

# Warfare as a case of mating behavior

Amàlia Fosch, Elia Callado i Ariadna Roig

## Introduction

Mating is a vital activity that is characterized for its complexity. In humans, there are two sexes with different interests: women are choosier because of their bigger investment on reproduction, and men are more protective because of the uncertainty of their paternity due to internal fertilization.

This leads to the development of different mating strategies that both men and women perform, such as sexual deception, sexual exploitation, stalking, etc. and its corresponding developed defenses. The result is a co-evolutionary arms race, similar to that between predators and preys, or between different states to achieve better military force.

## Objectives

In this study, we try to demonstrate the shared points between mating conflicts and the strategies behind warfare, specifically in the invasion of Ukraine by Russia's hand.

The war between Russia and Ukraine will be interpreted as a mating sexual conflict in which NATO acts as the main mate poacher, Russia will have the role of the mate guardian and Ukraine will be the stalking victim.

## Results

### *From a scientific perspective...*

Hypothesis 1: Russia, an old man; Ukraine, a young woman; Europe, a desired companion

Individuals always look for the best partner they can get. Males prefer mates with fertility cues and youth. Females value mates with good resources and high social status.

Mate value changes over time. When discrepancies in mate value appear within a couple, it can lead to mate switching, and this a lot of times entails jealousy and different mate guarding strategies, such as controlling or stalking.

Hypothesis 2: Jealousy

Emotions of love, attachment and jealousy are evolutionary cognitive biases that look for the optimization of mating, although sometimes they are undermined by opposite mating strategies. Jealousy is a defense against infidelity and mate poachers, and it is the primary emotion that motivates mate guarding strategies.

Hypothesis 3: The rejected stalker

Stalking is a behavior that is often carried out when there are signs of an upcoming breakup or after it. 90% of rejected stalkers are men. Stalkers are motivated in their actions by the emotions of rage and humiliation, that seek repairing reputational damage and getting back together with their former mate.

When this is not possible, stalkers take revenge, and in some cases, they eventually commit an attack, which can end up in death.

Hypothesis 4: The Dark Triad

There is a relation between those men who have power and higher social status and those who are inclined to harass. All of them tend to score high on the Dark Triad traits (narcissism, psychopathy and Machiavellianism).

In fact, men with power have lower levels of empathy, and therefore in some cases are more prone to harass. Moreover, narcissistic men are more likely to react with hostility against refusal.

In one experiment (Buss, 2021), men who scored high on a “likelihood to sexually harass” scale associated unconsciously the concepts of power and sex, through words like “authority”, “boss”, “foreplay”, or “date”.

### ***Comparison with the case of study***

Ukraine, much before the violence started, has always been a desirable companion. The resources and weaponry in her possession making her a perpetual prey.

Russia and Ukraine, particularly, had always had a rocky relationship. While dating Russia, Ukraine got attacked by another male, Germany, who wanted her resources regardless of the fact that she was already in a relationship. Russia was furious and did everything in his power to get her back until he freed her from Germany.

They dated for years without a hitch, but it was clear that Russia was becoming more aggressive and controlling. After many attempts, Ukraine managed to break up with Russia.

Unfortunately, Russia proved that their story was far from being over. Ukraine started assessing other possible candidates to date, the main one being NATO. NATO was a well-known sworn enemy of Russia so this interaction ruffled Russia’s feathers the wrong way. In response, his controlling behavior took over and he started monitoring a lot of aspects of her life.

The everlasting silent pressure from Russia always kept her from actually starting a new relationship. Even with those conditions, some part of her still harbored feelings toward Russia. Albeit, a great part of Ukraine remembered exactly what Russia had put her through and was against him.

Regardless, she tries again to start anew with a male. Russia, of course, is not happy about it and makes the fact known in the form of violence. Finally, after another of Ukraine's failed attempts, the dam breaks and the war begins.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the situation between Russia and Ukraine can be described as a case of mating behavior. Even though this study defined this circumstance merely as a perspective from an ecologically-evolutive point of view. According to our hypothesis, Russia (more specifically Putin) has taken the role of a humiliated male that has succumbed to his sadistic instincts, taking the mate guarding approach to an extreme. Meanwhile, Ukraine is the victim of the harassment because of her intended involvement with NATO, Russia's competitor and the mate poacher in this scenario. From a more critical point of view, these hypotheses are subjective and they should be proven scientifically. It is also necessary to mention that in this study we elude a lot of parts of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

## References

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