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The biggest difference between men and women on dating sites

By Kerri Sackville
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One of my favourite things to do when browsing dating sites is to think about aliens. (And yes, I know I should be thinking about the men, but really, when you see some of the photos, it's not a massive leap of imagination.)

What, I wonder, would an alien think of the human species if it logged onto RSVP or Tinder? Presumably it couldn't read or write our human language (not unlike many of the men on dating sites), so all it would have to go on would be the profile pics. So what conclusions would it reach?

Well, for one thing it would decide that the female of our species is a lot more attractive than the male, particularly as we age. This is partly because there is an abundance of gorgeous women on dating sites, and not quite so many men. Mainly, however, it's because the older males of our species are rather less adept at taking photos.



"Australians show more skin in profile pics than any other nationality." SHUTTERSTOCK

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I am constantly surprised by the woeful photographs posted by men trying to pick up women. They post photos of themselves from beneath their chin, so we are staring up their nostrils. They post photos of themselves slugging beer, which demonstrates a healthy appreciation of hops but doesn't necessarily show their personhood in the best light. Or they post photos of themselves peering confused at the lens, as though looking at a camera for the very first time.

Then again, as aliens wouldn't be familiar with our beauty standards, they may instead conclude that up-the-nose selfies or squinty-half-smiles are the pinnacles of male photographic excellence.

If the aliens are able to interpret a smile, they would almost certainly decide that the females of our species are friendlier than the males. Recent analysis of dating site photos showed that nearly three quarters of all smiley pics are posted by women, and only a quarter by men. As women also post the vast majority of selfies, aliens might determine that taking selfies is a delightful and uplifting experience. Or perhaps they'll just think women have really long arms.

An alien couldn't help but notice that male humans post the majority of photos with cars and boats. From this they could draw one of two conclusions: Either human females are irresistibly attracted to forms of transportation, and men post photos of them to lure in the ladies, OR it is only the male of our species who is allowed to drive.

Aliens browsing through Australian dating sites would come to some particularly fascinating deductions. Australians rank first in the world when it comes to visible toilets in photos, so an alien would conclude we consider the humble loo to be a prized status symbol and aphrodisiac.

Australians show more skin in profile pics than any other nationality, so clearly clothes are not as highly regarded in this country as toilets. And the most common landmark seen in Australian dating site profile pics is the Eiffel Tower, which might lead aliens to be very confused about world geography.

Aliens would notice, too, that the Australian dater uploads an average of five profile pics, in which a human can be seen in less than two thirds. The remaining third consist of memes, landscapes and animals, with dogs featuring in the vast majority of animal pics. A naïve alien may conclude that it is the dogs who are looking for love, and that the humans, like toilets, are there purely for decoration.

Having said that, Australians share the highest number of pictures with emus, which will lead an alien to believe we have some pretty strange looking dogs.

Finally, the aliens will be struck by the fact that the majority of humans on dating sites are very young, with nearly 85 per cent being under 35 years of age. The aliens will no doubt conclude that all older humans have successfully paired up and mated, or that we humans don't live much longer than our mid-thirties.

Or perhaps they will assume that after 35, most of us have been eaten by an emu, fallen off the Eiffel Tower, or eloped with a loo. And, to be fair, human beings on dating sites are fascinating creatures. I really wouldn't put it past us.

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Kerri Sackville

Kerri is an author, columnist and mother of three. Her latest book is 'Out There: A Survival Guide for Dating in Midlife'.

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