

Title: Are women more jealous than men?

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Person 3: Are women more jealous than men?

Person 1: A Common stereotypical belief is that women are more emotional than men.

Person 3(Barbie): Boo hoo hoo I'm so sad, I'm a woman, I'm so sad

Person 1: But is this true? And what answers does evolutionary psychology have for this?

Person 1: Although there are many different opinions with respect to which gender is the more emotional sex, we will be discussing one of the more heated emotions, sexual jealousy in relationships.

Person 2: In one study, Lisa Feldman Barrett from Boston College and colleagues used a self-descriptive study to show that women perceive themselves as being more emotional than men. However, when looking at average experience of specific emotional reactions during momentary self-descriptive studies we see no difference between men and women.

Person 1: Well then why are women perceived as being more emotional than men?

Person 1: Lisa Feldman Barrett and colleagues suggest the reason for the discrepancies between global and momentary self-descriptive studies is largely attributed to cultural gender stereotypes.

Person 3(Ken): I'm Ken and I'm a macho man, I never cry Barbie.

Person 2: Again, gender differences in emotion are a broad topic, so we are going to use jealousy as an example that women and men are equally emotional. Turkish professor Dr. Andaç DEMİRTAŞ MADRAN from Baskent University studied jealousy and found that men and women experience the same level of jealous emotions but they express different reactions to these.

Person 1: There are two types of jealousy; the first is sexual jealousy in which a partner has had a sexual relationship with a third party.

Person 3: Oh Ken, Oh Barbie, Oh Ken

Person 3(Ken): Barbie What the hell?

Person 3(Barbie): Oh Ken you weren't suppose to see me here

Person 3 (Ken): That's it Barbie it's over

Person 3(Barbie): No wait Ken, don't go, No

Person 1: Men experience more jealousy when their partners participate in sexual infidelity.

Person 1: The other type of jealousy is emotional, described as when a partner has emotional involvement and/or love for another person.

Person 3(Ken): Oh Barbie, I love when we talk like this, It's so nice to share emotions with someone

Person 3 (Barbie): Oh Ken, I like talking too

Person 3 (Ken): Vanessa, What are you doing here?

Person 3 (Vanessa): Oh Ken, I saw you with her, you can't lie to me, I'm leaving

Person 3 (Ken): Wait, No Vanessa, we are just friends, it didn't mean anything.

Person 1: Women experience more jealousy when their partner engages in emotional infidelity.

Person 2: From an evolutionary perspective, Charles Darwin states that jealousy is a functional instinct which serves to protect relationships. These instincts allow the species to reproduce and rear offspring, therefore ensuring the survival of successive generations.

Person 1: Another psychologist, David Buss from the University of Texas adopts this perspective and adds that jealousy also prevents one partner from being abandoned or cheated on.]

Person 3 (Barbie): Oh Ken, you are so rich and successful. You are such a good provider

Person 3 (Ken): Oh Barbie, I think you are so pretty. We would make such great looking babies.

Person 1: Women therefore seek socially dominant men who can provide resources for the family and men seek physically attractive, healthy women who will provide them with offspring.

Person 3: The parental investment model serves to explain why women are more likely to experience one type of jealousy, and men another.

Person 1: Robert Trivers theory of parental investment predicts that the parent investing more in their children will be choosier when selecting a mate, compared to the parent investing less.

Person 1: Based on this we can conclude that in humans men would exhibit more jealousy in response to sexual infidelity whereas women would be more jealous in response to emotional infidelity.

Person 1: The parental investment model is linked with evolutionary perspective in which women devote more time, energy and emotional investment into offspring and therefore are careful in selecting a mate. Women are ideally looking for a mate who will be emotionally faithful and can provide resources to them and their offspring. Therefore women become more upset if her mate becomes emotionally involved with someone else, because this means her position is threatened and she is at risk for losing her resources to another female.

Person 3: For men, paternity is the largest concern. Men risk physical energy and resources in raising another man's child, and therefore survival of his own biological children is negatively affected with a mate is sexually unfaithful. This can explain why men are more jealous when it comes to sexual infidelity.

Person 3 (Ken): Uh Barbie, Why does our baby have the milk man's eyes. Hers are brown and ours are blue.

Person 3: Although women are perceived as being more emotional than men, when we look at jealousy we see that both men and women exhibit this emotion. Men are more emotionally responsive when a partner commits sexual infidelity and women are more jealous when a partner commits emotional infidelity. From Dr. Madran's work on jealousy and the comparison of over 20 different studies we see that men and women both experience jealousy, however their reasons are somewhat different due to different evolutionary pressures of parenting and offspring investment.

References

Barrett, L.F., Robin, L. Pietromonaco, P.R. and Eyssell, K.M. (1998). Are women the “more emotional” sex? Evidence from emotional experiences in social context. *Cognition and Emotion*, 12 (4), 555-578.

Grossman, M. and Wood, W. (1993). Sex differences in intensity of emotional experience: A social role interpretation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 65(5), 1010-1022.

Madran, H.A.D. (2008). Sex differences in sexual versus emotional jealousy: Evolutionary approach and recent discussions. *Turkish Journal of Psychiatry* 19, (3), 1-9.

Additional Information

Take a quiz to find out your own level of jealousy at:

<http://dating.about.com/library/2/blJealousy.htm>

To view David Buss' Website click here:

<http://homepage.psy.utexas.edu/homepage/Group/BussLAB/>

To find out more on Parental Investment Theory check this out:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parental_investment