

The Marriage and Family Experience

8th
EDITION

INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY



Bryan Strong • Christine DeVault • Barbara W. Sayad • Theodore F. Cohen

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EIGHTH EDITION

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P R E F A C E

As the Eighth Edition of *The Marriage and Family Experience: Intimate Relationships in a Changing Society*, this book has a long history on which to build. As originally written by Bryan Strong many years ago and developed, revised, and updated through subsequent editions by Bryan Strong, Christine DeVault, and later Barbara Sayad, *The Marriage and Family Experience* acquired a wide and dedicated following from a number of different types of institutions and within a range of academic and applied disciplines. This edition is the second to appear since Bryan Strong's untimely death, but is the first in which I have had the opportunity to participate. As a new coauthor, I have retained and tried to strengthen the long-standing theme of this text: Our families are what most count. In whatever form(s) we experience them, they shape who we are and become, they provide us with our most intimate and loving relationships, and they need to be cherished, honored, and supported. This has been the perspective with which I have taught about and conducted research on families for the past twenty years. It has, therefore, been an easy and natural fit for me to see that it continues to be the underlying assumption of this book.

As a sociologist who teaches and writes about gender, masculinity, work and family, and new family forms (especially role-reversed households and shift-alternating dual earners), I have brought my own research interests and teaching emphases along with me. In no way does that mean that I have abandoned or radically altered the book's wonderful balance between an academic and more functional approach. Nor have I lessened its interdisciplinary appeal. I have long taught my own family classes by incorporating anthropology, history, psychology, journalism, literature, economics, and gender studies into the sociological approach I take. And like previous editions of *The Marriage and Family Experience*, I have always tried to show students the connections and applications between the academic material (theoretical and empirical) and the experiences they have had or hope to have. Hence, these remain central to the Eighth Edition of this text.

At the same time, long-time users will discover that this edition draws more from sociological research and theory; has more recent material on gender, especially about men's family experiences; looks in greater detail at shifts in and varieties of work-family relationships; and incorporates more from the fine social science research literature on families. There are substantial discussions of the research and writing by such authors as Arlie Hochschild, Kathleen Gerson, Pepper Schwartz, Barbara Risman, Paul Amato, Sylvia Hewlett, John Gottman,

and William Pollack. This material is presented in such a way that teachers and students in sociology, psychology, family studies, home economics, family science, and consumer studies can understand and appreciate.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

Among the major changes to this edition are the addition of a new chapter on family diversity, the merging of the chapters on pregnancy and parenthood into one chapter, and the integration of the material in the families and wellness chapter of the previous edition into other appropriate chapters. I have also endeavored to update the references, statistics, tables, and graphs throughout the book.

Chapter 3, “Dynamics and Diversity of Families,” combines the historical, racial, and ethnic material from the previous edition into a single chapter and adds to it discussion of socioeconomic diversity. I have substantially increased the historical discussion, especially regarding families of the twentieth century. The depression and World War II are highlighted as particular examples of “gender crises” and sources of changes in the relationship between families and public policy. Also, the chapter extends further into the twentieth century, including a deeper and broader discussion of families during and after the 1950s. I raise the question of what “change” means for families, identifying and examining some of the major factors responsible for change. Finally, there is a new “Understanding Yourself” insert on the personal meaning of change, which includes discussion of the importance of understanding the wider history in order to make sense of one’s own family history.

The material on racial and ethnic variations in family life now more strongly show the diversity of contemporary family experience. I have updated the data on African Americans, Latinos, and Asians, and included data on the differences in socioeconomic status between whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans that might affect their family experiences. I have also added a little on diversity among Latinos and among Asians, so that some of the meaningful differences (between Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Mexicans for example) within each ethnic group are recognized.

Adding discussion of social class to this chapter improves the text’s coverage of family diversity (class has been conspicuously underdeveloped in prior editions). I briefly define class, talk about the multiple ways in which it could affect families (materially, culturally, psychologically); characterize the lifestyles associated with upper, middle, working, and lower classes; and look at differences across these four classes in three areas of family experience: marital relations (specifically divisions of labor and importance of intimacy), parent-child relationships, and ties between extended and nuclear families. I also look at how upward or downward mobility can affect family relationships.

Chapter 9, “Pregnancy and Parenting,” is a new chapter that combines two chapters from prior editions. As a number of reviewers suggested, many instructors do not cover pregnancy in the detail that previous editions reflect. Thus, the more social, psychological, and cultural aspects of pregnancy have been retained in this edition and combined with the chapter on parenting, where there is a natural fit. Importantly, users who do include the more detailed material on the physiological and medical aspects of pregnancy and childbirth can refer their students to the text Web site, where that material has been retained in its entirety.

Chapter 12 from the seventh edition, “Families and Wellness,” has been dropped as a separate chapter. The sections on family caregiving and death and dying have been moved into the chapter on family processes, “Family Processes, Family Life Cycles.”

NEW OR EXPANDED TOPICS

Chapter 1, *The Meaning of Marriage and the Family* The chapter retains a large emphasis on how our notions of family depend a lot on popular culture, including television, but also includes discussion of the advice genre (radio and television therapists) and political discourse. New references and examples have been included on legal battles such as same-sex marriages, including the Hawaii decision, the Defense of Marriage Act, and the Vermont decision to recognize same-sex unions.

Chapter 2, *Studying Marriage and the Family* The chapter now includes examples that illustrate the different theoretical perspectives and research techniques. Also, following the discussion of the feminist perspective, there is a new discussion of men's studies and the research that has been done on men in families. There is a new “Exploring Diversity” box that looks at survey data on household labor in five countries (including the United States).

Chapter 3, *Dynamics and Diversity of Families* As discussed above, Chapter 3 is new to this edition. Material from Chapters 1 and 2 of the seventh edition are joined by new material to comprise a chapter on historical and contemporary variation in family life. There is a historical overview that extends from colonial American families to contemporary American families, a discussion of racial and ethnic diversity, and a discussion of social class variation in family experience. All of these are used to broaden readers' awareness of the range and kinds of variation that characterize families, and to remind them of the dangers of generalizing from any one period or place to all families across time. A new “Understanding Yourself” insert on the connections between historical changes and personal experiences has been added.

Chapter 4, *Contemporary Gender Roles* This chapter now better represents thinking and research on gender and family experience due to the broader and deeper coverage of men's experiences in families and the inclusion of concepts central to contemporary gender studies. There are also new discussions of gender and power, and of societies which conceptualize gender as more fluid and/or variable than male-female dichotomies. Recent and important research, such as William Pollack's research on the school experiences of boys, Kathleen Gerson's and Barbara Risman's studies of men in families, Sharon Hays' research on the “cultural contradictions” facing contemporary mothers, and Barbara Risman's and Pepper Schwartz's studies of gender equality in marriage have been added. Finally, there is a new section on gender movements and the family that looks at the variety of perspectives that characterize American feminism (1960s and beyond) and at the range of “men's movements” (including Promise Keepers, the Million Man March, profeminist organizations, and men's rights perspectives) to see how they differ in their rhetoric and ideology about families. The boxed “Perspective” on gender and music videos has been revised to include gender socialization in video games.

Chapter 5, *Friendship, Love, and Commitment* This chapter has been significantly reorganized. The material on friendship is now discussed before love.

In addition, there is a new opening section describing Americans' obsession with love (in songs, films, and romance novels), followed by a discussion of why love is important in families at both the individual and institutional levels (including discussions of the role of love in mate selection, the priority of nuclear and conjugal ties over extended ones, the values on individualism and self-fulfillment, and the fragility of love-based marriages). The chapter also critically assesses how feminine standards are used to define intimacy and friendship and how and why women's and men's experiences of friendship and love differ. The material on gender and sexuality has been somewhat expanded into a new section on gender, love, and sexuality. There is a new section on love, marriage, and social class that briefly looks at different economic circumstances that challenge love-based marriage, and a new "Perspective" box on a love that lasted "till death did they part."

Chapter 6, *Communication, Power, and Conflict* The chapter has been reorganized so that it opens with discussions of nonverbal and verbal communication before ultimately addressing conflict. The material on conflict and intimacy has been retitled, "Power, Conflict, and Intimacy," and power is a more prominent focus of the discussion. The material on common conflict areas now includes housework as a source of marital conflict. There is a new section on gender differences in nonverbal and verbal communication, a subsection on miscommunication and the likelihood of divorce, a discussion of the resource theory of power (noting both its major assumption and the criticism of it), and coverage of Arlie Hochschild's research on "the second shift," in the discussion of conflict areas.

Chapter 7, *Pairing, Cohabitation, and Singlehood* This chapter has been updated in some critical areas such as the trend data on premarital or nonmarital lifestyles (singles, cohabitation, sex ratios by race, sex, and age). There is now a discussion of opportunity versus choice in accounting for homogamy in mate selection, including a new section on residential propinquity to existing mate choice factors. There are also more theories of mate selection considered in the discussion of stimulus-value-role theory. The comparison of cohabitation and marriage has been both expanded and updated. There are now new subsections on differences in relationship quality and mental health between cohabitants and married couples. Additionally, the discussion of consequences of cohabitation on marriage has been brought in line with existing data and literature.

Chapter 8, *Understanding Sexuality* The major change is the incorporation of more data from the National Health and Social Life Survey on sex in America. Additional changes include a new section on sexual relationships and problems among "peer" and "nonpeer" couples, some additional information on anti-gay hate crimes, and more extensive additional material on men's experiences surrounding abortion, vasectomies, and the use of *Viagra*.

Chapter 9, *Pregnancy and Parenting* As described above, this is one of the major chapter revisions in the Eighth Edition. It includes material that in past editions had been in separate chapters. As a result, much of the material about pregnancy and childbirth has been relocated to the Resource Center or Web site. Content additions include broader and deeper coverage of men's experiences becoming and being parents, a wider discussion of the transition to parenthood, inclusion of the symbolic interaction perspective to theories of socialization, and a discussion of societal neglect of the needs of parents.

Chapter 10, *Family Processes, Family Life Cycles* This chapter now includes much of the discussion of caregiving and death in families from the deleted chapter on wellness.

Chapter 11, *Marriage, Work, and Economics* The chapter has been reorganized and updated. Discussions of role conflict, role strain and role overload more

correctly differentiate between these concepts. Material on gender, paid work, and housework is presented within a discussion of a range of divisions of labor: traditional, typical and atypical dual earners, role reversers, and egalitarian couples. Recent research by social scientists such as Arlie Hochschild (*The Second Shift, The Time Bind*), Kathleen Gerson (*No Man's Land*), and Faye Crosby (*Juggling*) is included. Material on families in poverty has been updated to include details about welfare reform. Much material on family policy has been moved from this to the final chapter; discussion of workplace policies remains. There is a new boxed "Perspective" on the routines of an at-home father.

Chapter 12, *Family Violence and Sexual Abuse* There is a new discussion about the relationships between "abuse" and "violence," greater consideration of power, gender, and intimacy as possible factors in domestic violence; and greater differentiation between common and extreme violence. Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics 1998 report on intimate violence are used to estimate the prevalence of intimate violence. Additionally, there is a discussion of date-rape drugs, such as Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and rohypnol (flunitrazepam, popularly known as "roofies," "roofenol," or "roachies") and recent criminal cases.

Chapter 13, *Coming Apart: Separation and Divorce* There are new discussions of different ways to measure divorce; recent and long-term trends in divorce rates, societal, relationship, and individual level factors associated with divorce; and updated and more balanced coverage of the consequences of divorce, especially on children. Additionally, there is an updated discussion of the intergenerational transmission of divorce and explanations for it. There are new sections on the different ways to look at the effects of divorce, the competing interpretations of why divorce has the consequences that it has, and policy-related suggestions about what to do to reduce divorce rates. Boxed material on covenant marriage is used to illustrate one of the most recent initiatives to strengthen marriage and reduce divorce.

Chapter 14, *New Beginnings: Single-Parent Families, Remarriages, and Blended Families* This material has been modestly updated with more recent statistical information.

Chapter 15, *Marriage and Family Strengths and Needs* There is a new review of major text themes consistent with and leading to the powerful emphasis on family strengths and the benefits of strong families. There is also a wider discussion of the extent to which family experiences are shaped by broader social issues and problems.

PEDAGOGY

Chapter Previews Self-quiz chapter openers let students assess their existing knowledge of what will be discussed in the chapter. We have found these quizzes engage the student, drawing them into the material, and stimulating greater interaction with the course.

Chapter Outlines Each chapter contains an outline at the beginning of the chapter to allow students to organize their learning.

Exploring Diversity These boxes let students see family circumstances from the vantage point of other cultures or eras.

Understanding Yourself These boxed inserts use research topics, findings, and instruments to stimulate students to examine their own family experiences or expectations. They help students see the personal meaning of otherwise abstract material.

Perspectives These boxes focus on and either expand upon or incorporate high interest topics (such as gender in music videos and video games, covenant marriage, and the meaning of lifelong love).

Margin tools include quotes, *Did You Know?* and *Reflections*, which examine facts, figures, photos, and chapter content. These tools assist the student in developing a firm grasp on chapter material. As you have come to expect, these selected margin quotes offer insights from poets, scholars, philosophers, and artists of all types. *Did You Know?* items provide statistics and quick data relating to the concepts in the chapter. *Reflections* found in the margins bring students closer to the material by encouraging them to consider their own ideas and beliefs.

Each chapter also has a *Chapter Summary*, list of *Key Terms*, and *Suggested Readings*, all of which are designed to maximize students' learning outcomes. The Chapter Summary reviews the main ideas of the chapter, making review easier and more effective. The Key Terms are boldfaced within the chapter and listed at the end, along with the page number where the term was introduced. Both Chapter Summaries and Key Terms assist students in test preparation. The *Suggested Readings* list includes material for further research or personal interest. We have also added *InfoTrac College Edition Search Terms* to each chapter so that this unique online database may be easily used in the course and by the students for extra credit assignments, activities, and research.

Glossary There is a comprehensive glossary of key terms included at the back of the textbook.

Appendixes There are appendixes on sexual structure and the sexual response cycle, fetal development, contraception, marriage and divorce laws, and managing money.

Web Site Resource Center Material that had been included in the Resource Center in prior editions is still available online at the Wadsworth Web site. This includes a self-help directory, and practical information on financial, health, sexual, and consumer matters that affect families. There are also study guides and topically organized lists of Web sites.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS

Instructor's Manual/Test Bank Written by Loyd R. Ganey, Jr. of Western International University, this manual will help the instructor to organize the course and to captivate students' attention. The Instructor's Manual includes key learning objectives, lecture outlines, in-class discussion questions, teaching suggestions, and suggested Internet sites and activities. The Test Bank includes questions of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay. The answers and page references are noted for each.

ExamView ExamView allows instructors to create and customize tests easily with this assessment and tutorial system. It offers both a Quick Test Wizard and an Online Test Wizard that guide you step-by-step through the process of creating tests, while its "WYSIWYG" capability allows you to see the test you are creating on the screen exactly as it will print or display online. You can design tests with questions that come directly from the Test Bank and add your own questions to the existing question bank.

CNN Video: Marriage and Family Today, Volume 3 This video contains CNN news stories that illustrate the issues of marriage and family.

SocLink 2001 CD-ROM SocLink 2001 is an easy-to-use PowerPoint presentation tool that permits instructors to draw upon a digital library of hundreds of pieces of graphic art from Wadsworth sociology textbooks. In addition, the library contains hundreds of photographs as well as short video segments that can be used to create customized lecture presentations.

Demonstrating Sociology: ShowCase Presentational Software This is a software package for instructors that allows them to analyze data live in front of a classroom. It is a powerful, yet easy-to-use statistical analysis package that enables professors to show students how sociologists ask and answer questions using sociological theory. A resource book accompanies it with detailed “scripts” for using ShowCase in class.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Study Guide This guide contains key learning objectives, key terms, detailed chapter outlines, and internet suggestions that will help students form a better understanding of the material. The practice tests, including questions of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay, help students to prepare for their exams and better retain the material from the text. The guide is written by Loyd R. Ganey, Jr. of Western International University.

Investigating Change in American Society: Software and Workbook This supplement allows students to participate in analyzing and manipulating U.S. Census data sets. It includes exercises for each data set and a user-friendly statistics program containing a tutorial on how to analyze data.

WEB-BASED SUPPLEMENTS FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

InfoTrac College Edition Ignite discussions or augment your lectures with the latest developments in sociology and societal change. InfoTrac College Edition (available as a free option with a newly purchased text) gives you and your students four months of free access to an easy-to-use online database of reliable, full-length articles (not abstracts) from hundreds of top academic journals and popular sources. Among the journals available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, are *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, and *Social Research and Sociology*. Contact your Wadsworth/Thomson Learning representative for more information. Available to North American college and university students only. Journals subject to change.

WebTutor WebTutor is a content-rich, Web-based teaching and learning tool. It is rich with study and mastery tools, communication tools, and course content. Professors can use WebTutor to provide virtual office hours, post syllabi, set up threaded discussions, track student progress with the quizzing material, and much more.

Web Site: Virtual Society: The Wadsworth Sociology Resource Center Here, you can find a career center, “surfing” lessons (tips on how to find information on the Web), links to great sociology Web sites, and many other interesting and helpful selections.

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Bryan Strong, Christine DeVault, and Barbara Sayad created a wonderful book from which to branch. Their strong convictions about the meaning and importance of families, their well-conceived organization, and their reader-friendly prose make it obvious why this book has appealed to so many for so long. I hope I did justice to their efforts.

A number of people at Wadsworth Publishing deserve thanks. Susan Badger, president of Wadsworth, and Eve Howard, publisher, showed considerable confidence in me and continued, enthusiastic support for this book. They were willing to bring me on board while I was in the final phases of completion of a different Wadsworth project. This required much patience and assistance as I confronted the complexities of juggling two book projects (and the other “balls” that make up a busy personal and professional life). Jerilyn Emori, production editor, ensured that both book projects were completed on time. Her regular monitoring, prioritizing, and friendly but persistent reminding were important assets in completing this edition. Assistant editor Dee Dee Zobia also deserves considerable thanks for her practical advice and assistance in seeing that the various pieces all came together as needed. I also benefited much from her sympathetic support throughout the process of writing and revising. Thanks, too, to Bob Kauser in the permissions department at Wadsworth. Nan Lewis-Schulz and Thompson Steele were tremendously helpful and highly competent in the copyediting and production phases. The text looks and reads better because of their involvement. My appreciation also goes to Sue McDermott, photo editor and researcher, for finding such good examples of what were occasionally vaguely requested subjects.

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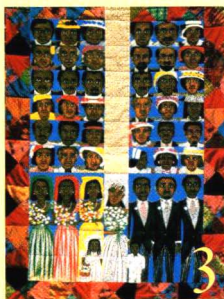
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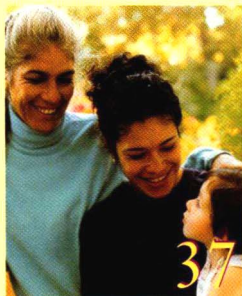
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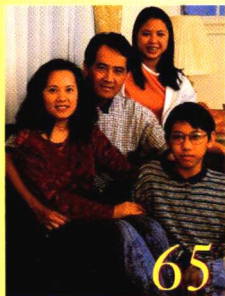
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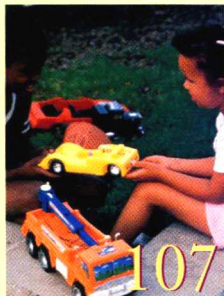
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