sociological science

Supplement to:

Anderson, Ashton, Sharad Goel, Gregory Huber, Neil Malhotra, and Duncan J. Watts. 2014. "Political Ideology and Racial Preferences in Online Dating." Sociological Science 1: 28-40.

Tables A1, A2, and A3 list selected model coefficients for the models discussed in the main text. Specifically, Table A1 lists coefficients for the stated preferences models, Table A2 lists coefficients for the models that estimate the number of stated preferences, and Table A3 lists coefficients for the revealed preferences model.

A key component of our analysis involves selecting which querier–candidate pairs to consider when estimating R_{OR}. For the results given in the main text, we constructed what we call the "broad pool," which, for any given querier, comprised all members of the opposite sex living within 25 miles of the querier and who meet the querier's stated age requirements. We noted earlier, however, that because not all candidates in the broad pool were shown to queriers—namely, candidates who did not satisfy a querier's must-have preferences—estimates based on the broad pool could reflect a certain self-fulfilling prophecy, in which users' stated preferences directly constrain their future actions. We thus repeated our analysis for an additional "narrow pool" of querier–candidate pairs, where for each querier, we constructed a candidate set of all members who meet the requirements for the broad pool (live within 25 miles of the querier and meet the querier's stated age requirements) and also satisfy the querier's must-have preferences. As a consequence, the estimates of the narrow pool are purged of any selection effects arising from the site's recommendation algorithm. By construction, however, the narrow pool only allows us to estimate revealed preferences (R_{OR}) for the "no preference" and "nice-to-have" groups, when ideally, we would like to estimate them for the "must-have" group as well—it is for this reason that we display results for the broad pool in the main text.

Table A4 and Figure A1 show selected coefficients and model estimates from the revealed preferences analysis using the narrow pool. The results are qualitatively the same as the analogous results in the main text, providing reassurance that our findings are not artifacts of the site's design.

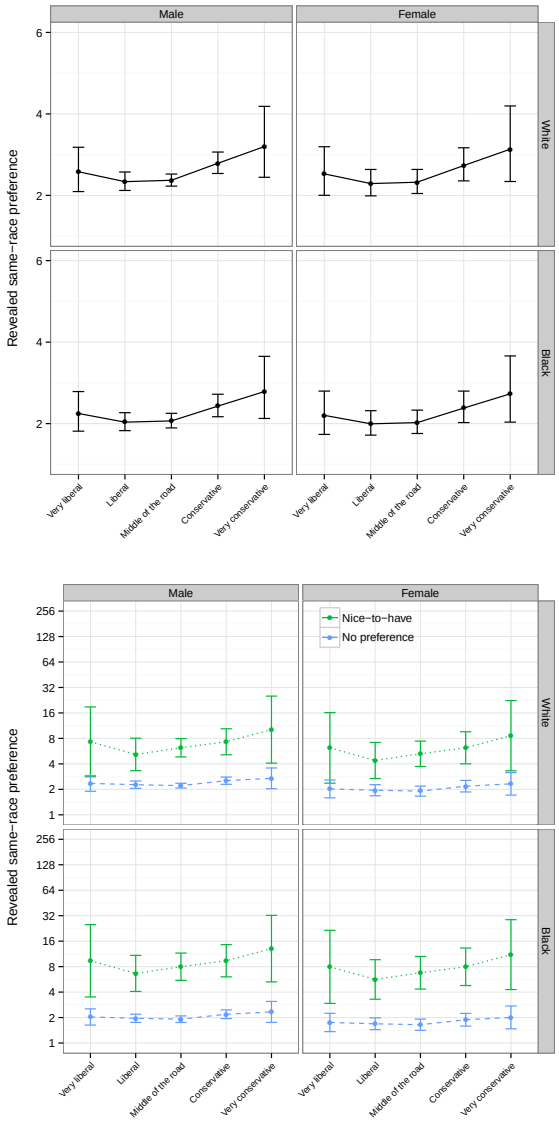

Figure A1. Estimated revealed same-race preferences based on the "narrow pool" of candidates. Estimated revealed preferences for same-race partners by stated same-race preferences. Bars indicate 95 percent confidence intervals.

Table A1. Coefficients for Stated Preference Models

	At Least Nice-to-Have		Must-Have	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Very liberal	−2.03	−1.30	−3.02	−2.21
	(0.25)	(0.12)	(0.35)	(0.14)
Liberal	−1.99	−0.98	−3.00	−1.86
	(0.25)	(0.10)	(0.34)	(0.12)
Middle of the road	−1.78	−0.63	−2.72	−1.55
	(0.25)	(0.10)	(0.34)	(0.12)
Conservative	−1.62	−0.49	−2.55	−1.46
	(0.25)	(0.10)	(0.34)	(0.12)
Very conservative	−1.48	−0.43	−2.40	−1.46
	(0.25)	(0.12)	(0.35)	(0.14)
Black	−0.54	−0.08	−0.53	−0.05
	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)

Table A2. Coefficients for Number of Nonrace Attributes for Which a User Expresses a Preference, for Both At Least Nice-to-Have and Must-Have Preferences

	At Least Nice-to-Have		Must-Have	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Very liberal	1.78	1.92	0.76	1.17
	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.03)
Liberal	1.80	1.92	0.77	1.21
	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.03)
Middle of the road	1.78	1.92	0.76	1.20
	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.03)
Conservative	1.84	1.97	0.88	1.28
	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.03)
Very conservative	1.81	1.89	0.76	1.21
	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.07)	(0.03)
Black	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.09
	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)

Table A3. Main Model Coefficients and Standard Errors for Our Revealed Preferences Model

	No Preference		Same-Race Preference: Nice-to-Have		Same-Race Preference: Must-Have	
	Different Race	Same Race	Different Race	Same Race	Different Race	Same Race
Very liberal	−0.89	*NA*	−1.03	0.67	−1.06	0.23
	(0.11)		(0.39)	(0.16)	(0.55)	(0.17)
Liberal	−0.80	*NA*	−1.19	0.07	−1.27	0.11
	(0.06)		(0.19)	(0.08)	(0.23)	(0.08)
Middle of the road	−0.79	*NA*	−1.30	0.23	−1.24	0.22
	(0.06)		(0.14)	(0.05)	(0.15)	(0.05)
Conservative	−0.91	*NA*	−1.38	0.19	−1.27	0.22
	(0.07)		(0.18)	(0.07)	(0.20)	(0.06)
Very conservative	−1.08	*NA*	−1.40	0.16	−1.09	0.18
	(0.14)		(0.42)	(0.19)	(0.48)	(0.16)
Male	−0.11	*NA*	−0.34	−0.04	−1.59	0.00
	(0.06)		(0.13)	(0.05)	(0.17)	(0.05)
Black	0.11	*NA*	−0.17	0.11	−0.77	0.64
	(0.04)		(0.14)	(0.09)	(0.19)	(0.08)

Note: All coefficients are relative to white female queriers who state no preference and who match on race with the candidate (as indicated by the NAs).

Table A4. Main Model Coefficients and Standard Errors for Our Revealed Preferences Model Based on the "Narrow Pool" of Candidates

	No Preference		Nice-to-Have	
	Different Race	Same Race	Different Race	Same Race
Very liberal	−0.70	*NA*	−0.81	1.01
	(0.12)		(0.47)	(0.16)
Liberal	−0.67	*NA*	−1.32	0.16
	(0.07)		(0.23)	(0.08)
Middle of the road	−0.64	*NA*	−1.37	0.30
	(0.07)		(0.17)	(0.06)
Conservative	−0.78	*NA*	−1.59	0.23
	(0.08)		(0.21)	(0.07)
Very conservative	−0.84	*NA*	−1.72	0.44)
	(0.15)	*NA*	(0.45)	(0.19)
Male	−0.15	*NA*	−0.26	−0.10
	(0.07)		(0.16)	(0.06)
Black	0.15	*NA*	−0.12	0.13
	(0.05)		(0.16)	(0.09)

Note: All coefficients are relative to white female queriers who state no preference and who match on race with the candidate (as indicated by the NAs).