

H. COUPLES

The tendency of adult homosexuals and lesbians to form dyadic pairs can be studied beginning in the 18th century, when homosocial forms, necessarily clandestine, began to be influenced by new notions of companionate (heterosexual) marriage. It was only in the second half of the 20th century, when large numbers of unmarried heterosexual pairs began to be visible, that the study of "the couple" --whether straight or gay--became a fashionable theme of social science. Conceptually, the fading of strong moralizing condemnation has fostered the abandonment of the earlier sharp contrast between the positively charged married pair and the negatively charged fornicating/adulterous pair (including homosexuals); now there is a neutral, tripartite division: married heterosexuals; unmarried, cohabiting heterosexuals; and cohabiting homosexuals--all ranged under the umbrella category of couples. (For the controversial, perhaps even quixotic concept of homosexual marriage, see XX.L).

2989. ALAIN (pseud.). "Du couple homophile," **Arcadie**, no. 100 (April 1962), 210-24.

Essay on male homosexual couples in France. See also: Antoine D'Arc, "Essai socio-psychologique sur le couple homosexuel," **Arcadie**, no. 196 (April 1970), 178-82; no. 197 (May 1970), 234-42; no. 198 (June 1970), 287-95.

2990. BABUSCIO, JACK. "Splitting Up," **Gay News** (London), no. 220 (July 23-August 5, 1981), 22-23; no. 221 (August 6-19, 1981), 24-25.

The fact that many gays and lesbians do, contrary to popular stereotypes, form at least one deep dyadic relationship in their lives is attested by the intensity and complexity of the feelings that accompany and last beyond the experience of breaking up.

2991. BLUMSTEIN, PHILIP, and PEPPER SCHWARTZ. **American Couples: Money, Work, Sex**. New York: William Morrow, 1983. 656 pp.

Reflects data collected from over 4000 heterosexual couples, nearly 1000 male couples, and 788 female couples. The book is divided into five major sections: how couples handle finances; how they balance work and relationship commitments; their sexual behavior; a follow-up study; and vignettes of twenty couples.

2992. BOYDEN, TOM, et al. "Similarity and Attraction in Homosexual Males: The Effects of Age and Masculinity-Femininity," **Sex Roles**, 10 (1984), 939-48.

Interpretation of a questionnaire completed by 110 gay men suggests that long-term partner preference among homosexual males is determined by the same principles that guide heterosexual selection.

2993. CARDELL, MONA. "Sex-Role Identity, Sex-Role Behavior, and Satisfaction in Heterosexual, Lesbian, and Gay Male Couples," **Psychology of Women Quarterly**, 5 (1981), 488-94.

Satisfaction was related to the amount and type of sex-role behavior, but unrelated to gender, background characteristics, BSRI score, or couple type.

2994. CLARKE, LIGE, and JACK NICHOLS. **Roommates Can't Always Be Lovers: An Intimate Guide to Male-Male Relationships**. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1974. 194 pp.

Light essays on male-male relationships alternating with letters to and from Clarke and Nichols when they were editors of **Gay**, a now-defunct New York City periodical.

2995. DAILEY, DENNIS M. "Adjustment of Heterosexual and Homosexual Couples in Pairing Relationships: An Exploratory Study," **Journal of Sex Research**, 15 (1979), 143-57.

In a limited sample, homosexual couples showed significantly lower levels of success than did married couples. Lesbians had lower scores on self-esteem and generalized contentment, suggesting that being lesbian and a woman may be a twofold problem. See also his: "Legitimacy and Permanence in the Gay Relationship: Some Intervention Alternatives," **Journal of Social Welfare**, 4:2-3 (1977), 81-88.

2996. DE CECCO, JOHN P., and MICHAEL G. SHIVELY. "A Study of Perceptions of Rights and Needs in Interpersonal Conflicts in Homosexual Relationships," **JH**, 3 (1978), 205-16.

Interviews with 91 men and 34 women indicated that the right most frequently perceived as important was participation in decision making, and the need most frequently perceived was power.

2997. DENNENY, MICHAEL. **Decent Passions: Real Stories about Love**. Boston: Alyson, 1984. 223 pp.

Interviews with a gay couple, a lesbian couple, and an interracial heterosexual couple emphasizing love and passion. See also his: **Lovers: The Story of Two Men**. Interviews with Philip Gefter and Neil Alan Marks (New York: Avon, 1979; 159 pp.).

2998. FALBO, TONI, and LETITIA A. PEPLAU. "Power Strategies in Intimate Relationships," **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology**, 38 (1980), 618-28.

Presents a model of power strategies, which is of uncertain value inasmuch as no differences were disclosed in this dimension between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

2999. "Gay Couple Counseling," **Homosexual Counseling Journal**, 1:3 (1974), 88-139.

Condensed proceedings of a conference sponsored by the

Homosexual Community Counseling Center in May 1974.

3000. HARRY, JOSEPH. "Decision Making and Age Differences among Gay Male Couples," **JH**, 8:2 (1982) 9-21. In an exploration of patterning of attractions among 1,556 gay men, age was found to be the major criterion defining pools of potential erotic and romantic partners. Moreover, age defined the dominance structure in a relationship.
3001. HARRY, JOSEPH. **Gay Couples**. New York: Praeger, 1984. 152 pp.
Based on a study of over 1000 Chicago men, the author finds support for the "resource theory" of family dynamics; the homogamous selection hypothesis; and predominant nonexclusiveness (which is not necessarily a negative factor). Also treats cohabitation; gender-role playing; intimacy; and masculinity/femininity. See also: Joseph Harry and Robert Lovely, "Gay Marriages and Communities of Sexual Orientation," **Alternative Lifestyles**, 2 (1979), 177-200; and Joseph Harry, "Gay Male and Lesbian Relationships," in: Eleanor D. Macklin and Roger H. Rubin (eds.), **Contemporary Families and Alternative Lifestyles** (Beverly Hills, Ca: Sage, 1983), 216-34.
3002. IHARA, TONI, and RALPH WARNER. "Gay Couples," in: **The Living Together Kit**. Second ed. Occidental, CA: Nolo Press, 1979, pp. 184-200.
Practical advice in the context of today's joint living arrangements.
3003. JENSI, MEHRI S. "Role Differentiation in Female Homosexual Quasi-Marital Unions," **Journal of Marriage and the Family**, 36 (1974), 360-67.
Interviews with 34 lesbians record adherence to butch/femme role-differentiation pattern.
3004. JONES, RANDALL W., and JOHN E. BATES. "Satisfaction in Male Homosexual Couples," **JH**, 3 (1978), 217-24.
Records the development of a Gay Relationship Questionnaire.
3005. LANER, MARY R. "Permanent Partner Priorities: Gay and Straight," **JH**, 3 (1977), 21-39.
In a survey of two groups of students it was found that heterosexuals and homosexuals look for the same qualities in partners, but misperceive the priorities of others.
3006. LEWIS, ROBERT A., et al. "Commitment in Same-Sex Love Relationships," **Alternative Lifestyles**, 4 (1981), 22-42.
In a questionnaire study of 32 lesbians and 50 gay men who had lived in coupled relationships for at least six months, lesbians scored higher than gay men on three separate indices of commitment, but on the whole there

were surprisingly few differences between the two groups.

3007. MCWHIRTER, DAVID P., and ANDREW M. MATTISON. **The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop.** Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1984. 341 pp.

Based on a five-year program of interviews with 156 male couples living in Southern California. The study outlines a sequence of six stages in which the couples are claimed to pass over many years.

3008. MENDOLA, MARY. **The Mendola Report: A New Look At Gay Couples.** New York: Crown, 1980. 269 pp.

Journalistic presentation of gay male and lesbian lifestyles, based on some 400 couples.

3009. MORRIS, VICKI. "Helping Lesbian Couples Cope with Their Jealousy," **Women and Therapy**, 1:4 (1982), 27-34.

Explores special factors that may engender jealousy in a lesbian relationship, and offers a speculative treatment model (declaring feelings, clarifying misinformation, consciousness raising, negotiation of needs and rights, and individual therapy as needed).

3010. NANDA, SERENA, and J. SCOTT FRANCHER. "Culture and Homosexuality: A Comparison of Long Term Gay Male and Lesbian Relationships," **Eastern Anthropologist**, 33 (1980), 139-52.

In a study of 20 male and 20 female homosexuals of New York City, who have been in committed same-sex relationships for at least ten years, it was found that the men came out earlier than the lesbians, had much less heterosexual experience, and far more frequently engaged in casual sex encounters.

3011. NESTLE, JOAN. "Butch-Fem Relationships: Sexual Courage in the 1950s," **Heresies**, no. 12 (1981), 21-24.

Based on personal experience, Nestle argues that butch-fem relationships among lesbians were complex erotic statements, not mere mimicry of heterosexual dyads.

3012. NICHOLS, MARGARET. "The Treatment of Inhibited Sexual Desire (ISD) in Lesbian Couples," **Women and Therapy**, 1:4 (1982), 49-66.

Even in a loving, considerate relationship ISD may occur. The author recommends H. S. Kaplan's technique of sensate focus exercises as therapy.

3013. PENDERGRASS, VIRGINIA E. "Marriage Counseling with Lesbian Couples," **Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice**, 12 (1975), 93-96.

Highlights fears of dependence and role conflict; the acceptance of a particular dominant or submissive role is not necessarily consonant with acceptance of a corresponding sex identity.

3014. PEPLAU, LETITIA ANN. "What Homosexuals Want in Relationships," **Psychology Today**, 15 (March 1981), 28-34, 37-38.
 "Whatever their sexual preferences, people in intimate relationships today struggle to reconcile a longing for closeness with a desire for independence and self-realization." See also Peplau et al., "Loving Women: Attachment and Autonomy in Lesbian Relationships," **Journal of Social Issues**, 34:2 (1978), 71-27.
3015. PEPLAU, LETITIA ANN. "Research on Homosexual Couples: An Overview," **JH**, 8 (1982), 3-8.
 Reviews current literature on gay male and lesbian couples, which is presented as moving in accord with the trend in sociology away from the deviance perspective to one studying "alternate lifestyles."
3016. PINGEL, ROLF, and WOLFGANG TRAUTVETTER. **Homosexuelle Partnerschaften: Eine empirische Untersuchung**. Berlin: Verlag Rosa Winkel, 1986. 112 pp.
 Investigates the functioning of dyadic relationships of gay men in West Germany.
3017. REECE, REX, and ALLEN E. SEGRIST. "The Association of Selected 'Masculine' Sex-Role Variables with Length of Relationship in Gay Male Couples," **JH**, 7 (1981), 33-47.
 Separated respondents to a self-report battery scored lower on cooperation than members of ongoing relationships and were more likely to be androgynous. See also Reece: "Coping with Couplehood," in: Martin P. Levine (ed.), **Gay Men** (New York: Harper and Row, 1979), 211-21.
3018. SCHULLO, STEPHEN A., and BURTON L. ALPERSON. "Interpersonal Phenomenology as a Function of Sexual Orientation, Sex, Sentiment, and Trait Categories in Long-Term Dyadic Relationships," **Journal of Personality and Social Psychology**, 47 (1984), 983-1002.
 Applied the Extended Personal Attributes Questionnaire (modified) to 20 gay male, 20 lesbian, and 40 heterosexual couples.
3019. SILVERSTEIN, CHARLES. **Man to Man: Gay Couples in America**. New York: Quill, 1981. 347 pp.
 Providing extended profiles of individual gay couples, explores their problems and satisfactions.
3020. SONENSCHNEIN, DAVID. "The Ethnography of Male Homosexuals' Relationships," **Journal of Field Research**, 4:2 (1968), 69-83.
 An associate of the Kinsey Institute offers a typology of gay-male relationships based on field work in a South-west city.
3021. STARN, JACK. "Homosexual Couple: Jack Baker and

- Michael McConnell," *Look*, 35 (January 26, 1971), 69-71.
 Journalist's profile of a Minnesota pair who attempted (unsuccessfully, but with much publicity) to obtain a legal marriage.
3022. TANNER, DONNA M. **The Lesbian Couple**. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1978. 142 pp.
 From in-depth interviews with 24 lesbian couples in Chicago, explores how homosexual women form and maintain dyadic relationships. Indicates how they define household tasks, financial arrangements, and sexual patterns.
3023. THERRIAULT, JACQUES. **Homosexualité et vie à deux**. Montreal: Leméac, 1981. 239 pp.
 A kind of "letter" on the life of homosexual couples addressed to heterosexuals.
3024. TULLER, NEIL R. "Couples: The Hidden Segment of the Gay World," *JH*, 3 (1978), 331-43.
 Of 15 couples interviewed, found that the partners met in social as contrasted to sexual settings, that relationships were more common for females than for males, that females required sexual fidelity more than males, that males desired children more than females, and that butch-femme role playing was absent.
3025. UHRIG, LARRY. **The Two of Us**. Boston: Alyson, 1984. 140 pp.
 Commonsense guide for couples concerning "affirming, celebrating and symbolizing gay and lesbian relationships" in what are sometimes termed holy unions. Author is pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, Washington, DC.

I. DEVIANCE

Sociologists and criminologists have taken deviance to refer to behavior that is prohibited, censured, stigmatized, or penalized. The boundaries of the concept, and its appropriateness for homosexuality, have not been settled; it originated in the wish for a neutral term that would not imply approval or disapproval of the activity, whatever the attitude of the environing society might be. Critics of the approach assert that it offers little more than a jumble of "nuts, sluts, and perverts." For the study of homosexuality, however, its value may lie in the fact that it does make one think of analogies and differences between homosexuals and other groups. Compare the discussion of the minority concept, XIV.S.

3026. BEST, JOEL, and DAVID F. LUCKENBILL. "The Social