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Symmetry and Attractiveness

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (20 January 2022)

Message from the Guest Editors

Human facial and body symmetry has been a focus of research for several decades as a cue to developmental stability and genetic quality. The magnitude of fluctuating asymmetries has been suggested as an estimation of how efficient an organism is in developing bilaterally while facing environmental obstacles throughout ontogenetic development. Although multiple studies have found that symmetry is linked to both actual and perceived health or attractiveness, recent work using sizeable samples and new tools failed to replicate these results. Additionally, there is no clear evidence that symmetry translates into higher potential fertility and reproductive success. Similarly unexplored is the effect of inter-individual and between-population differences on perception of asymmetry as a cue to attractiveness. Additionally, a novel field of computational approaches assessing an individual's health and biological qualities could provide further insights into signals possibly conveyed by human symmetry.

This issue gathers articles focusing on human symmetry in a quest for a congruent interpretation of this putative signal of biological condition.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Symmetry is ultimately the most important concept in natural sciences. It is not surprising then that very basic and fundamental research achievements are related to symmetry. For instance, the Nobel Prize in Physics 1979 (Glashow, Salam, Weinberg) was received for a unified symmetry description of electromagnetic and weak interactions, while the Nobel Prize in Physics 2008 (Nambu, Kobayashi, Maskawa) was received for the discovery of the mechanism of spontaneous breaking of symmetry, including CP symmetry. Our journal is named *Symmetry* and it manifests its fundamental role in nature.

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