



Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Economics I Learned from Online Dating

Paul Oyer

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Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Economics I Learned from Online Dating Paul Oyer Conquering the dating market—from an economist’s point of view

After more than twenty years, economist Paul Oyer found himself back on the dating scene—but what a difference a few years made. Dating was now dominated by sites like Match.com, eHarmony, and OkCupid. But Oyer had a secret weapon: economics.

It turns out that dating sites are no different than the markets Oyer had spent a lifetime studying. Monster.com, eBay, and other sites where individuals come together to find a match gave Oyer startling insight into the modern dating scene. The arcane language of economics—search, signaling, adverse selection, cheap talk, statistical discrimination, thick markets, and network externalities—provides a useful guide to finding a mate. Using the ideas that are central to how markets and economics and dating work, Oyer shows how you can apply these ideas to take advantage of the economics in everyday life, all around you, all the time.

For all online daters—and for anyone else swimming in the vast sea of the information economy—this book uses Oyer’s own experiences, and those of millions of others, to help you navigate the key economic concepts that drive the modern age.

Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Economics I Learned from Online Dating Details

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From Reader Review Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Economics I Learned from Online Dating for online ebook

Sterling Hardaway says

Fun applied economics book, goes over basic-intermediate micro principles. Wouldn't recommend if you want a deep dive or to learn something new about markets, but Oyer's humor and humility towards his personal online dating journey is really great!

Joe Petsche says

Covered a wide variety of topics related to economics and dating. Found it amusing, I would have had similar conversations with friends contemplating how stuff works. He backs up his finding with many references.

Linnea Arneson says

After reading the freakonomics books I was looking for another quirky economics book, and this one lived up to my expectations. I learned a lot about both microeconomics and online dating. I think there's a real niche out there for crossover books like this one. It shows that economics doesn't just apply to Wall Street. Also the long title makes it cool.

Jane Potter says

I really enjoyed this. Economics is not unlike social psychology.

I like how the author used the online search for love to teach me these theories.

1. Search theory
 2. Cheap talk
 3. Network externalities
 4. Signalling
 5. Statistical discrimination
 6. Thick vs thin markets
 - 7 adverse selection
 8. Positive assortative mating
 9. Return to skills
 10. Family
-

Robin Ver says

Funny, gives loads of examples from different scenarios and each chapter is nicely summarized by the author with a few key takeaways.

Ron Bronson says

This book is more Econ than it is about online dating. Not a bad thing so long as you didn't major in econ or somehow managed to take Econ 101/102...but otherwise, it'll probably be a bit too heavy on that part and not enough on the online dating part. So if you're looking for an extensive breakdown of using formulas or something crazy to make your dating more efficient, this isn't that book at all. It's basically using online dating as a way to help you better internalize basic economics. Which has its place. But know that going in.

David Johnston says

Excellent entertaining and concise book.

I looked forward to reading every chapter of this book. I found it very easy to read while keeping me engaged - the mark of a good book.

Full review here: <https://eyesofablacksheep.wordpress.c...>

J says

This econ-major has been happily married for over a decade, but I couldn't pass up the opportunity to read a book aimed at popularizing economics. (Do not mention Malcolm Gladwell to me. He is to economics what Kim Kardashian is to culture.)

I was happy to see it had a recommendation from Lori Gottlieb. I liked her book - The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough. Logical thinking is rare and enjoyable to find in these circles.

The book opens with a claim that most people use online dating. Is that true? I know it is more popular these days, but most people? Most normal people?

Part of me wondered if this was a big advertisement to date the author. I did like his personality. I respected the fact that he didn't trash talk his ex-wife. In the end, it seems he found a girlfriend - or "life partner" in his liberal terminology.

I liked that the author did a good job of familiarizing the reader with economic principles. It made me want to have discussions with people around economic principles and their application in every-day life.

I did not like that this author was stuck in uber-liberal thinking and made assumptions and statements based

on their playbook without bothering to acknowledge or justify them. I was really sad to see this in someone so educated and with a background in economics! I skipped sections on homosexuals scattered throughout the book. I also recommend skipping the entire chapters on "Statistical Discrimination" and "The Family" as it will be offensive anyone who is not uber-liberal.

For example, from "Statistical Discrimination": *"Racial profiling" is especially statistical discrimination. The highway patrol is accused of pulling over more minority drivers, and Arab airline passengers often get extra attention when going through airport security. Some of this scrutiny is likely the result of taste-based discrimination, in that the police may be hostile to minorities and use their power to harass drivers from these groups. But..."*

I wish I could have a conversation with the author and ask him to justify these types of opinions inserted in the text. The cool thing about economics is that it provides language and context for otherwise difficult discussions. It somehow makes things okay to talk about and challenge. A thing either can be proved or not based on observations and the application of economics principals. A little more economics principles and a little less biased opinions would have made this an excellent book.

I heard about this book in a Slate article and it seems to have been written for the Slate audience. It assumes an uber-liberal audience and was a bit gritty/low-brow/Jerry Springer for my taste. Quirky and interesting, but without respect for conservative values or standards.

Read up north over a few days. Fairly quick, easy read.

The back cover says the author is a Professor of Economics at Stanford University and lives in "Stanford, CA". Stanford University is located in the town of Palo Alto. We were just there on vacation this spring. Was that a typo? Is there actually a "Stanford, CA"?

I'm use to economists being fairly conservative because the discipline requires a close adherence to reality. It was eye-opening to see this highly educated man's bias. I'm never letting my daughter attend Stanford (or sadly probably any of the ivy leagues), if even the economists are liberal!

Sheila says

Genius is not reflected solely in whether a person has a unique idea, in my opinion. Genius is taking a complex concept and relating it to an audience in such a way that they would understand it and remember it. That is the appeal of this book. It is also refreshing that Paul Oyer unabashedly uses his own experiences of online dating to teach us the basics of economics. The book does not just use online dating as a model, though. Oyer also provides examples with eBay, financial Web sites, and mostly anything internet related to make his point. His side comments make this a fun read. While I did notice a few editorial mistakes in the book, this did not detract from the enjoyment of reading it. Now I know that my issue with online dating is that I think it does not maximize my utility, and that being single has placed me in a socioeconomic bubble due to positive assortative mating. Awesome.

Asher says

Is there a genre known as pop economics? (I'd throw *Freakonomics* into this genre too.) Or is that a creation that would make economists cringe? If such a genre exists, Paul Oyer's book would fit nicely. Oyer uses

online dating as a framework to explain basic economic principles in an accessible and sometimes fun way.

Emily says

It seems like everyone is a little disappointed with this book: if they wanted dating advice, it had too much economics; if they wanted economics, it had too much goofy discussion of online dating. I read it impulsively and quickly, with no particular expectations, so I found it diverting enough. Each chapter brings up a concept from economics (like signaling) and then gives examples of it in online dating and other contexts, like job hunting, buying a car, etc. The concepts don't seem very advanced and the whole thing is basically a gimmick, but I thought the author was droll and not overestimating his own funniness, so it worked.

Liam says

"But just as internet daters will exaggerate less if they think they will get caught, ski resorts tell the truth more when skiers can catch their lies. The proliferation of smartphones made it possible for skiers to question snow reports in real time. One SkiReport.com user post in 2009, for example, read, 'Jackson Hole/Teton Village DID NOT get 15 inches today. More like 0.' This immediate feedback had an effect; Zinman and Zitzewitz show that snow report exaggeration shrank noticeably at a typical resort as iPhone reception reached that resort." (37)

"There is positive assortive mating in the labor market, in that the most productive workers match with the firms that can use their skills most productively. Most notably, large firms pay their workers more than small firms do." (157)

"Working with high-output partners shamed the lazy people into working harder more than working with the lazy people made the hard workers slack off." (162)

Kelly Wagner says

As I am an over-educated person with a graduate degree, I knew most of this already, but Oyer's presentation is breezy, amusing, and clear, and his analogies are funny. As an over-educated person with a graduate degree, I especially enjoyed reading about how much a better education can add to one's dating possibilities, quality of eventual life partner, and lifetime supply of happiness as well as one's job prospects and total income.

Nora Vickery says

Disclaimer: This is not really a review, more like my scattered thoughts after reading. My thoughts do not always take the form of complete sentences.

Enjoyable. Having served my time in the dating trenches recently, Oyer didn't tell me anything I didn't already know about online dating, but it was interesting to see it applied to economics-a subject I never

thought I had much interest in. Each chapter covered a new concept, so I was never confused. A revelation was utility and that economists study how people maximize (or attempt to maximize) their utility. Utility can be roughly translated at happiness here. You don't think about economists as studying happiness.

Brandon Stumpf says

Paul Oyer's economics in the dating world book gives an interesting look at the economics in play in the dating market as well as economics in our daily lives. I was interested throughout the entire book, and everything he discussed could be applied to real life. I found the chapters on Thick Versus Thin Markets and Positive Assortative Mating the most interesting. If you're looking for a book on dating advice, this book offers some, but not much. I'd say this is more of an economists read rather than a potential dater's read (believe me, if you're looking for dating advice, there are plenty of videos on YouTube for that). Even though Chapter 10 had little to do with dating, I really liked his analysis on the evolution of the "traditional" family structure. I'd recommend this to anyone interested in economics or who wants to view dating from an economics perspective.
