SOC-220

Civil Unions and Same-Sex Marriages

**Details:**

Write an essay of 750-1,000 words describing the sociological forces that have generated the controversy over same-sex marriages and civil unions in the United States. Explain the ramifications of these unions on society and describe if and how this will result in further social change.

Utilize the GCU Library to locate 3-6 peer-reviewed sources in support of your content. Additionally, two to three Internet sources are permitted.

Prepare this assignment according to the guidelines found in the GCU Style Guide, located in the Student Success Center.

You are required to submit this assignment to Turnitin. Refer to the directions in the Student Success Center. Only Word documents can be submitted to Turnitin.

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Document Type:

Article

Abstract:

Background: **Marriage** benefits both individuals and societies, and is a fundamental determinant of health. Until recently **same** **sex** couples have been excluded from legally recognized **marriage** in the United States. Recent debate around legalization of **same** **sex** **marriage** has highlighted for anti-**same** **sex** **marriage** advocates and policy makers a concern that allowing **same** **sex** couples to marry will lead to a decrease in opposite **sex** **marriages**. Our objective is to model state trends in opposite **sex** **marriage** rates by implementation of **same** **sex** **marriages** and other **same** **sex** **unions**. Methods and Findings: **Marriage** data were obtained for all fifty states plus the District of Columbia from 1989 through 2009. As these **marriage** rates are non-stationary, a generalized error correction model was used to estimate long run and short run effects of **same** **sex** **marriages** and strong and weak **same** **sex** **unions** on rates of opposite **sex** **marriage**. We found that there were no significant long-run or short run effects of **same** **sex** **marriages** or of strong or weak **same** **sex** **unions** on rates of opposite **sex** **marriage**. Conclusion: A deleterious effect on rates of opposite **sex** **marriage** has been argued to be a motivating factor for both the withholding and the elimination of existing rights of **same** **sex** couples to marry by policy makers–including presiding justices of current litigation over the rights of **same** **sex** couples to legally marry. Such claims do not appear credible in the face of the existing evidence, and we conclude that rates of opposite **sex** **marriages** are not affected by legalization of **same** **sex** **civil** **unions** or **same** **sex** **marriages**. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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Abstract:

Background: **Marriage** benefits both individuals and societies, and is a fundamental determinant of health. Until recently **same** **sex** couples have been excluded from legally recognized **marriage** in the United States. Recent debate around legalization of **same** **sex** **marriage** has highlighted for anti-**same** **sex** **marriage** advocates and policy makers a concern that allowing **same** **sex** couples to marry will lead to a decrease in opposite **sex** **marriages**. Our objective is to model state trends in opposite **sex** **marriage** rates by implementation of **same** **sex** **marriages** and other **same** **sex** **unions**.  
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Conclusion: A deleterious effect on rates of opposite **sex** **marriage** has been argued to be a motivating factor for both the withholding and the elimination of existing rights of **same** **sex** couples to marry by policy makers-including presiding justices of current litigation over the rights of **same** **sex** couples to legally marry. Such claims do not appear credible in the face of the existing evidence, and we conclude that rates of opposite **sex** **marriages** are not affected by legalization of **same** **sex** **civil** **unions** or **same** **sex** **marriages**.

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Abstract:

Researchers have theorized a relationship between interracial and **same**-**sex** **unions**, but little empirical work has been done to substantiate this connection. This study examines whether individuals who engage in interracial dating are more likely to express support for both **same**-**sex** **marriage** and **civil** **unions**, net of sociodemographic and ideological controls. Data are taken from Wave 2 of the Baylor Religion Survey. Ordered logit regression models are estimated in order to examine the relationship between interracial romance and support for **same**-**sex** **unions**, net of various controls such as attribution of sexual orientation, political ideology, and religious conservatism. Analyses reveal that individuals who have engaged in interracial romance are more supportive of **same**-**sex** **marriage** and **civil** **unions**. Further research should be conducted to provide a more robust causal understanding of the link between interracial dating and one's attitudes toward **same**-**sex** **unions**. (C) **2012** Western Social Science Association. Published by Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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FRAMING STRATEGIES AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF **MARRIAGE** BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE OF THE **SAME** **SEX**

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Abstract:

Over the past few decades, public debate about the legalization of **marriage** between people of the **same** **sex** has changed and intensified. Participants in the current debate have introduced new terms such as "**same**-**sex** couples" instead of "homosexual couples" to describe the subjects of this issue. Recently, this contentious issue has also been framed as a matter of "**civil** rights" rather than another case of "gay rights." To date, however, scholars have overlooked these terminological changes and their potential effects on public support for **marriage** between two people of the **same** **sex**. The authors address this void using data from a 2009 national survey. An embedded survey experiment suggests that these frames have no significant impact on public opinion. Multivariate results provide additional evidence that gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, political party identification, and region shape public support for the legalization of **marriage** between two people of the **same** **sex**. The authors discuss the implications of these findings and offer possible explanations for the nonsignificant effects of the frames considered.

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**Marriage** Equality for **Same**-**Sex** Couples.

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Article

Abstract:

**Same**-**sex** couples encounter barriers to health care that include concerns about confidentiality and disclosure, stigma and discriminatory attitudes and treatment, limited access to health care and health insurance, and often a limited understanding of their health risks. **Same**-**sex** couples and their families are adversely affected by the lack of legal recognition of their relationships, a problem with major implications for the health of **same**-**sex** couples and their families. Tangible harm has come from the lack of financial and health care protections granted to legal spouses, and children are harmed by the lack of protections afforded to families in which partners are married. However, the recent Supreme Court ruling, The United States v Windsor, which afforded equal treatment for legally married **same**-**sex** couples will provide many important health and financial benefits. Evidence suggests that **marriage** confers health benefits to individuals and families, yet a sizable proportion of individuals do not experience these health benefits because of their sexual orientation. Additional data suggest that **same**-**sex** couples who live in states with bans on **same**-**sex** **unions** experience adverse health outcomes. **Civil** **marriage** is currently available to **same**-**sex** couples in only thirteen states and the District of Columbia and honored by one state. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists endorses **marriage** equality for **same**-**sex** couples and equal treatment for these couples and their families and applauds the Supreme Court's decision as an important step in improving access to benefits received by legally married **same**-**sex** couples. However, additional efforts are necessary to ensure that **same**-**sex** couples in every state can receive these **same** benefits. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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