

Cornell Evolving Family Conference:
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: COMPLEXITIES AND PERSPECTIVES
April 7 – 8, 2006
423 ILR Conference Center, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Friday, April 7, 2006

Introduction

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop
[David Harris](#), Vice Provost for the Social Sciences and
Robert S. Harrison Executive Director of the Institute for the Social Sciences,
Cornell University
and
[Elizabeth Peters](#), Team Leader, Evolving Family Theme Project, Cornell
University

Session 1: Theoretical Perspectives on the Changing Meaning of Marriage

Session Chair: [Elaine Wethington](#), Human Development, Cornell University

Lead Papers:

9:15 – 9:35 *Reading the Past, Present, and Future Sideways: Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Family Life*, [Arland Thornton](#), Sociology, University of Michigan
9:35 – 9:55 *Women's Lives: Fertility, Family, and the Future*, [Bobbi Low](#), Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
9:55 – 10:15 *A Gender Perspective on Marriage*, [Paula England](#), Sociology, Stanford University

Panel Discussants:

10:15 – 10:30 [Shelly Lundberg](#), Economics, University of Washington
10:30 – 10:45 [Jennifer Johnson-Hanks](#), Demography and Anthropology, University of California - Berkeley
10:45 – 11:00 [Paul Amato](#), Sociology, Pennsylvania State University
11:00 – 11:30 Group Discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

Session 2: Empirical Evidence on Mate Selection and Marriage: Economic and Evolutionary Perspectives

Session Chair: [Elizabeth Adkins-Regan](#), Psychology and Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University

Lead Papers:

12:30 – 12:55 *The Economics of the Marriage Contract: Theories and Evidence*, [Imran Rasul](#), Economics, University College London
12:55 – 1:20 *Human Pair-Bonds as Mixtures of Cooperative and Conflictual Elements: An Evolutionary Perspective*, [Steven Gangestad](#), Psychology, University of New Mexico

Panel Discussants:

1:20 – 1:30 [Sandra Murray](#), Psychology, State University of New York - Buffalo

1:30 – 1:40 [Robert Mare](#), Sociology, University of California – Los Angeles

1:40 – 1:50 [Cynthia Hazan](#), Human Development, Cornell University

1:50 – 2:20 Group Discussion

2:20 – 2:35 Break

Session 3: Contemporary Families

Session Chair: [Anna Marie Smith](#), Government, Cornell University

Lead Papers:

2:35 – 3:00 *The Association between Change and Stability in The Family of Origin and Mental Health Across the Transition to Adulthood*, [Claire Kamp Dush](#), Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University

3:00 – 3:25 *Reconsidering the Association between Stepfamilies and Adolescent Well-Being*, [Megan Sweeney](#), Sociology, University of California – Los Angeles

3:25 – 3:50 *Gay Parenthood and the Redefinition of Motherhood, Fatherhood, and the Politics of Gender and Family*, [Judith Stacey](#), Sociology, New York University

Panel Discussants:

3:50 – 4:00 [Lawrence Wu](#), Sociology, New York University

4:00 – 4:10 [Gary Gates](#), The Charles R. Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law, University of California – Los Angeles

4:10 – 4:20 [Frances Goldscheider](#), Sociology, Brown University

4:20 – 4:50 Group Discussion

Break

6:00 – 7:00 Wine and Cheese

7:00 – 9:00 Dinner

Keynote Address: *The International Revolution in Marriage*, [Stephanie Coontz](#), History and Family Studies, Evergreen State College

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Session 4: Cohabitation

Session Chair: [Kara Joyner](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Lead Papers:

8:30 – 8:55 *The Role of Cohabitation in Family Formation – The United States Experience in Comparative Perspective*, [Patrick Heuveline](#), Sociology, University of Chicago

8:55 – 9:20 *Why Shack Up? Motives to Cohabit among Young Adults in the United States*, [Pamela Smock](#), Sociology, University of Michigan and [Wendy Manning](#),

Sociology, Bowling Green State University, with Penelope Huang, Mills College,
and Cara Bergstrom, University of Michigan

Panel Discussants:

- 9:20 – 9:30 [Sharon Sassler](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
9:30 – 9:40 [Thomas Deleire](#), Congressional Budget Office
9:40 – 9:50 [Elizabeth Pleck](#), History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
9:50 – 10:20 Group Discussion

10:20 – 10:35 Break

Session 5: Issues Surrounding the “Strengthening of Marriage”

Session Chair: [Rachel Dunifon](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Lead Papers:

- 10:35 – 11:00 *The Case for Preventive Interventions to Strengthen Couple Relationships: Good for Couples, Good for Children*, [Philip Cowan](#) and [Carolyn Pape Cowan](#), Psychology, University of California - Berkeley
11:00 – 11:25 *The Goals and Challenges of Federal Initiatives Evaluating Marriage Education Programs Among Low-Income Populations*, [Lisa Gennetian](#), MDRC
11:25 – 11:50 *Differentiating Among Types of Domestic Violence: Implications for Healthy Marriages*, [Michael Johnson](#), Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

Panel Discussants:

- 11:50 – 12:00 [Maureen Waller](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
12:00 – 12:10 [Laura Sanchez](#), Sociology, Bowling Green State University
12:10 – 12:20 [Richard Heyman](#), Psychology, State University of New York – Stony Brook
12:20 – 12:30 [Theodora Ooms](#), Center for Law and Social Policy
12:30 – 1:00 Discussion

1:00 – 1:45 Lunch

Session 6: Wrap-up: Discussion of The Future of Marriage

Session Chair: [Elizabeth Peters](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

- 1:45 – 1:55 [Shirley Hill](#), Sociology, University of Kansas
1:55 – 2:10 [Steven Nock](#), Sociology and Psychology, University of Virginia
2:10 – 2:20 [Tamara Metz](#), Government, Harvard University
2:20 – 2:30 [Daniel Lichter](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
2:30 – 3:15 Discussion