

Is Kindness Physically Attractive?

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Scientific American:

One of the most robust findings in social psychology is the beauty-is-good stereotype: physically attractive people are perceived and treated more positively than physically unattractive people [1]. But here's the thing: I have definitely met attractive people who went from hot to not the second they opened their mouths! Vice-versa, some people are so kind and awesome that you can't help but be attracted to them, regardless of their score on hornotnot.com.

Which has me wondering: I know beautiful is often perceived as good, but *isn't good also beautiful?* I mean, I know we are an extremely looks obsessed culture, and research does show that the people we initially perceive as physically attractive tend to follow a very predictable pattern: they are average, symmetrical, and have hormone-dependent features [2]. But don't things like character and goodness also factor into our perceptions of physical attractiveness?

Read the whole story: [*Scientific American*](#)