

GENETICS

NON RANDOM MATING

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A new study published in [PNAS](#) finds evidence for non-random mating

Spouses are more genetically similar than two individuals chosen at random ... our unadjusted GAM result of 0.045 suggests that a 1-SD increase in genetic similarity increases the probability of marriage by roughly 15%. This association is confounded, in part, by intraethnic marriage among whites but we continue to observe GAM even after a series of models designed to eliminate this source of assortative mating.

This comes somewhat unexpected. Unfortunately, the authors missed in their discussion what [Carole Ober published about HLA and mate choice](#) in humans

Hutterite mate choice is influenced by HLA haplotypes, with an avoidance of spouses with haplotypes that are the same as one's own.

So I am a bit confused – more similar in general but still different at the HLA locus?? Reminds me to the old joke, that your male genome is more similar to a male chimpanzee (on a per base statistic) than to your wife.