

# Experiencing Same-sex Marriage: Individuals, Couples, and Social Networks

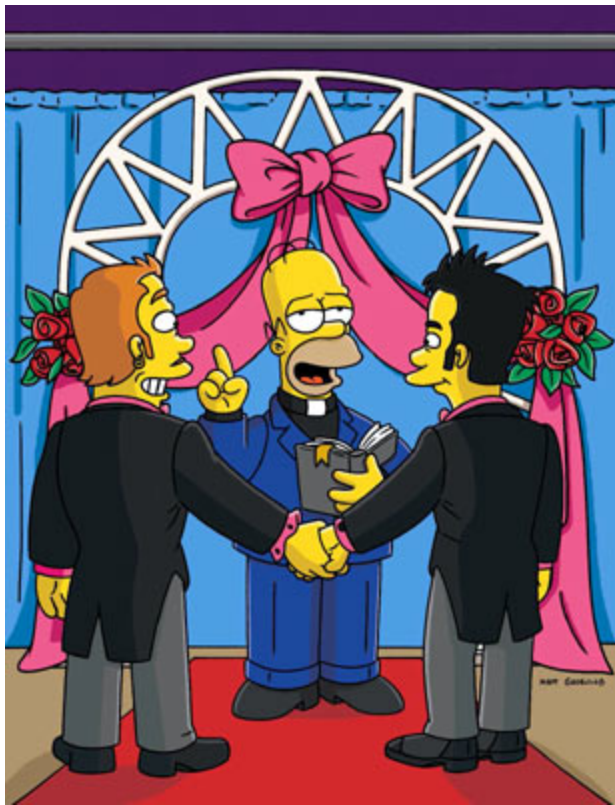
Pamela J. Lannutti, Ph.D.  
Department of Communication  
La Salle University

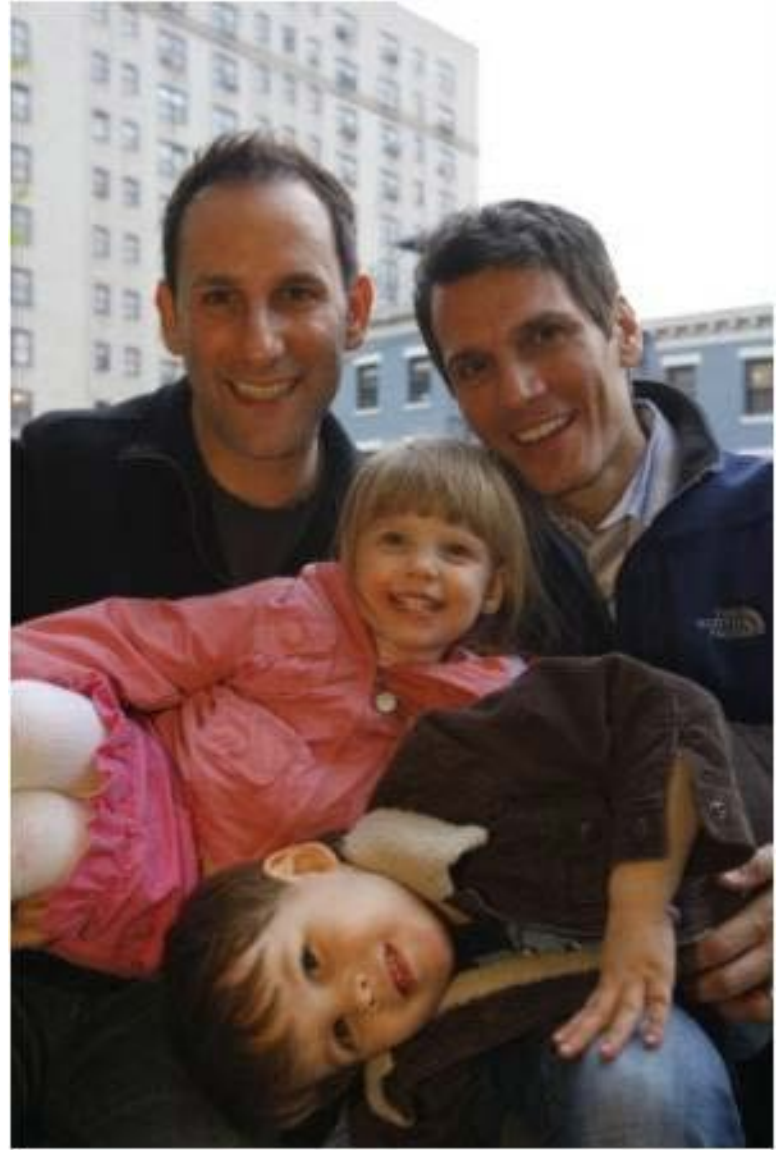


# The times, they are a chan-gin':

- 37 states plus DC have or soon will have legal recognition for SSM
- The federal government recognizes SSM issued in the marriage equality states
- Rapidly changing mostly due to court challenges







# Why study same-sex marriage?

- To better understand the context of personal relationships
- Effects of a shift from stigmatization to institutional recognition

# Notes on Methods

- Qualitative data gathered using open-ended surveys or interviews with participants
- Inductive coding method
- Participants recruited using a snowball sampling method

# Individuals, couples, social networks



# Individuals

- Sense of acceptance from society
- Increased threat/anxiety
- Prompts evaluation of own desire for marriage
- Increases individual difference salience





# Couples

- Legal protection for families
- Broader recognition of relationship
- Decision process about marriage



# Social networks

- Support/challenge from friends, family, extended social networks

