

POSTER

RIVALRY IN DISGUISE: THE EFFECT OF SELF-PRESENTATION CONTEXT ON INTRASEXUAL COMPETITION SCORES

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ABSTRACT

Intrasexual competition (ISC) is a key element of human mating psychology, yet its expression may be strategically managed depending on social context. Previous research shows that individuals who openly derogate same-sex rivals are evaluated as less kind, less trustworthy, and overall less desirable by both men and women. The present study investigates whether self-presentation context influences reported levels of ISC. Participants ($n=300$) are randomly assigned to one of three conditions: (1) a private setting (control), (2) an interaction with a same-sex experimenter (i.e., potential rival), or (3) an interaction with an opposite-sex experimenter (i.e., potential mate). We hypothesize that participants in both experimental conditions will report lower levels of ISC than those in the private condition, due to reputational concerns and impression management. These results will deepen our understanding of how social presence and gender dynamics influence self-reported competitive attitudes in interpersonal contexts.