



Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game

Jon Birger

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game

Jon Birger

Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game Jon Birger

It's not that he's just not that into you—it's that there aren't enough of him. And the numbers prove it. Using a combination of demographics, statistics, game theory, and number-crunching, Date-onomics tells what every single, college-educated, heterosexual, looking-for-a-partner woman needs to know: The "man deficit" is real. It's a fascinating, if sobering read, with two critical takeaways: One, it's not you. Two, knowledge is power, so here's what to do about it.

The shortage of college-educated men is not just a big-city phenomenon frustrating women in New York and L.A. Among young college grads, there are four eligible women for every three men nationwide. This unequal ratio explains not only why it's so hard to find a date, but a host of social issues, from the college hookup culture to the reason Salt Lake City is becoming the breast implant capital of America. Then there's the math that says that a woman's good looks can keep men from approaching her—particularly if they feel the odds aren't in their favor.

Fortunately, there are also solutions: what college to attend (any with strong sciences or math), where to hang out (in New York, try a fireman's bar), where to live (Colorado, Seattle, "Man" Jose), and why never to shy away from giving an ultimatum.

Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game Details

Date : Published August 25th 2015 by Workman Publishing Company (first published August 11th 2015)

ISBN : 9780761182085

Author : Jon Birger

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Relationships, Psychology, Science, Economics

 [Download Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Ga ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game Jon Birger

From Reader Review Date-onomics: How Dating Became a Lopsided Numbers Game for online ebook

Leslie says

From the Time magazine article based on this book, I thought it would largely be about marriage markets; when I saw it on the shelf at the library, I picked it up partly because I was curious how someone could write an entire popular-press book about the fact that marriage markets exist and are sometimes imbalanced.

I guess to the extent that I had a specific idea of how that would work, I hoped that this book would use the marriage-market concept to interrogate the cultural idea of marriage as a necessary structuring element of adult, and especially adult female, life. My ideal-world version of this book would be a love letter to women that says that no, not everyone can win the marriage game, but it is a game, and maybe knowing that, and understanding why, and thinking about what else women have done throughout history besides get married (for it is a 1950's fantasy that all women have always gotten married) will be helpful to some women who expected their lives to look different than they have turned out to.

[Probably if I had noticed it was written by a man before I got home with it, I would have guessed that this was not the direction it was going to go.]

To me, "the system is rigged - so here's how you can make sure you're one of the winners!" is a compassionless and sad message, but that's exactly the one this book tries to go with. (Ladies, lock a man down in college or move to a market with a higher ratio of men to women!) This is only one of its problems; the issue that was even more difficult for me to handle was the relentless use of bad social science research to push a reductionist, gender-essentialist message. In the world of this book:

- Human behavior can be explained by the behavior of non-human animals. As someone whose work involves culture in a pretty big way, I vehemently disagree with this notion, although of course there are whole disciplines that try to make it work. I don't know, man. We aren't birds.
- Men change their behavior drastically based on perceived sex ratios, while women pretty much sit there looking pretty. Unsurprisingly, both a high M:F ratio and a low one somehow end up being bad for women. (High: patriarchy, but at least no one will rape you because men Protect Their Scarce Resources; low: YOU'LL DIE ALONE, Career Spinster. After some sad hookups.) No indication is given of how these sex ratios are detected in order to influence behavior, especially when they are not real population phenomena but only imbalances in the subset of the population you'd theoretically be interested in marrying and/or banging. This seems like a pretty big hole to me, but hey, I'm not a cognitive scientist.
- Gay people do exist (but only to the extent that they make life harder for straight women) but bisexual people definitely don't. Non-binary people don't. Poly people don't. Nor do women who don't want to get married, really.
- Most egregiously, in my opinion, the lives and experiences of the non-college-educated (which is ~75% of the adult population of the US) are given almost no attention in this book. Yes, the man drought is a college-educated man drought, but given that the situation is reversed for the less educated, I was quite surprised that this fact was not exploited to check up on some of the book's claims. For example: a low M:F ratio contributes to rape. (Then shouldn't less-educated women experience less sexual violence than more-educated women? Hmm, the data doesn't bear that out.) A low M:F ratio causes marriage rates to drop. (Then shouldn't marriage rates have dropped a lot less among less-educated women? Weird, the data doesn't bear that out either.) Never mind, now I get why the author ignored the less-educated.

Anyway, this rant has gone on long enough, but suffice it to say that if you read this book and were frustrated by it, you're not alone, and it's not very good, and you should probably forget about the whole thing. And if

you want to talk about the high rate of non-marriage among women in early modern Europe, you can come sit by me!

Lori Lynn says

Date-onomics is an eye-opener. Whether you are a single person still searching for “the one,” a parent of a student nearing college age, a divorced person re-entering the dating market, or a college admissions officer, this book will provide insights that will help you think more clearly about the dynamics of dating behaviors. As the number of women with college degrees continues to increase in comparison to men with similar educational levels, we need to consider the impact of that shift on our society. Jon Birger offers observations that many of us have never noticed, but that are particularly significant for young adults in the United States. The book is cleanly written and presents economic and social data in an accessible way, along with savvy commentary. Birger is not writing to pass judgment; instead, his book helps people understand their own choices better, including where they attend college, where they live, what profession they pursue, and who they find attractive.

Maeve says

This book both depressed me and made me feel a lot better about myself, that my situation is not a personal one but a matter of circumstances. I wish this book had been written 15 years ago and I had read it before deciding where to go to college. I highly recommend it to every single-person, particularly single women.

Molly says

Really a 2.5 stars. It is an interesting concept that is frightening to some extent, how quickly our animal instincts just come right out. It was very repetitive with all the stats that felt like they said the same thing again and again. I also have a problem with social "science" cause it never feels like science.

Marissa says

Notice: this is not an empowering feminist book! Regardless, I like social science and I found this book quite interesting. It also presents the research in a really readable way, it's not dry and boring. A lot of the "results" are not going to be shocking to most women in the US today... it will simply be confirmation of what they are experiencing/feeling. The "causes" that are presented here and their impact on the social scene are interesting through (i.e., gender ratios in higher ed). There's not a ton of "what to do about it" that is realistic at this point so some readers may find that lacking (although I would never move to NYC after reading this book). But it is always nice to have research to explain culture.

Margo says

Let me know if you want to borrow this book from me! This was one of the best books on dating I have read in a long time. It focuses primarily on the statistics and data around dating demographics and it really opened my eyes to something I had never thought of before. There is a chapter that specifically looks at the Mormon demographics and addresses the gender ratios in Utah county which, after reading this book, have completely convinced me that I should not move back to Utah unless I intend to get a boob job and regular botox injections. Pretty sure I am going to move to Wyoming now and marry a cowboy. Fabulous book well worth the read for singles females and males for that matter, college-educated or not.

Michelle Llewellyn says

All the Single (Divorced?) Ladies-Read This Book!

Jon Birger finally validates what I've always known since I was a freshman at my local southern Utah college, Fall 1993, surrounded by females, taking our Gen Eds asking...Where are all the boys?

The majority of my Friday and Saturday nights were spent studying in an apartment complex where over half the units were occupied by single women. I also had a part-time job.

Attending my LDS (Mormon) Sunday worship services, was also frustrating, wondering how I could possibly compete for a date with 150 other young women, all with an eye single to our eternal salvation. Hitting each other over the head with our trays of freshly baked cookies to impress the handful of single guys, entice them to come hang out at our apartment, was also not uncommon. "Back off b--ch, he's MINE!" was a silent message telegraphed among females at mixers.

Thousands of women know exactly what I'm talking about.

Temple marriage in the Mormon community is exactly like a game of musical chairs. As all the good, active, educated, return missionaries make their selections from the huge pool of eligible bachelorettes, those still left in the circle are not only suffering from the humiliation of never being chosen, but slapped with the blame that it was our own fault for not making ourselves more marketable.

The appendixes at the end were fascinating. Birger lists, state by state and county by county, the dating market numbers of college age women and men. The two listed for Utah are Salt Lake and Utah counties, home to the two largest universities: University of Utah and BYU. I found it very interesting that among the 22-29 age group (millennials) the number of college educated women in Provo totaled 14,000 as opposed to only 7,482 MEN!

Why is it taking so long for young men in Utah county to graduate?

I can't help but wonder if Birger's numbers include divorced men and women which makes Birger's numbers even MORE skewed as most never-married Mormon women aren't looking for a man with baggage, not to mention the alimony which would require us to continue working outside the home; not exactly the ideal life we were taught to strive for.

The man deficit is real.

My roommates and I were not promiscuous but we spent many nights sitting around discussing our options, wondering if we shouldn't just lower our standards like so many of our desperate friends were doing, just to get a guy to notice them.

The numbers here in Utah have always been skewed against never married women where the only male dominated place to meet anyone is the line at Best Buy for the newest X-Box.

Unfortunately, too many of my amazing, single, never married friends and I would rather be doing more grown-up activities, like focusing on our careers and character-building hobbies than waiting for these blue-collar men to grow up, stop playing the field and settle down.

Yes, Chapter 6 was especially fun to read and the author got it exactly right.

In the end, the only solution Birger suggests is doing more to encourage our young boys to be more ambitious, go to school, and graduate.

Now we just need to convince them to stop cohabitating and put a ring on it. That goes for the women too!

Lauren Flores says

As a single Latter-day Saint woman and a former Utah county resident, this book was SO validating! There's a saying among residents that "Provo kills love" and after reading this book I'm realizing that there is great truth to that statement.

This book is a very quick read and I can't recommend it enough to Latter-day Saint YSAs or others who can't understand the complexities of millennial dating within the church.

I shared so much of what I learned from this book with friends! Not sure how this book will influence my dating pursuits, but I am definitely pondering some deep thoughts over here!

Read! Read! Read!

Mallory Carling says

This book just scientifically proved why dating sucks so much. It was intriguing and easy to read. It has also provided a lot of heated discussion between me and my single friends.

Gayle Noble says

I read this mainly for the one chapter on how the gender ratio has affected Mormons and Orthodox Jews, but the rest of it was pretty interesting too. The author comes up with some theories as to why the increasing number of women being college-educated means that their dating pool is shrinking. Two things crossed my mind whilst reading this:

1) He seemed a bit fixated on women's 'biological clock', not every woman wants kids.

2) I can understand why comparatively fewer smart, educated guys are in demand but the book doesn't explain, if there is a deficit of women in the 'blue collar' areas, why so many men who, lets face it could be an episode of Jeremy Kyle, seem to have no trouble dating and go from one relationship to the next whereas smart, attractive, women with good jobs struggle to find another partner. Where is the 'balance out'?

Overall, an interesting read but not entirely convincing in some areas.

Arielle says

This book made me more sad than books that are actually sad.

Charreah Jackson says

Really important and powerful read! Appreciated the research into the realities of single women

Andrew Worsley says

Next

Christine says

I loved this book for its different perspective on the dating world. As a single woman in the New York City area I was starting to wonder if it was me. After reading this I realized that there are a lot other issues going on that have little to do with me.

The imbalance of the sexes is a really interesting phenomenon, and has a lot of different causes and results.

For someone looking to get married will get some tools for improving their odds, in ways most don't think of.

Ashley says

Jon presents the facts well, but as someone of faith this book was rather depressing. It serves as a reminder of how, in American culture, women are viewed as objects of pleasure that can easily be used and thrown away so men can easily move on to the multitude of other women willing to do whatever it takes to keep men interested in them. It makes me sad that this our normal -- women who are afraid of being alone and who find their worth in men, resulting in low standards and women who give their bodies and hearts away to men who give them no commitment and men who think they need to take advantage of women to be "men". we were created for so much more than this!
