Call for Proposals: The Social Science of Same-Sex Marriage (Edited Volume)

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THE SOCIAL SCIENCE OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: LGBTQ PEOPLE AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ERA OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Call for Chapter Proposals

In the years leading up to the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, policymakers, activists, and scholars from across the political spectrum fiercely debated whether same-sex couples should have the legal right to marry. Liberals argued that marriage is a fundamental right of citizenship and that absent that right, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people were relegated to second-class citizenship. Conservatives, who framed marriage as a bedrock of social order and cohesion, argued that allowing same-sex couples to marry would weaken an already-fragile social institution, causing harm to families, children, and society as a whole. Meanwhile, queer critics argued that marriage equality would lead LGBTQ people, whose innovative sexual and relationship practices had been forged over decades at the margins of the family, to assimilate, muting their radical critique of marriage as a heteronormative and patriarchal institution. Even since the *Obergefell* decision, many have continued to debate what marriage equality will ultimately mean for the place of sexual minorities in society and the future of queer politics.

Although these pervasive debates have been important, they have often overlooked the voices and experiences of ordinary LGBTQ people who now must choose whether and how they will participate in marriage, a social institution from which they have historically been excluded. Especially following the *Obergefell* decision, as LGBTQ people consider their marital aspirations and enter into the first same-sex marriages in US history, empirical research is needed to cast light on what marriage means to these individuals and their relationships, how they approach marriage, and what effects marriage, and divorce, bring about in their intimate and social lives. To be sure, sociologists and other have begun to develop a nascent body of literature on this topic. To date, scholars have examined LGBTQ people’s expectations for marriage, their motivations for marrying, and some of the various benefits marriage provides in terms of relationship legitimacy, family ties, and overall well-being. Still, more questions remain, and further research is needed.

The purpose of this edited volume is to bring together empirical research from across the social sciences to address the meaning and experience of same-sex marriage. In recent years, various books have been published that explore the political and legal implications of same-sex marriage. However, this edited volume aims to explore the implications of same-sex marriage for LGBTQ people themselves and their intimate relationships. Specific topics addressed can include but need not be limited to the following –

- The meanings of marriage among married LGBTQ people (e.g., institutional, companionate, and individualized models of marriage)
- Marital approaches (e.g., exchange vs. communal orientations)
- Marital arrangements (e.g., sex and/or [non-]monogamy, domestic labor)
- Marital dynamics (e.g., communication, interaction, collaboration)
- The effects of marriage on same-sex couples (e.g., commitment, legitimacy, marital arrangements)
- The effects of marriage for LGBTQ people (e.g., financial, physical, psychological)
- Marital attitudes and aspirations among unmarried LGBTQ people
- Same-sex divorce, including divorce ideation, divorce anxiety, the process of same-sex divorce, the consequences of same-sex divorce
- How any of the above is patterned by race, ethnicity, social class, sex, gender or gender identity, religion, nationality, or other axes of difference

Chapters proposed must be primarily empirical, but all methodological approaches are welcome and will be given full consideration, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

Chapter proposals should be no more than one single-spaced page in length, and they should be sure to address the following in specific and detailed terms –

- The focus of the research and the specific research questions or aims
- Any and all theoretical frameworks used
- The data that will be analyzed
- The (preliminary) findings and their significance

Chapter proposals should be sent, as a Word document, to Aaron Hoy at aaron.hoy@mnsu.edu by November 30, 2019. Authors who are invited to submit a full chapter will be notified by January 1, 2020. Authors who receive an invitation will then have until April 15, 2020 to submit a full draft of their chapter. After all chapters have reviewed, edited, and finalized, the book will be submitted to Routledge for peer review.

Please contact Aaron Hoy at aaron.hoy@mnsu.edu regarding any questions.