

# Women, men and the new economics of marriage <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

- Executive summary <sup>[3]</sup>

Excerpted from the executive summary:

The institution of marriage has undergone significant changes in recent decades as women have outpaced men in education and earnings growth. These unequal gains have been accompanied by gender role reversals in both the spousal characteristics and the economic benefits of marriage. A larger share of men in 2007, compared with their 1970 counterparts, are married to women whose education and income exceed their own, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of demographic and economic trend data. A larger share of women are married to men with less education and income. From an economic perspective, these trends have contributed to a gender role reversal in the gains from marriage. In the past, when relatively few wives worked, marriage enhanced the economic status of women more than that of men. In recent decades, however, the economic gains associated with marriage have been greater for men than for women.

**Region:** International <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** economics <sup>[5]</sup>

gender <sup>[6]</sup>

pay equity <sup>[7]</sup>

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