Romantic Chemistry
An Understudied Ingredient in the Science of Love

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Introduction

The general public frequently mention romantic chemistry—an unspoken, reciprocal connection—when falling in love, but limited research has explored its empirical role.

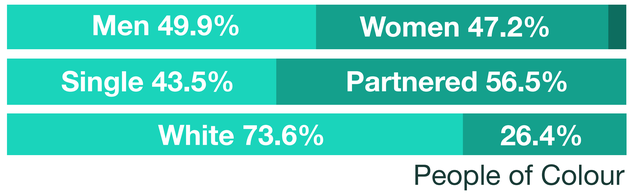
What is romantic chemistry and is it important in both early relationships and established couples?

What is Romantic Chemistry?

Studies 1-5 (*N* = 2,876 participants)

M_{age} = 38 years, Couple Chemistry *r* = .51

2.9% Gender diverse



Five facets of Romantic Chemistry

- **Compatibility:** we are right for each other.
- **Comfortability:** be ourselves around each other.
- **Unique connection:** an unexplainable spark.
- **Positive interactions:** have playful banter.
- **Sexual attraction:** have a sexual connection.

Chemistry includes five facets and is shared between partners.

Is Chemistry Linked to Relationship Maintenance?

Study 6 – 21-day diary (*N* = 122 couples)

M_{age} = 32 years $M_{rel\ length}$ = 7.9 years 5% Gender diverse

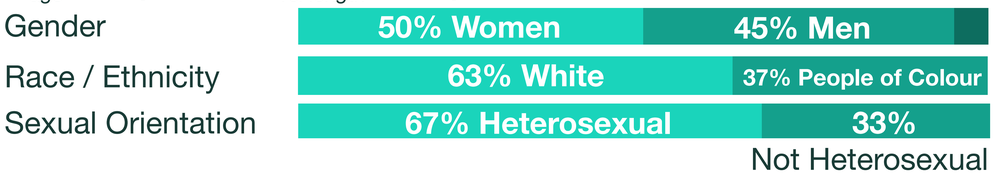
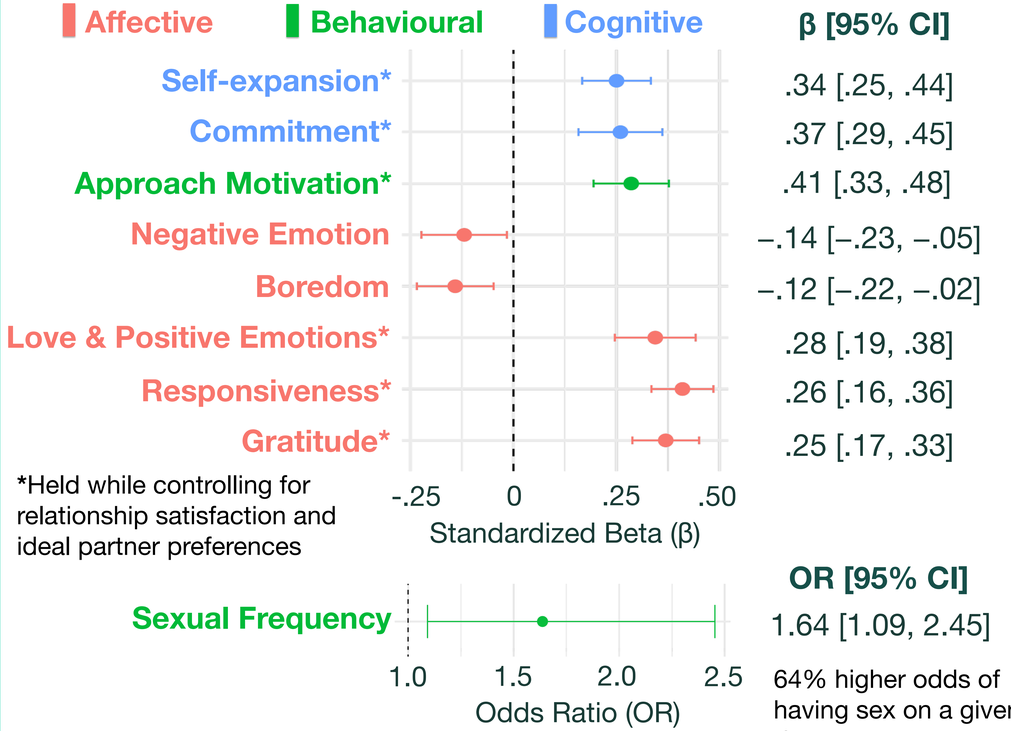


Fig. 1: Shared romantic chemistry in daily relationship life



*Held while controlling for relationship satisfaction and ideal partner preferences

64% higher odds of having sex on a given day

Is Chemistry Linked to Relationship Development?

Study 7 – First dates (*N* ~ 112 dyads)

Before date
Partner Preferences

After date
Chemistry
Liking + Similarity

Follow-up
Continued Contact
Relationship Development

Hypothesis

Shared chemistry will be associated with liking, similarity, and relationship development.





What Do We Know, and What Is Next?

Shared romantic chemistry is linked to **affective**, **behavioural** and **cognitive** outcomes for couples even while controlling for relationship satisfaction and ideal partner preference match (except for boredom and negative emotions).

Future work will investigate associations in early dating relationships and experimentally assess whether chemistry can be facilitated.