

Title: Gendered Motivations, Self-Confidence, and Successful Outcomes for Online Social Dating

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As online social dating (OSD) is becoming more widely used among college students, this study sought to examine gendered motivations for using OSD as well as the relationship between self-confidence and OSD outcomes. The researchers hypothesized there would be a positive relationship between self-confidence and OSD outcomes, and that men would be more likely to seek OSD for a hookup, whereas women would seek OSD for a boost in confidence. Prior research on college students and emerging adults support these hypotheses (e.g., Griffin, Canevello, & McAnulty, 2018). The sample consisted of 33 participants (22 women, 11 men) enrolled in at least one psychology class at Mount San Antonio College. Participants completed a Self Confidence survey, a Dating App/Website Outcomes survey, and an Online Dating Reasons survey. The authors were unable to find significance in gender differences regarding motivations or in the relationship between self-confidence and OSD outcomes. In addition, no significant ethnicity differences were found in this study. Gender conformity of teens in California (Wilson, et. al. 2017), the underrepresentation of men, social desirability bias, and the fact that all participants were enrolled in a psychology course may have contributed to the lack of significance. Further research considering the complexities of male psychosocial motivations and additional personality characteristics, such as thoughtfulness and extraversion, should be examined to benefit those using these platforms. Finally, the role of race in motivation to engage in OSD should be explored with a larger sample size of varying ethnic backgrounds.

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