

MARRIAGE

“A long-term mating arrangement that is socially sanctioned and that typically involves economic, social, and reproductive cooperation between the partners”
Regan, 2003

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Does your family have any traditions concerning how a marriage is proposed or arranged? What must be done to prepare for marriage and how long does this process take? What ceremonies are traditional?

“More and more it appears that biologically men are designed for short, brutal lives and women for long miserable ones.” Brown and Amatea (2000)

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Monogamous or Polygamous?

Dual Mating Strategies of Men and Women

“If men and women mate with different partners, they will produce a greater genetic variation among their offsprings, which increases the chances of some genetically superior results. But each child needs long-lasting care, protection, and training in order to survive and develop its genetic potential.” Brown & Amatea

Monogamy

Serial Pairbonding (or Serial Monogamy)

Polygyny

84% of all known societies are polygamous to some extent that the overwhelming majority favor men taking multiple wives. (Fisher, 1992)

Al-Krenawi & Gurion

Polyandry (*pol-y-an-dry*)

Polygynandry (Cenogamy)

ENGAGEMENT

“The bachelorette party is a means for expressing oneself sexually and acknowledging the sexual element of one’s identity.” Montemurro, 2003

Arranged Marriages

Traditional Marriage
Identified with Patriarchal societies

The Modern Marriage

Egalitarian Marriage

Young and Wilmott (1973) call this type of marriage **symmetrical** because gender does not determine the division of labor and because the bases of interdependence are based on **similar** attitudes, skills and abilities rather than **complementary** attitudes, skills abilities (i.e., different but nesting together.)

Small Discussion Group Questions

Compare your views on traditional, modern, and egalitarian marriages.

Has media depictions of married life changed over your life time and if so how?

What do you see as the current American attitude regarding traditional and egalitarian marriages?

Do you believe that people practice in their marriages what they consider how a husband and wife should function together?

OPEN MARRIAGE

Married couples 15-26%
Cohabiting couples: 28%
Lesbian couples: 29%
Gay male couples: 65%

MARRIAGE VERSUS CO-HABITATION

Johnson's Law

Everyone is difficult to live with. Everyone.

Gottman and Krokoff (1989) found that “conflict engagement of a specific kind may be functional for a marriage longitudinally, but conflict that is indicative of defensiveness, stubbornness, and withdrawal (particularly on the part of husbands) may be dysfunctionally longitudinally.” P 51

In terms of recommendations for marriage, our results suggest that wives should confront disagreement and should not be overly compliant, fearful, and sad but should express anger and contempt. Husbands should also engage in conflict but should not be stubborn or withdrawn. Neither spouse should be defensive. Gottman & Krokoff, p 51