
ROBERT PHILIP BURRISS

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EDUCATION

- Jan 2004 – Feb 2007 University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences
PhD, Evolutionary Psychology
Thesis: "Face Perception and the Acquisition and Retention of Mates"
- Oct 2002 – Oct 2003 University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences
MSc, Evolutionary Psychology (distinction)
Thesis: "Male Perceptions of Dominance and Attractiveness in Other Males as a Function of Partner Menstrual State"
- Oct 1999 – June 2002 University of Liverpool, Department of Psychology
BSc, Psychology (2.i)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Jan 2009 – Post-doctoral research associate (fixed term two year contract), Pennsylvania State University, Department of Anthropology
Research: Genetics and facial morphology. Phenotypic variation over the cycle. Face preferences in romantic couples.
Miscellaneous: Creation and maintenance of group website (<http://www.putslab.psu.edu>).
- Feb 2008 – Dec 2008 Honorary researcher, University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences
Research: The development of dynamic (video) facial stimuli for attractiveness research.
- Oct 2007 – Jan 2008 University teacher (maternity cover), University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences
Teaching: Planning and delivering lectures to level two undergraduates (Biological Psychology) and postgraduates (Human Evolutionary Psychology, Research Methods). Responsible for setting examinations and marking examinations and coursework essays/assignments. Instructing group members in the use of specialist photographic manipulation software.
Research: Development of video stimuli for attractiveness research.

- Apr 2007 – May 2007 English teacher (voluntary position), LHA School, Dharamsala, India
Teaching: Planning and delivering intermediate English lessons to Tibetan high school students. Setting and marking of homework and end of course examination.
- Oct 2006 – Jan 2007 Post-doctoral researcher (fixed term four month contract), University of Stirling, Department of Psychology
Research: Designing and carrying out pilot research into the effects of facial scarring on attractiveness and on the use of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (e.g. Second Life) as platforms for attractiveness research.
- Jan 2004 – Feb 2007 PhD Student (Co-supervisors: John Lycett, Tony Little), University of Liverpool, School of Biological Sciences
Research: Studies of the effects of partnership status and partner menstrual phase on perceptions of facial dominance. Findings provided the first evidence that (a) human males mate-choice copy, (b) women's menstrual phase affects their partners' perceptions of third-party faces, and (c) humans assortatively mate on measures of facial symmetry and masculinity.
Teaching: Postgraduate demonstrator on several undergraduate modules (Quantitative Biology II, Experimental Design, Zoology Honours Field Course). Responsibility for supervising small groups and marking coursework assignments.
Miscellaneous: Creation and maintenance of group and research project websites (e.g. <http://www.liv.ac.uk/evolpsyc>).

PUBLICATIONS

First author publications

- Burriss, R. P. (in press). The effect of veneers on cosmetic improvement: comments on Nalbandian and Millar, 2009. *British Dental Journal*.
- Burriss, R. P. (2009). Esthetic effect of orthodontic appliances: comments on Berto et al., 2009. *American Journal of Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics*, 136(3), 305-306. [doi:10.1016/j.ajodo.2009.07.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajodo.2009.07.004)
- Burriss, R. P. (2009). Symmetry is sexy: reply to Hodgson's 'Symmetry and Humans'. *Antiquity*, 83(322), 1170-1175.
- Burriss, R. P., Rowland, H. M., & Little, A. C. (2009). Facial scarring enhances men's attractiveness for short-term relationships. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 46(2), 213-217. [doi:10.1016/j.paid.2008.09.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2008.09.029)
- Burriss, R. P., Little, A. C., & Nelson, E. C. (2007). 2D:4D and sexually dimorphic facial characteristics. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 36(3), 377-384. [doi:10.1007/s10508-006-9136-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10508-006-9136-1)
- Burriss, R. P., & Little, A. C. (2006). Effects of partner conception risk phase on male perception of dominance in faces. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 27(4), 297-305. [doi:10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.01.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.01.002)

Co-author publications

- Roberts, S. C., Saxton, T. K., Murray, A. K., Burriss, R. P., Rowland, H. M., & Little, A. C. (2009). Static and dynamic facial images cue similar attractiveness judgements. *Ethology*, 115, 588-595. [doi:10.1111/j.1439-0310.2009.01640.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0310.2009.01640.x)
- Saxton, T. K., Burriss, R. P., Murray, A. K., Rowland, H. M., Roberts, S. C. (2009). Face, body and speech cues independently predict judgments of attractiveness. *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology*, 7, 23-35. [doi:10.1556/JEP.7.2009.1.4](https://doi.org/10.1556/JEP.7.2009.1.4)
- Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P., Jones, B. C., DeBruine, L. M., & Caldwell C. A. (2008). Social influence in human face preference: men and women are influenced more for long-term than short-term attractiveness decisions. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 29, 140-146. [doi:10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2007.11.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2007.11.007)
- Little, A. C., Jones, B. C., & Burriss, R. P. (2007). Preferences for masculinity in male bodies change across the menstrual cycle. *Hormones and Behavior*, 51, 633-639. [doi:10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.09.002)
- Jones, B. C., DeBruine, L. M., Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P., Feinberg, D. R. (2007). Social transmission of face preferences influences judgments of attractiveness in humans. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B*, 274, 899-903. [doi:10.1098/rspb.2006.0205](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2006.0205)
- Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P., Jones, B. C., Roberts, S. C. (2007). Facial appearance affects voting decisions. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 28(1), 18-27. [doi:10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.09.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2006.09.002)

Conference presentations

- Burriss, R. P.* , Rowland, H. M., DeBruine, L. M., & Little, A. C. (June 2009). Chicks dig scars: men with scarring are more attractive for short-term relationships. Poster presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES) Conference in Fullerton, CA, USA.
- Little, A. C.* , Burriss, R. P., DeBruine, L. M., Jones, B. C., Feinberg, D. R., & Caldwell, C. A. (June 2008). Copying and contrast in human mate preference. Paper presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES) Conference in Kyoto, Japan.
- Jones, B. C.* , DeBruine, L. M., Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P., & Feinberg , D. R. (May 2007). Social transmission of face preferences among humans. Paper presented at the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES) Conference in Williamsburg, VA, USA.
- Little, A. C.* , Burriss, R. P., Jones, B. C., Roberts, S. C. (March 2007). Facial appearance affects voting decisions. Poster presented at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Conference in London School of Economics, UK.
- Jones, B. C.* , DeBruine, L. M., Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P., & Feinberg , D. R. (March 2007). Social transmission of face preferences among humans. Paper presented at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Conference in London School of Economics, UK.
- Burriss, R. P.* , & Little, A. C. (September 2006). Human males copy mate-choice. Poster presented at the London Research Evolutionary Network (LERN) Conference, London, UK.
- Little, A. C., Burriss, R. P.* , Tufte, A. D., & Jones, B. C. (September 2006). Hormone mediated preferences for bodies and faces. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Sexual Reproduction and Infant Psychology society (SRIP), Aston, UK.

* Presenting author

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research interests lie in the information that is available from faces and how people use that information to inform behaviours relating to mate-choice and mate-retention. I am particularly interested in whether partnered men are able to detect potential rivals using face information and in how shifting female preferences can affect their partners' mate-retention efforts. I am also interested in other related topics, such as human oestrus and concealed ovulation, assortative mating and mate-choice copying (social transmission of mate preferences), and in how different types of facial scarring and stories about scar acquisition can affect attractiveness and other third-party perceptions.

TEACHING INTERESTS

I generally subscribe to the philosophy that graduate-level skills are best developed by promoting interaction between students both in large- and small-group teaching settings. When lecturing I strive to engage students in the topic under discussion by soliciting opinions and questions. In smaller groups, alternating group problem solving tasks with focussed feedback has proven to be a successful method of rapidly familiarising students with complex issues and establishing confidence with statistics. I always seek to foster an atmosphere of trust, where students feel confident to discuss their own ideas and to question established wisdom. Though I am able to teach a wide variety of topics relevant to both psychology and biology, I particularly enjoy teaching biological, evolutionary and cognitive/perceptual psychology, as well as statistics and research methods.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Statistical packages

Highly competent user of SPSS. I have also taught the use of Minitab.

Audio / Video / graphics packages

Skilled user of St. Andrew's facial manipulation software, Psychomorph. Skilled user of Corel PhotoPaint and CorelDraw. Some Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, ImageJ and Praat. Also a highly skilled user of video and audio editing programmes: Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects, Adobe Encore and Adobe Audition. Also some Final Cut Pro.

Miscellaneous

Extensive experience with XHTML and CSS (webpage coding) and MS Office. Also some experience of SuperLab (stimulus presentation software).

LANGUAGES

Basic level proficiency in Japanese.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The Human Behavior and Evolution Society (2006)

The Society for Menstrual Cycle Research (2009)

AD-HOC REVIEWING

Animal Behaviour, Evolutionary Psychology, Personality and Individual Differences, Social Neuroscience.