

mx Shagpile



SUMS in the sack

Sydney mathematician Dr Clio Cresswell (right) has found a way to make maths sexy by calculating the formula for love and sex. She spoke to **VANESSA SANTER.**



Actor Owen Wilson's quirky looks just don't add up for some.

Can love really be explained using mathematical equations?

Yes it can. Well, maths can help. Mathematics is the study of patterns and love creates lots of emotional and behavioural patterns.

Love makes you ecstatic, lose your appetite or even self-destruct. How do all these emotions and actions fit together? There remains a lot for us to understand.

What about marriage and kids?

The interaction of people in marriage makes for a wealth of emotional and behavioural patterns. And children complicate them.

There are equations that capture some of these interactions. These equations are helping extract some of the reasons why our divorce rate is so high. One reason? It seems there's too much compromise.

Is there a certain number of partners people should have before they settle down?

Yes. The mathematics is quite complicated, but the strategy that comes out tops is to have a number of test partners so to speak that you should reject no matter what before your search for the one and only.

How many test partners? Well, it depends on what you deem important in a relationship, but for some reason a dozen comes out over and over.

Can maths explain the differences between the sexes in the bedroom?

Mathematics can help explain everything. The question is – are there

any? There has been some interesting use of mathematics in trying to quantify what sexual experiences feel like for men and women, and then comparing the two.

Does a female orgasm feel better than a man's? So far the equations say no, but research is continuing.

Can beauty be mapped mathematically?

Facial symmetry has received a lot of attention as something that makes someone attractive.

But then how does that explain Owen Wilson? (right) More sophisticated mathematics is bound to unlock why Owen's nose gives him sensitivity, but would make most guys look permanently injured.

How did you first discover maths was sexy?

I discovered it by chance at school, but only in Year 12 when I was 18.

This launched me on a career that was not just about mathematics, but also about raising the awareness of mathematics in the general community.

Which number do you find the sexiest?

I have never really liked numbers. I actually find them quite bland. For me, the sexy part of mathematics is how complex equations and theories capture parts of our lives that we couldn't come to terms with otherwise.

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

DR BELLA



“When dealing with love, where is retribution when baby does you wrong?”

If you look at relationships in terms of emotional withdrawals and deposits, the ledger shows how things balance up.

Does what you're putting into the relationship match what you're receiving? Or are you, like so many others, being taken advantage of and becoming bankrupt?

In the world of finance, when you have proof you've been ripped off, there are clear ways to ensure payback.

However, when it comes to love, serious offenders get off scot free. I for one am fed up with the underworld of loving and the crime lords of deceit. Think of the times you've been emotionally embezzled. The lies you've been told. The games and broken promises.

Remember how painful it feels when you realise you've been had? That you didn't matter? That what you thought and believed wasn't true?

They say that what goes around comes around, but when dealing with love, where is retribution when baby does you wrong? Sometimes it's not all that satisfying to leave it to karma, now is it?

In the domain of love, people treat each other horrendously and are allowed to walk away without looking back. You can steal more from a person in an emotional sense than being mugged by a stranger. Yet, there is no public reprisal. No code of ethics.

Because of the global trend of urbanisation, many of us live in cities removed from our family of origin.

Our actions and activities are fairly anonymous. Meet a woman. Woo her. Make love. Make promises. Then disappear. You know the story.

If we lived in small communities, rumour, reputation, the opinion of elders, and the muscle-power of big brothers, could help curb romantic crime. But we don't. We live in Melbourne, among sharks.

Love offenders need to be kept off the streets away from unsuspecting others.

They require rehabilitation to be taught a lesson.

Thus, I propose, girls, that when we've been played (because we don't play men now do we?) we should employ the services of a hitman – an emotional debt collector to track down the love offender, stare them in the eye, and say: “How bloody dare you?”

The debt collector would then pass your ex-boyfriend a writ of his love crimes and a list of appropriate penance:

- 1) Grovel
- 2) Community service, and
- 3) Replacing World Cup soccer with weekly viewings *Gone with the Wind* and *Dr Phil*.

This way, we can rise from the ashes to win 3-1.

If Australia can do it against Japan, you can do it against your woman or man.

FYI My girlfriends and I will soon be undertaking a covert mission: Operation Good Man. In order for this experiment to work I need your help. Write in and tell us

- 1) Where is the best place in Melbourne to meet men?
 - 2) Where is the worst place in Melbourne to meet men, and
 - 3) Why should one of you lucky readers join our man-hunting coup?
- Send suggestions to dearbella@mxnet.com.au

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