

Perceptions of Beauty

In our discussion of perceptions of beauty we touched on three main points how race and ethnicity influence perception, societies fixation on beauty, and the pervasive process of retouching images for enhancement. I thought it was interesting to have the studying cited in are reading to show to the surprise of some where the average self-confidence of various groups existed in this study. In particular, it was shown that African American women have a higher on average perception of beauty than White Americans, who are most often the most glorified in the media.

Moreover, it is interesting to see how societal perceptions of beauty differ from our own and how beauty is shaped by the media. I think the media and society definitely have a reciprocal role in creating the narrow definitions of beauty that we most often perceive in the media. I think as individuals we are often open to a broader range of beauty that what is likely to be shown in the media, that includes different ethnicities, shapes, ages and factors other than physical attractiveness. I think the media helps perpetuate unhealthy and sometimes unconventional beauty norms. In class we discussed how porn could have played a role in the modern practice of hair removal for women. In think we can similarly see the influence of the media when we look as the slenderizing of actresses and models over the decades. I think the expectation of girls has changed as a result of being confronted by so many limited range of women. We see this across race also. Though in citing the first mentioned study I think the media's exclusion of most other ethnicities has help create an in group out group phenomenon.

It is my assertion that many African Americans ignore many standards of beauty perpetuated by the media, recognizing that greater society does not reflect them.

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