



# Exploring Marriages and Families

By Karen T Seccombe



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*Connects theory to reality.*

Exploring Marriages and Families uses compelling real-life video interviews, stories, and photos to help connect social theory to reality. Readers learn how social, cultural, and political factors will affect their own decision making in relationships.

Upon finishing this book, readers will understand the relevance of social science to their lives and have a solid theoretical, research-based understanding of marriages and families.

In addition, this book helps readers learn more about their own lives and those of others, how to make better decisions about their relationships, and how social and political forces will affect their decision-making. Integrated video interviews, photos, assessments and stories about real families help readers learn how to apply information to their own lives.



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## Editorial Review

### Review

"This text does an excellent job in teaching students links between macro and micro analysis of marriage and the family. The family is presented as a social institution while at the same time providing students with knowledge and tools about intimate social relationships."

Romana Pires, San Bernardino Valley College

"It is very readable and engaging."

Stephen Glennon, Iowa Western Community College

"I like the fact the author presents international material within the text for critical thinking."

Mark Dickerson, Panola College

"I think the video feature will highlight the subject and make it more interesting and memorable for students. It will help stimulate their critical thinking on the subject." *Cheryl Boudreaux, Grand Valley State University*

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#### About the Author

**Karen Seccombe** is a professor in the School of Community Health at Portland State University, located in Portland, Oregon. She received her B.A. in sociology at California State University, Chico, her M.S.W. in health and social welfare policy from the University of Washington, and her Ph.D. in sociology from Washington State University. Her research focuses on poverty, welfare, access to health care, and the effects of social inequality on families. She is the author of *Marriage and Family: You and Society* (Pearson); *“So You Think I Drive a Cadillac?”: Welfare Recipients’ Perspectives on the System and its Reform*, 3rd edition (Allyn and Bacon); *Families in Poverty* (Allyn and Bacon); *Just Don’t Get Sick: Access to Health Care in the Aftermath of Welfare Reform*, with Kim Hoffman (Rutgers University Press), and *Marriages and Families: Relationships in Social Context*, with Rebecca L. Warner (Wadsworth). She is a National Council on Family Relations fellow, and a member of the American Sociological Association, and the Pacific Sociological Association, where she has held elective offices. Karen lives in Portland with her husband Richard, a health economist, her ten-year-old daughter, Natalie Rose, and her eight-year-old daughter, Olivia Lin. In her spare time she enjoys hiking near their cabin in the Oregon Cascades, walking the sandy beaches of the Oregon coast, exploring the kid-friendly playgrounds, attractions, and restaurants in Portland and surrounding areas, and traveling just about anywhere—the San Juan Islands are high on her list.

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