

marriages and families changes choices and constraints

The Evolving Landscape of Marriages and Families: Navigating Changes, Choices, and Constraints

Marriages and families changes choices and constraints are at the forefront of societal evolution, reflecting a dynamic interplay between personal aspirations and external pressures. This article delves into the multifaceted transformations shaping modern family structures and marital bonds, exploring the expanding array of individual choices available, alongside the enduring and emergent constraints that influence these decisions. We will examine how shifts in economic realities, cultural norms, technological advancements, and legal frameworks have redefined what it means to form and sustain a family. Understanding these changes, choices, and constraints is crucial for comprehending the contemporary social fabric and anticipating future trends in relationships and kinship.

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The Shifting Definition of Marriage

The institution of marriage, once narrowly defined by tradition and religious doctrine, has

undergone a significant metamorphosis. Historically, marriage was primarily viewed as a union for procreation and economic stability, with prescribed roles for men and women. Today, the concept of marriage has broadened considerably, encompassing same-sex unions and recognizing diverse forms of commitment. This evolution reflects a societal shift towards valuing individual autonomy and emotional fulfillment as central tenets of marital satisfaction. The choices available to individuals regarding who they marry and the nature of their marital commitment have expanded, allowing for more personalized and adaptable partnerships. However, societal acceptance and legal recognition can still present challenges and constraints.

Evolution of Marital Purpose

The purpose of marriage has transitioned from a predominantly economic and social contract to one emphasizing companionship, love, and personal growth. Couples increasingly seek partners who offer emotional support and shared life goals, rather than solely fulfilling traditional gender roles or securing financial security. This redefinition allows for greater flexibility and adaptability within relationships, but it also places a higher demand on effective communication and emotional intelligence among partners.

Legal and Social Recognition of Diverse Marriages

The legal and social acceptance of diverse marital forms, including same-sex marriage, represents a monumental shift. This progress has granted greater equality and recognition to a wider population, allowing individuals to formalize their relationships and access associated rights and protections. Despite these advancements, the journey towards full inclusivity and acceptance is ongoing, with varying degrees of progress across different regions and cultures, highlighting persistent constraints.

Redefining Family Structures in the Modern Era

Beyond the traditional nuclear family, contemporary society recognizes a mosaic of family structures. Single-parent households, blended families, same-sex parent families, childless couples, and cohabiting unions are increasingly common and accepted. This diversification offers individuals greater freedom to construct families that align with their personal circumstances and aspirations. The choices available in forming a family are no longer limited to a single archetype, leading to richer and more varied familial experiences. However, societal attitudes and institutional support systems can still present challenges for non-traditional families, acting as subtle yet significant constraints.

The Rise of Non-Traditional Family Units

The prevalence of single-parent families, often a result of divorce or individual choice, highlights a significant departure from historical norms. Similarly, blended families, formed through remarriage, are now a common feature, requiring careful navigation of relationships and household dynamics. The increasing visibility and acceptance of these

structures underscore a societal move towards recognizing the functional and emotional bonds that define a family, irrespective of its composition.

Child-Bearing and Parenting Choices

Choices surrounding child-bearing and parenting have also evolved. Delayed parenthood, intentional childlessness, and diverse parenting arrangements, such as co-parenting after separation or using assisted reproductive technologies, are becoming more prevalent. These choices reflect a greater emphasis on personal autonomy and the desire to align family decisions with career aspirations, financial stability, and personal readiness. The constraints often relate to financial resources, societal expectations, and access to necessary support services.

Key Drivers of Change in Marriages and Families

Several pivotal factors are driving the transformations observed in marriages and families. Economic shifts, including increased female participation in the workforce and evolving financial pressures, have reshaped household dynamics and decision-making. Cultural reorientations that prioritize individualism and personal fulfillment over traditional obligations also play a crucial role. Furthermore, technological advancements have profoundly impacted how relationships are formed, maintained, and even dissolved. The interplay of these forces creates a complex environment where individuals are presented with new choices while simultaneously encountering new and old constraints.

Economic Influences and Dual-Income Households

The economic imperative for dual-income households has become a defining characteristic of modern family life. Women's increased educational attainment and entry into the workforce have fundamentally altered traditional gender roles within the home, leading to more shared responsibilities and joint financial decision-making. This economic shift, while empowering, also presents challenges in balancing work and family life, with time poverty being a significant constraint.

Cultural Shifts Towards Individualism and Self-Fulfillment

A growing emphasis on individualism and personal happiness has led many to re-evaluate traditional expectations within marriage and family. Individuals are more inclined to prioritize their own well-being and self-development, which can influence decisions about when to marry, whether to have children, and how to structure family life. This focus on personal fulfillment offers greater freedom of choice but can also lead to tensions if individual desires conflict with the needs of the family unit.

The Expanding Spectrum of Choices Available

The modern era has undeniably broadened the range of choices available to individuals concerning their romantic partnerships and family formations. From the timing of marriage and parenthood to the very definition of family, people now possess unprecedented autonomy. This expansion of choice allows for more authentic and fulfilling life paths, enabling individuals to align their personal values with their relational and familial decisions. The digital age, in particular, has facilitated new avenues for meeting partners and building communities, further amplifying these choices.

Cohabitation and Alternative Partnership Models

Cohabitation as a precursor to or alternative to marriage has gained widespread acceptance. This choice allows couples to experience a committed partnership without the legal and social commitments of formal marriage, offering flexibility and reducing perceived risks. Other alternative partnership models are also emerging, reflecting a desire for less conventional forms of commitment.

Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Family Building

The advancements in assisted reproductive technologies (ART) have revolutionized family building for individuals and couples facing infertility or choosing alternative paths to parenthood. Options like IVF, surrogacy, and sperm or egg donation provide significant choices for those who wish to have children, expanding the definition of biological and adoptive family. These technologies offer immense hope but can also come with substantial financial and emotional constraints.

Persistent and Emerging Constraints on Family Formation

Despite the expanded choices, significant constraints continue to shape decisions about marriages and families. Economic instability, the rising cost of living, and the burden of student debt can delay marriage and parenthood. Societal expectations and cultural norms, though evolving, can still exert pressure, particularly regarding gender roles and family timelines. Furthermore, access to affordable childcare, adequate healthcare, and supportive parental leave policies remain critical constraints for many families, influencing their ability to thrive.

Financial Pressures and Economic Insecurity

Economic insecurity remains a formidable constraint on family formation and stability. High

housing costs, stagnant wages, and the increasing expense of raising children can lead individuals to postpone marriage and childbearing. The fear of financial hardship can also influence decisions about family size and the types of careers pursued, creating a delicate balance between personal aspirations and economic realities.

Societal Norms and Cultural Expectations

While societal norms are becoming more inclusive, residual cultural expectations about ideal family structures, gender roles, and life milestones can still act as subtle but powerful constraints. Individuals may feel pressured to conform to these norms, even if they do not align with their personal values or circumstances. Navigating these expectations requires resilience and self-awareness.

Impact of Technology on Marriages and Families

Technology has become an inextricable part of modern marriages and families, presenting both opportunities and challenges. Online dating platforms have revolutionized how people meet and form relationships, expanding social circles beyond geographical limitations. Social media allows for constant connection, but it can also foster comparison, jealousy, and unrealistic expectations within relationships. Digital communication tools can facilitate family cohesion across distances, yet they also pose risks of distraction and reduced face-to-face interaction.

Online Dating and Relationship Formation

The advent of online dating has democratized the process of finding partners, offering access to a wider pool of potential mates. This has led to more diverse matches and has enabled individuals to be more selective in their pursuit of romantic relationships. However, the curated nature of online profiles and the potential for superficial connections can also present unique challenges in developing genuine intimacy.

Digital Communication and Family Connection

Technology enables families to stay connected regardless of physical distance. Video calls, messaging apps, and social media platforms facilitate frequent communication, strengthening bonds between family members. However, the constant digital connectivity can also lead to a blurring of boundaries between work and personal life, and an over-reliance on digital interaction may detract from the quality of in-person family time, representing a subtle constraint on deep connection.

Legal and Policy Influences on Family Dynamics

Legal frameworks and public policies play a significant role in shaping the landscape of marriages and families. Laws governing marriage, divorce, child custody, adoption, and inheritance directly impact familial structures and individual rights. Government policies related to parental leave, affordable childcare, and social welfare programs can either support or constrain family well-being. As societies evolve, so too do these legal and policy structures, reflecting changing values and societal needs.

Family Law and its Evolution

Family law has adapted to reflect the changing nature of relationships, with reforms addressing issues such as same-sex marriage, parental rights for unmarried couples, and the dissolution of civil unions. These legal changes aim to provide greater fairness and recognition for diverse family arrangements, but the implementation and interpretation of these laws can still present challenges and constraints.

Social Welfare Policies and Family Support

The availability and accessibility of social welfare policies, including affordable healthcare, childcare subsidies, and parental leave, have a profound impact on family formation and stability. Robust support systems can alleviate financial burdens and allow individuals to make choices that prioritize family well-being, while their absence can act as significant constraints, forcing difficult trade-offs.

Navigating the Future of Marriages and Families

The future of marriages and families promises continued evolution, driven by ongoing technological advancements, demographic shifts, and changing societal values. The ability to navigate this complex terrain will hinge on adapting to new realities while addressing persistent inequalities and constraints. Promoting policies that support diverse family structures, ensuring economic security, and fostering open dialogue about relationship expectations will be crucial for building resilient and thriving families in the years to come. The choices available will likely continue to expand, but so too will the need for effective strategies to manage the constraints inherent in life's journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the most significant societal shifts impacting modern marriage and family structures?

Key shifts include increased female educational and economic independence, changing attitudes towards cohabitation and premarital sex, a growing acceptance of diverse family forms (single-parent, same-sex, blended), later ages for marriage and childbearing, and the pervasive influence of technology on communication and relationships.

How are economic pressures and job instability influencing family formation and stability?

Economic precarity often leads to delayed marriage and childbearing due to financial insecurity. It can also strain existing marriages through increased stress, reduced leisure time, and potential conflicts over resource allocation. Job instability can force difficult choices about location, career paths, and family planning.

What are the primary choices individuals are making regarding family size and timing in the current climate?

Many individuals are opting for smaller families or choosing to remain childfree, influenced by financial considerations, career aspirations, environmental concerns, and a desire for personal freedom. The timing of starting a family is also shifting later in life, allowing for more personal development and financial stability before parenthood.

How has the digital age altered communication patterns and expectations within marriages and families?

The digital age has created new avenues for connection (social media, video calls) but also new challenges. Issues like 'phubbing' (phone snubbing), online infidelity, and the blurring of work-life boundaries through constant connectivity can strain relationships. Conversely, technology can facilitate long-distance relationships and family connection.

What are the emerging constraints that couples face when deciding to marry or form a family?

Significant constraints include the rising cost of living, particularly housing and childcare. Student loan debt, precarious employment, and the pressure to achieve certain lifestyle standards before settling down also play a major role. Societal expectations, though evolving, can still influence choices.

How are evolving gender roles impacting the division of labor and decision-making within households?

As women increasingly participate in the workforce, there's a growing expectation for more equitable sharing of household chores and childcare. However, traditional gender norms often persist, leading to an unequal distribution of domestic labor, which can be a source of conflict and influence career choices.

What are the implications of increased life expectancy on long-term marital commitments and familial responsibilities?

Longer life expectancies mean marriages may last for several decades, requiring sustained

adaptation and growth. It also means couples may face extended periods of caregiving for aging parents, potentially impacting their own careers and family time. The 'sandwich generation' phenomenon is becoming more common.

How are cultural and religious shifts influencing traditional views on marriage and family?

Globalization and increased cultural exchange have led to a greater acceptance of diverse family forms and relationship structures, challenging some traditional religious and cultural norms. Conversely, some communities are experiencing a resurgence of traditional values as a reaction to rapid societal change.

What choices are individuals making regarding remarriage and blended families in the context of higher divorce rates?

With higher divorce rates, remarriage and the formation of blended families are more common. Individuals are often more intentional in their choices, seeking compatible partners and actively working on integrating families. However, navigating complex step-parenting dynamics and differing family traditions presents unique challenges.

How are changing societal attitudes towards mental health and well-being influencing family dynamics and support systems?

There's a growing awareness of the importance of mental health within families. This leads to greater openness about discussing mental health issues, seeking professional help, and prioritizing individual and family well-being. However, societal stigma and access to affordable mental healthcare remain significant constraints for many.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to marriages and families, focusing on changes, choices, and constraints, with short descriptions:

1. *The Unfolding Tapestry: Navigating Marriage's Shifting Landscapes*

This book explores the dynamic nature of marriage, acknowledging that unions are not static but rather evolve through various life stages. It delves into the choices couples make to adapt to new realities, from career shifts and parenthood to the challenges of empty nests. The narrative emphasizes the constraints that external pressures and internal expectations can impose, and how couples can creatively navigate these to maintain a fulfilling partnership.

2. *Family Redefined: Embracing New Structures in a Changing World*

This title examines the diversification of family forms beyond the traditional nuclear model. It highlights the conscious choices individuals and couples make in constructing families

that better suit their needs and desires, whether through blended families, chosen families, or alternative living arrangements. The book addresses the societal and personal constraints that often accompany these non-traditional structures, offering insights into building strong and supportive family networks.

3. Choice and Consequence: The Psychology of Marital Decisions

This work dives into the psychological underpinnings of the decisions couples make within their marriages. It analyzes how individual histories, personality traits, and relational dynamics influence choices regarding finances, communication, and life goals. The book also scrutinizes the often-unforeseen consequences of these choices, exploring the constraints that emerge and how couples can foster resilience in the face of them.

4. The Constraints of Tradition, The Freedom to Choose: Modern Family Dynamics

This book contrasts the enduring influence of traditional family expectations with the growing desire for personal autonomy. It investigates how societal norms and cultural legacies act as constraints on marital and family life, while simultaneously examining the empowering choices individuals are making to forge their own paths. The narrative offers a nuanced perspective on balancing respect for the past with the pursuit of contemporary family ideals.

5. When Paths Diverge: Navigating Individual Growth and Marital Evolution

This title focuses on the inevitable moments when partners' individual growth trajectories begin to diverge within a marriage. It explores the difficult choices couples face when personal aspirations clash with relational commitments, and the constraints imposed by time, resources, and differing priorities. The book provides guidance on how to foster understanding and adapt to these shifts, ensuring the marriage can evolve alongside individual development.

6. The Architecture of Commitment: Building Resilient Families Through Deliberate Choices

This book treats family building as an active, ongoing construction process requiring thoughtful planning and commitment. It emphasizes the deliberate choices that couples make to lay a strong foundation, from establishing clear communication patterns to setting shared values. The text also addresses the various constraints that can threaten this architecture, such as economic instability or external conflicts, and offers strategies for reinforcement and repair.

7. Embracing the Unexpected: Choices and Adaptations in Family Life's Curveballs

This work acknowledges that life rarely unfolds according to a pre-determined plan, especially within families. It centers on how families make choices in response to unforeseen challenges and opportunities, from unexpected illnesses and job losses to serendipitous new beginnings. The book highlights the resilience born from adaptive choices and how families learn to operate within newly imposed constraints, emerging stronger and more cohesive.

8. Beyond the Contract: Love, Choice, and the Evolving Marriage Covenant

This title moves beyond the legalistic notion of marriage as a contract to explore its deeper meaning as a living covenant. It examines the continuous choices couples make to nurture love, trust, and intimacy, recognizing that these elements require ongoing effort. The book delves into the personal and societal constraints that can test this covenant, offering insights into how to choose commitment and adaptation through difficult times.

9. *The Family Compass: Guiding Choices Through Shifting Currents and Unseen Reefs*

This book metaphorically presents families as vessels navigating the complex waters of modern life. It focuses on the choices made by family members, individually and collectively, to steer towards their desired destinations, considering the changing currents of societal expectations and the unseen reefs of personal challenges. The narrative explores the constraints that can impede progress and how a strong "family compass" of shared values and communication can facilitate wise choices and safe passage.

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Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices, and Constraints

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Ebook Outline:

Introduction: Defining marriage and family in contemporary society; outlining the scope of changes and exploring the interplay of choice and constraint.

Chapter 1: Historical Shifts in Marriage and Family Structures: Tracing the evolution of marriage and family forms across different eras and cultures, highlighting key transitions.

Chapter 2: The Influence of Socioeconomic Factors: Examining the impact of class, income, education, and occupation on marriage and family decisions.

Chapter 3: The Role of Cultural and Religious Beliefs: Exploring how cultural norms, religious practices, and societal values shape marital and familial choices.

Chapter 4: Technological Advancements and Their Impact: Analyzing the influence of contraception, assisted reproductive technologies, and online dating on relationship formation and family structures.

Chapter 5: Gender Roles and Power Dynamics: Investigating the evolving dynamics of gender roles within marriage and families, including issues of equality and power imbalances.

Chapter 6: Diversity and Inclusion in Marriage and Family: Exploring the increasing diversity of family structures, including same-sex couples, blended families, and single-parent households.

Chapter 7: Challenges and Constraints Faced by Modern Families: Discussing the pressures and difficulties modern families encounter, such as work-life balance, financial strain, and social isolation.

Conclusion: Synthesizing the key findings and offering insights into the future of marriage and family in an increasingly complex world.

Marriages and Families: Changes, Choices, and

Constraints

Introduction: Redefining Family in a Shifting Landscape

The traditional image of the nuclear family – a married couple with children living under one roof – is increasingly outdated. Modern society is characterized by a remarkable diversity of family structures and relationship arrangements, reflecting a complex interplay of choices and constraints. This ebook delves into the profound changes reshaping marriages and families, exploring the factors driving these shifts and their implications for individuals and society. We will examine how historical trends, socioeconomic disparities, cultural beliefs, technological advancements, gender dynamics, and societal pressures converge to shape marital and familial choices. Understanding these influences is crucial to grasping the complexities of modern family life and addressing the challenges it presents.

Chapter 1: Historical Shifts in Marriage and Family Structures: A Journey Through Time

Throughout history, marriage and family structures have been remarkably fluid, adapting to evolving social, economic, and technological conditions. In pre-industrial societies, marriage was often primarily an economic and social contract, with family structures playing a vital role in agricultural production and community stability. The rise of industrialization brought significant changes, shifting families from rural settings to urban centers and altering the division of labor. The 20th century witnessed further transformations, including increased female labor force participation, the rise of individualism, and the decline in fertility rates. These changes led to a decline in the dominance of the nuclear family and the emergence of diverse family forms, including single-parent families, cohabiting couples, and same-sex partnerships. Analyzing these historical shifts provides a valuable context for understanding the contemporary landscape of marriage and family.

Chapter 2: The Influence of Socioeconomic Factors: A Matter of Class and Resources

Socioeconomic factors significantly shape marriage and family choices. Access to education, employment opportunities, and financial resources profoundly influences decisions about marriage, childbearing, and family structure. Individuals from higher socioeconomic backgrounds often have more choices regarding their family planning, potentially delaying marriage or having fewer children, while those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face more constraints, such as limited access to healthcare, childcare, and educational resources. Economic inequality contributes to disparities in family stability, well-being, and opportunities for children. Examining these disparities is essential to developing policies and interventions that promote equitable outcomes for all families.

Chapter 3: The Role of Cultural and Religious Beliefs: Shaping Values and Practices

Cultural norms and religious beliefs play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards marriage and family. Different cultures and religions have varying expectations regarding marriage age, partner selection, gender roles, and family size. These beliefs often influence family structures, parenting styles, and the division of household labor. For instance, some cultures emphasize arranged marriages, while others prioritize individual choice. Religious beliefs can influence

decisions about contraception, abortion, and same-sex marriage. Understanding the interplay between culture, religion, and family dynamics is essential to appreciating the diversity of family forms and navigating cultural differences.

Chapter 4: Technological Advancements and Their Impact: A Revolution in Reproduction and Relationships

Technological advancements have profoundly impacted marriage and family life. The development of contraception has given individuals greater control over reproduction, leading to smaller family sizes and changes in family planning. Assisted reproductive technologies (ART), such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF), have expanded reproductive options for couples struggling with infertility, while online dating platforms have revolutionized the way people meet and form romantic relationships. These technologies have also raised ethical and social questions about parenthood, genetic selection, and the changing nature of relationships.

Chapter 5: Gender Roles and Power Dynamics: Evolving Equalities and Inequalities

Traditional gender roles within marriage and families are increasingly challenged. While gender equality has made significant strides, imbalances in power and responsibility still persist. Women often bear a disproportionate burden of childcare and household responsibilities, even when they are employed outside the home. This can lead to stress, burnout, and inequality in decision-making within the family. Exploring the evolving dynamics of gender roles is crucial to promoting healthier and more equitable relationships.

Chapter 6: Diversity and Inclusion in Marriage and Family: Celebrating the Spectrum of Family Structures

Modern society is characterized by increasing diversity in family structures. Same-sex marriage, blended families, single-parent households, and multigenerational families are becoming increasingly common. It's essential to promote inclusivity and understanding towards these diverse family forms, recognizing that the definition of "family" is expanding beyond traditional norms. Addressing issues of discrimination and ensuring equal rights for all families regardless of their structure is crucial for creating a just and equitable society.

Chapter 7: Challenges and Constraints Faced by Modern Families: Navigating the Pressures of Modern Life

Modern families face numerous challenges, including work-life balance, financial strain, social isolation, and the demands of raising children in a rapidly changing world. Balancing work and family responsibilities can be particularly challenging, leading to stress and potential conflict. Financial pressures can exacerbate family tensions, while social isolation can contribute to feelings of loneliness and lack of support. These challenges underscore the importance of providing support services and resources to families to help them navigate these difficulties.

Conclusion: Navigating the Future of Marriage and Family

The future of marriage and family is likely to remain dynamic, reflecting the ongoing interplay of individual choices and societal constraints. Understanding the historical trends, socioeconomic influences, cultural values, technological advancements, gender dynamics, and the challenges faced by contemporary families is crucial for navigating the complexities of modern family life. Promoting inclusivity, fostering equity, and providing support systems are essential for building strong and resilient families in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

FAQs:

1. How has the definition of marriage changed over time? The definition has shifted from primarily an economic and social contract to a more personal and emotional partnership, encompassing diverse forms.
2. What is the impact of socioeconomic status on family formation? Higher socioeconomic status offers more choices, while lower status often brings more constraints due to limited resources.
3. How do religious beliefs influence family practices? Religious beliefs significantly shape attitudes towards marriage, family size, gender roles, and parenting styles.
4. What are the ethical considerations of assisted reproductive technologies? ART raises concerns about genetic selection, parenthood definitions, and access equity.
5. How can we promote gender equality within families? Addressing unequal distribution of household labor and decision-making is crucial.
6. What are the challenges faced by single-parent families? Financial strain, lack of support networks, and societal biases pose significant challenges.
7. How can we support families facing financial hardship? Affordable childcare, housing assistance, and social safety nets are crucial supports.
8. What role does technology play in modern relationships? Online dating and communication technologies both connect and complicate relationships.
9. What is the future outlook for diverse family structures? Continued growth and acceptance of diverse family forms are anticipated.

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2. The Impact of Divorce on Children: Focuses on the effects of parental separation on child development.
3. Navigating Work-Life Balance for Working Parents: Offers strategies for balancing career and family responsibilities.
4. The Role of Extended Family in Modern Society: Examines the significance of grandparent and other extended family involvement.
5. The Evolution of Gender Roles in Marriage: Traces historical and ongoing shifts in gender expectations within marriage.
6. Same-Sex Marriage and Family Formation: A Sociological Perspective: Explores the social and legal aspects of same-sex families.
7. The Psychology of Family Dynamics: Understanding Interpersonal Relationships: Discusses the psychological factors influencing family interactions.
8. Technology and Relationships: Navigating the Digital Age: Explores the impact of technology on dating, communication, and intimacy.
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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: The Marriage-Go-Round Andrew J. Cherlin, 2010-12-08 In a landmark book that's intriguing [and] provocative and presents an original thesis [to explain] this peculiar paradox—we idealize marriage and yet we're so bad at it" (The New York Times). Andrew J. Cherlin's three decades of study have shown him that marriage in America is a social and political battlefield in a way that it isn't in other developed countries. Americans marry and divorce more often and have more live-in partners than Europeans, and gay Americans have more interest in legalizing same-sex marriage. The difference comes from Americans' embrace of two contradictory cultural ideals: marriage, a formal commitment to share one's life with another; and individualism, which emphasizes personal choice and self-development. Religion and law in America reinforce both of these behavioral poles, fueling turmoil in our family life and heated debate in our public life. Cherlin's incisive diagnosis is an important contribution to the debate and points the way to slowing down the partnership merry-go-round.

marriages and families changes choices and constraints: Of Love and Papers Laura E. Enriquez, 2020-04-28 A free open access ebook is available upon publication. Learn more at www.luminoso.org. Of Love and Papers explores how immigration policies are fundamentally reshaping Latino families. Drawing on two waves of interviews with undocumented young adults, Enriquez investigates how immigration status creeps into the most personal aspects of everyday life, intersecting with gender to constrain family formation. The imprint of illegality remains, even upon obtaining DACA or permanent residency. Interweaving the perspectives of US citizen romantic partners and children, Enriquez illustrates the multigenerational punishment that limits the upward mobility of Latino families. Of Love and Papers sparks an intimate understanding of contemporary US immigration policies and their enduring consequences for immigrant families.

marriages and families changes choices and constraints: Growing Up Global Institute of Medicine, National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Population, Panel on Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries, 2005-06-25 The challenges for young people making the transition to adulthood are greater today than ever before. Globalization, with its power to reach across national boundaries and into the smallest communities, carries with it the transformative power of new markets and new technology. At the same time, globalization brings with it new ideas and lifestyles that can conflict with traditional norms and values. And while the economic benefits are potentially enormous, the actual course of globalization has not been without its critics who charge that, to date, the gains have been very unevenly distributed, generating a new set of problems associated with rising inequality and social polarization. Regardless of how the globalization debate is resolved,

it is clear that as broad global forces transform the world in which the next generation will live and work, the choices that today's young people make or others make on their behalf will facilitate or constrain their success as adults. Traditional expectations regarding future employment prospects and life experiences are no longer valid. Growing Up Global examines how the transition to adulthood is changing in developing countries, and what the implications of these changes might be for those responsible for designing youth policies and programs, in particular, those affecting adolescent reproductive health. The report sets forth a framework that identifies criteria for successful transitions in the context of contemporary global changes for five key adult roles: adult worker, citizen and community participant, spouse, parent, and household manager.

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who lunch, Orthodox Jewish moms, Swedish stay-at-home dads, polygamous warriors, and Dutch prostitutes. How to Be Married offers an honest portrait of a couple. When life throws more at them than they ever expected -- a terrifying health diagnosis, sick parents to care for, unemployment -- they ultimately create a fresh understanding of what it means to be equal partners during the good and bad times.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: *Marriage in Past, Present and Future Tense* Janet Carsten, Hsiao-Chiao Chiu, Siobhan Magee i, Eirini Papadaki , Koreen M. Reece, 2021-09-01 Marriage globally is undergoing profound change, provoking widespread public comment and concern. Through the close ethnographic examination of case studies drawn from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, *Marriage in Past, Present and Future Tense* places new and changing forms of marriage in comparative perspective as a transforming and also transformative social institution. In conditions of widespread socio-political inequality and instability, how are the personal, the familial and the political co-produced? How do marriages encapsulate the ways in which memories of past lives, present experience and imaginaries of the future are articulated? Exploring the ways that marriage draws together and distinguishes history and biography, ritual and law, economy and politics in intimate family life, this volume examines how familial and personal relations, and the ethical judgements they enfold, inform and configure social transformation. Contexts that have been partly shaped through civil wars, cold war and colonialism – as well as other forms of violent socio-political rupture – offer especially apt opportunities for tracing the interplay between marriage and politics. But rather than taking intimate family life and gendered practice as simply responsive to wider socio-political forces, this work explores how marriage may also create social change. Contributors consider the ways in which marital practice traverses the domains of politics, economics and religion, while marking a key site where the work of linking and distinguishing those domains is undertaken.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: *A Life in Balance?* Catherine Krull, 2011-02-28 Magazine articles, talk shows, and commercials advise us that our happiness and well-being rest on striking a balance between work and family. It goes unsaid, however, that the advice is based on an outmoded and unrealistic ideal. This provocative volume challenges the notion often offered in support of neo-liberal agendas that paid work (employment) and unpaid work (caregiving and housework) are separate and competing spheres, rather than overlapping aspects of a single existence. Alternative approaches to integrating work and family must be taken into account if we hope to build truly equitable family and childcare policies.

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history; each with their loves and losses, their sorrows and triumphs. Jo Walton's *My Real Children* is the tale of both of Patricia Cowan's lives...and of how every life means the entire world. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, Susan M. McHale, Jennifer Van Hook, 2014-10-07 The widening gap between the rich and the poor is turning the American dream into an impossibility for many, particularly children and families. And as the children of low-income families grow to adulthood, they have less access to opportunities and resources than their higher-income peers--and increasing odds of repeating the experiences of their parents. *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* probes the complex relations between social inequality and child development and examines possibilities for disrupting these ongoing patterns. Experts across the social sciences track trends in marriage, divorce, employment, and family structure across socioeconomic strata in the U.S. and other developed countries. These family data give readers a deeper understanding of how social class shapes children's paths to adulthood and how those paths continue to diverge over time and into future generations. In addition, contributors critique current policies and programs that have been created to reduce disparities and offer suggestions for more effective alternatives. Among the topics covered: Inequality begins at home: the role of parenting in the diverging destinies of rich and poor children. Inequality begins outside the home: putting parental educational investments into context. How class and family structure impact the transition to adulthood. Dealing with the consequences of changes in family composition. Dynamic models of poverty-related adversity and child outcomes. The diverging destinies of children and what it means for children's lives. As new initiatives are sought to improve the lives of families and children in the short and long term, *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* is a key resource for researchers and practitioners in family studies, social work, health, education, sociology, demography, and psychology.

marriages and families changes choices and constraints: *The Changing Family* Mark Hutter, 1998 Previous editions of this book have been at the forefront of changes in sociology's perspectives and views. No different is this third edition as it examines the family through a feminist perspective; addresses diversity and multiculturalism; and reflects upon the globalization of sociology. D This updated edition analyzes the family life cycle from an historical and cross-cultural perspective. The issues of race, class, gender, and ethnicity are incorporated into the theoretical framework. Global examples are used to illustrate the diversity of American family dynamics. The book also explains how political and economic changes such as industrialization and urbanization affect the structure and dynamics of the family.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: *Affirmative Action And Equal Opportunity* Nijole V. Benokraitis, 2019-04-10 The affirmative action program has engendered a hostile reaction in many quarters. Originating in presidential executive orders and civil rights legislation, the program is intended to combat institutional race and sex discrimination by encouraging public and private organizations to go beyond the mere cessation of formal

discriminatory practices—to enact their own programs to end unfair practices. In contrast to the passive nondiscrimination of equal opportunity, affirmative action means that employers must act positively, affirmatively, and aggressively to remove all barriers, however informal or subtle, that prevent minorities and women from having equal access to all levels of the nation's educational, industrial, and government institutions. Is affirmative action, in fact, geared to equal opportunity? Or has it resulted in greater inequality for white males? The authors of this book empirically examine employment in government, industry, and higher education and enrollment in colleges and universities to determine the current status of women and minorities as employees and students. They also describe the machinery of affirmative action, its budget and staff problems, the compliance and enforcement processes, and the results of the program. Their final chapter includes a theoretical explanation for the very apparent resistance to affirmative action and expresses their pessimism about the program's ability to accomplish its goals, especially in light of recent efforts to weaken its already limited power. They close with a discussion of the future of affirmative action and the likelihood of achieving equal opportunity in employment.

marriages and families changes choices and constraints: Families Caring for an Aging America National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Health Care Services, Committee on Family Caregiving for Older Adults, 2016-12-08 Family caregiving affects millions of Americans every day, in all walks of life. At least 17.7 million individuals in the United States are caregivers of an older adult with a health or functional limitation. The nation's family caregivers provide the lion's share of long-term care for our older adult population. They are also central to older adults' access to and receipt of health care and community-based social services. Yet the need to recognize and support caregivers is among the least appreciated challenges facing the aging U.S. population. *Families Caring for an Aging America* examines the prevalence and nature of family caregiving of older adults and the available evidence on the effectiveness of programs, supports, and other interventions designed to support family caregivers. This report also assesses and recommends policies to address the needs of family caregivers and to minimize the barriers that they encounter in trying to meet the needs of older adults.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: Investing in the Health and Well-Being of Young Adults National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Improving the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of Young Adults, 2015-01-27 Young adulthood - ages approximately 18 to 26 - is a critical period of development with long-lasting implications for a person's economic security, health and well-being. Young adults are key contributors to the nation's workforce and military services and, since many are parents, to the healthy development of the next generation. Although 'millennials' have received attention in the popular media in recent years, young adults are too rarely treated as a distinct population in policy, programs, and research. Instead, they are often grouped with adolescents or, more often, with all adults. Currently, the nation is experiencing economic restructuring, widening inequality, a rapidly rising ratio of older adults, and an increasingly diverse population. The possible transformative

effects of these features make focus on young adults especially important. A systematic approach to understanding and responding to the unique circumstances and needs of today's young adults can help to pave the way to a more productive and equitable tomorrow for young adults in particular and our society at large. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults describes what is meant by the term young adulthood, who young adults are, what they are doing, and what they need. This study recommends actions that nonprofit programs and federal, state, and local agencies can take to help young adults make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood. According to this report, young adults should be considered as a separate group from adolescents and older adults. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults makes the case that increased efforts to improve high school and college graduate rates and education and workforce development systems that are more closely tied to high-demand economic sectors will help this age group achieve greater opportunity and success. The report also discusses the health status of young adults and makes recommendations to develop evidence-based practices for young adults for medical and behavioral health, including preventions. What happens during the young adult years has profound implications for the rest of the life course, and the stability and progress of society at large depends on how any cohort of young adults fares as a whole. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults will provide a roadmap to improving outcomes for this age group as they transition from adolescence to adulthood.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: **Feuds about Families** Nijole Vaicaitis Benokraitis, 2000 This unique anthology contains readings that represent three major perspectives--conservative, centrist, liberal/feminist--on 16 important and controversial marriage and family-related topics. Section introductions put the articles in context and critical thinking questions challenge the authors' theoretical position, usage of data, consistency, etc. --helping readers to sort intelligently through the issues and perspectives and to develop informed opinions. Contains articles from several political and ideological positions on such topics as family values, gender roles, cohabitation, parenting, divorce, and stepfamilies. Features two original, theoretical chapters that characterize the family wars and their consequences in everyday life. For anyone interested in marriage/family issues from a variety of perspectives.

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aggression culture, work and family, religion, and social policy, to name a few. In summary, this superb volume is highly recommended and amply reflects the many contemporary perspectives on the family. --Philip Siebler, Monash University, Victoria

Sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations, the Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research is the reference work on theory and methods for family scholars and students around the world. This volume provides a diverse, eclectic, and paradoxically mature approach to theorizing and demonstrates how the development of theory is crucial to the future of family research. The Sourcebook reflects an interactive approach that focuses on the process of theory building and designing research, thereby engaging readers in doing theory rather than simply reading about it. An accompanying website offers additional participation and interaction in the process of doing theory and making science. Editors Vern L. Bengtson, Alan C. Acock, Katherine R. Allen, Peggye Dilworth-Anderson, and David M. Klein have brought together a prominent group of diverse contributors ranging in race and ethnicity, age and seniority, and gender and sexual orientation. The Sourcebook begins with a section that sets the context for future family research. The subsequent sections explore changing family patterns, changing family interactions within and across generations, and families and larger social forces. A concluding section discusses issues of teaching family theories and research.

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marriages and families changes choices and constraints: Modern Sexism Nijole Vaicaitis Benokraitis, Joe R. Feagin, 1995 This book focuses on the dynamics, processes, and consequences of sex discrimination at individual, organizational, and societal levels. The previous edition ISBN is: 0-13-597634-0.

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