

Genetics may help us choose our friends

You may have more in common with your friends than you think, according to [a new study](#) published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Your genes may be similar, too.

Past research has suggested that people tend to be somewhat genetically similar to [their spouses](#) and [adult friends](#), likely because humans naturally gravitate toward people with whom they have something in common. But how and why does this subconscious sorting happen?

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Overall, the researchers found that friends were more genetically similar than random pairs of people, and about two-thirds as similar as the average married couple.

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This effect may be due to a concept called social homophily, or the idea that individuals form bonds based on shared characteristics, many of which can be traced back to genetics.

But there may also be a second phenomenon at work, according to the paper: social structuring, or the idea that people are drawn to others in their own social environment, which may itself be partially shaped by genetics.

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“Are individuals actively selecting to be around people who are like them, or is it due to impersonal forces, such as social structures, that we all are affected by?” [researcher Benjamin] Domingue says. “Our evidence, with respect to friends, suggest that it’s largely the effect of social structures.”

Read full, original post: [Friends Are More Similar Genetically Than Strangers, Study Says](#)