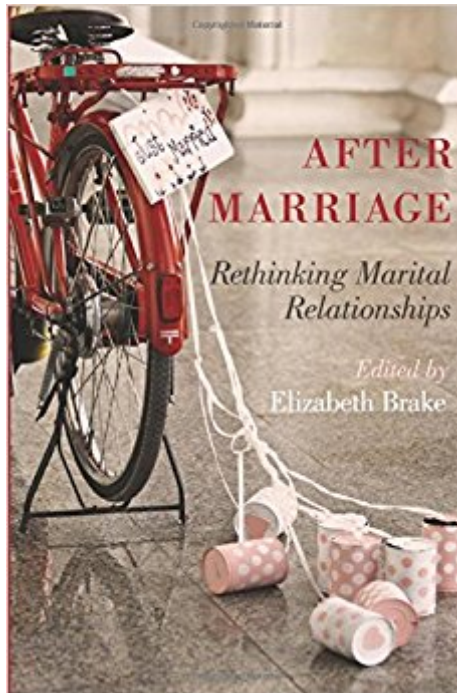


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After Marriage: Rethinking Marital Relationships



Synopsis

This collection of essays by liberal and feminist philosophers addresses the question of whether marriage reform ought to stop with same-sex marriage. Some philosophers have recently argued that marriage is illiberal and should be abolished or radically reformed to include groups and non-romantic friendships. In response, Simon May argues that marriage law can be justified without an illiberal appeal to an ideal relationship type, and Ralph Wedgwood argues that the liberal values which justify same-sex marriage do not justify further extension. Other authors argue for new legal forms for intimate relationships. Marriage abolitionist Clare Chambers argues that piecemeal directives rather than relationship contracts should replace marriage, and Samantha Brennan and Bill Cameron argue for separating marriage and parenting, with parenting rather than marriage becoming, legally and socially, the foundation of the family. Elizabeth Brake argues for a non-hierarchical friendship model for marriage. Peter de Marneffe argues that polygamy should be decriminalized, but that the liberal state need not recognize it, while Laurie Shrage argues that polygamy could be legally structured to protect privacy and equality. Dan Nolan argues for temporary marriage as a legal option, while Anca Gheaus argues that marital commitments are problematic instruments for securing the good of romantic and sexual love. Taken together, these essays challenge contemporary understandings of marriage and the state's role in it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...every single essay raises crucial questions about marriage. For this reason alone, and, of course, for others, the book is a welcome and valuable addition to the writings on marriage." -- Notre Dame

Philosophical Reviews Online "What is exciting about this new collection is the sense of dialogue it conveys: most essays engage with central claims made in this debate, as well as claims made in some of the other essays in this collection...this collection is impressive in the range of the views it includes and the sophistication of the arguments. I expect it to take central stage in future debates around marriage, the family, and the social organization of care." -- Hypatia Reviews Online

Elizabeth Brake is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Arizona State University. Her book, *Minimizing Marriage* (Oxford University Press, 2012), won an Honorable Mention for the 2014 APA Book Prize. She has also written on parental rights and obligations, liberal theory, Kant and Hegel, and is currently working on a project on disaster ethics. She has held a Murphy Institute Fellowship at Tulane and a Canadian SSHRC Grant.

As same-sex marriage becomes more prevalent, this excellent collection of essays takes a look at other aspects of marriage that are ripe for reform. Subjects include whether civil marriage is illiberal; whether marriage would be better replaced by private contracts; whether we should separate marriage and child-rearing; whether the state should allow polygamous marriage or temporary marriage; and whether commitment is actually valuable. Thought-provoking stuff.

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