

Philosophy 3334 Summer 2021  
Reading questions #14  
Due Tue, June 22

1) Watch David Buss's TED talk "Sexual conflict in human mating" on youtube here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mu4Uki8VyLc>

Buss shows the results of survey data that show that men, on average, report a higher number for "ideal number of sex partners desired." Are the numbers he reports surprising to you at all? Or is this what you expected to see? On surveys like this it is very common for people to not answer truthfully for various reasons. Do you think that is playing a big role here? Or do you think that the results of the survey are basically reflecting real differences in desires here?

2) Read John Dupré's "The Evolutionary Psychology of Sex and Gender." Dupré divides the claims of evolutionary psychologist into the categories: the absurd, the banal, and the mildly interesting. In which of the three categories does he put the claim that men have a mental module for detecting the waist-to-hip ratio of women and that they prefer women with a hip-to-waist ratio of 0.7? Why? In which category does he put the claim that men prefer to marry younger women and women prefer to marry older men? Why?

3) Do you have any further questions that you want to ask?