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Studies in human physical attractiveness

TZgdsday 2 May 2013, 1pm

Dr Barnaby Dixson, University of New South Wales

Gould Seminar Room, (Rm 235) Gould Building (Bldg. 116), Linnaeus Way, ANU



Although beauty is often said to be 'in the eye of the beholder', the past 30 years of research into human mate preferences has revealed that our judgments of physical attractiveness are not so subjective. Instead, sexual dimorphism in body composition and secondary sexual traits is argued to reveal aspects of health, fertility and competitive ability that determine men and women's attractiveness. However, much of the evidence in support of this view comes from studies conducted among people in Western cultures, which represent only a thin slice of human cultural diversity. In this seminar, I will summarize some of my cross-cultural research on men and women's

preferences for body composition, body hair and beards. I will also present findings from eye-tracking studies that measure the behavioral processes involved in men and women's attractiveness judgments. Finally, I will introduce some of my more recent research in collaboration with Professor Rob Brooks in the Evolution and Ecology Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Presented by

Research School of
Biology

ANU College of
**Medicine, Biology
& Environment**

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This lecture is free and open to the public

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