 participants.

% Table created by stargazer v.5.2.2 by Marek Hlavac, Harvard University. E-mail: hlavac at fas.harvard.edu
 % Date and time: Tue, Apr 07, 2020 - 20:05:12

Table 1: Odor Attraction as a Function of Ideological Similarity

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.
X.Intercept.	4000	−3.573	0.223
IdeoEvalBinary	4000	−0.006	0.053
IdeoTargetBinary	4000	0.020	0.051
same_genderTRUE	4000	−0.144	0.050
same_ideologyTRUE	4000	0.086	0.051
MaleMale	4000	0.0003	0.053
MaleTargetMale	4000	−0.018	0.054
mn_attractive	4000	0.999	0.040
mn_attractive_eval2	4000	0.998	0.047
sigma	4000	1.177	0.017

```
## Warning: In lm.fit(x, y, offset = offset, singular.ok = singular.ok, ...) :
## extra argument 'refresh' will be disregarded
```

Selected Bibliography + References:

- Alford et al. (n.d.) Bereczkei (2004) Blaustein (1981) Byrne (1961) McDermott, Tingley, and Hatemi (2014)
- Alford, John R., Peter K. Hatemi, John R. Hibbing, Nicholas G. Martin, and Lindon J. Eaves. n.d. "The Politics of Mate Choice." *The Journal of Politics* 73 (2). Cambridge University Press: 362–79.
- Bereczkei, Tamas. 2004. "Sexual Imprinting in Human Mate Choice." *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 271 (1544). The Royal Society: 1129–34.
- Blaustein, Andrew R. 1981. "Sexual Selection and Mammalian Olfaction." *The American Naturalist* 117 (6). University of Chicago Press: 1006–10.
- Byrne, D. 1961. "Interpersonal Attraction and Attitude Similarity." *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology* 62 (3). American Psychological Association: 713–15.
- McDermott, Rose, Dustin Tingley, and Peter K. Hatemi. 2014. "Assortative Mating on Ideology Could Operate Through Olfactory Cues." *American Journal of Political Science* 58 (4): 997–1005. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12133>.
- "Mike Silva Replication Project Github." n.d. https://github.com/mikesilva23/replication_1006.