

# Love or lust is in the air

**In the mood for love? Research shows our emotional state affects how we assess potential partners.**

**W**hen evaluating potential romantic partners, men tend to overestimate women's interest in sex and women underestimate men's intentions to commit. But when people are in similar moods, they are better able to judge each other's interest in these aspects of romantic relationships.

Shikkiah de Quadros and Mark Stokes at Deakin University manipulated people's moods with movie clips and assessed



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perceptions of potential partners' interests in sexual relations and long term-commitment, as well as their actual interest in each other.

They found people in a similar mood are likely to interpret each other's behaviors more accurately than people in different moods. The researchers also looked at how changing people's moods from negative to positive, and vice versa, affected these evaluations.

“When people started with a positive mood and moved to a negative mood, their ratings did not change. However, when people moved from a negative mood into a positive mood, men made much higher ratings of women's sexual intent and their own commitment intent, and women made much higher estimations of men's

commitment and their own sexual intent,” Stokes says.

“In other words, when mood was improved, people's ratings of themselves and potential partners became more favourable. So, watching a dramatic movie with a happy ending may increase romantic interest.

“Men may overestimate women's sexual interest because this may have led to more sexual opportunities for them. Women may be skeptical of a man's interest in committing to a long term relationship, to help avoid costly father abandonment.” The mood effects may be important because initial contact with potential partners often occurs in mood-rich environments, especially for younger people.

Visit <http://www.epjournal.net/filestore/ep05453475.pdf>

## Youth mental health research

**A**ustralia's leading youth mental health service, the Orygen Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, has received \$17 million in new funding from the Colonial Foundation.

Director of Orygen, Professor Patrick McGorry, says the significant boost in funding will allow Orygen to expand its outreach services in mental health care for youth.

The grant represents the Colonial Foundation's largest grant to a single organisation and is one of the most generous grants for research ever in Australian corporate history.

McGorry says the new funding will

“secure Orygen's place as a world leading mental health research centre with a long term future”.

He says Australian youth will benefit directly in coming years from the funding which will support innovative research in early psychosis, depression and bipolar disorder, anxiety and personality disorders.

Describing the new Colonial Foundation funding as “unprecedented” McGorry says it will make an immediate difference, enabling an expanded research and leadership team and recruitment of high level statistical support to analyse and disseminate data in a more sophisticated way.

Coinciding with the new funding announcement Orygen released research

findings which included the results of an eight-year study of Orygen Youth Health's clinical service model, with a focus on 15 to 25-year-olds. The study revealed Orygen is delivering a higher recovery rate for its patients at half the cost over the first decade of care of standard public mental health services

“While initial costs were similar to standard care, over the long term patients required less public mental health care,” McGorry says.

“This is the best evidence to date that a specialised early intervention focus in a youth-friendly environment not only works but is highly cost-effective.”



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Hepatitis C is a virus which can cause inflammation of the liver and liver damage.

Hepatitis C is a chronic illness that can be managed. Some of the main symptoms are fatigue, nausea, itchy skin, depression and digestive problems.

You can only get the virus when infected blood enters your blood stream. The point of entry for infected blood can be a fresh cut or broken or punctured skin.

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