Tinder for orang-utans: comparing sexually selective cognition among Bornean orang-utans (Pongo pygmaeus) and humans (Homo sapiens)

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Tinder for orang-utans

Comparing sexually selective cognition among Bornean orang-utans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and humans (*Homo sapiens*)

door Tom Simon Roth

1. To understand to what extent societal and biological factors influence human mate choice, researchers should embrace a comparative approach to cognition and mate choice.
2. Speed-dating and cognitive experiments offer valuable insights into human mate choice, but the interplay between cognitive mechanisms and choice behaviour remains largely undiscovered when used separately.
3. Only a biocentric approach will allow us to investigate cognition in a comparative fashion, because our tasks will lack meaning if we do not take socioecological factors into account during task design.
4. Development of reliable indicators of emotional valence will be essential for appropriately interpreting the internal drivers of cognitive biases in animals.
5. Evolutionary explanations of human mate choice should be scrutinized more carefully, given the low replicability of cognitive experiments based on these theories.
6. Because natural selection acts on an individual's behaviour, and not directly on cognitive mechanisms, future research should focus on identifying robust links between cognitive biases and their behavioural output.
7. Attractiveness is a quantifiable trait not restricted to only humans.
8. Large-scale collaborative projects are the future of comparative cognition research, as they allow for larger, more diverse and heterogenous sample sizes.
9. As long as research in comparative cognition entails small sample sizes, researchers should choose Bayesian analyses over conventional frequentists analyses, because these methods will allow for more informative results.
10. Animal behaviour scientists should not restrict themselves to fundamental research, and should also strive to improve animal wellbeing through their experiments and methods if possible.
11. Animal behaviour scientists have the duty to inform the general public about their work so that people better understand the value of animal behaviour research.