

Dear Friends,

This week we highlight research on the plasticity of human sexuality, the effects on marital quality of helping aging parents, and the effects of the demographic ratio of men to women on family formation.

NEW RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



The Plasticity of Sexuality

A major overview of the [research](#) on gender identity reveals the plasticity of human sexuality, and how sexuality responds to context and experience. Published by the Ethics and Public Policy Center's *New Atlantis*, this report covers three major areas: [sexual orientation](#), [mental health](#), and [gender identity](#). The research points to “no established biological basis for sexual orientation or gender identity”. Very useful for the sexual plasticity of everyone.



Aging Parents and Marital Satisfaction

Whether supporting elderly parents helps or hinders the marital quality of middle-aged couples depends on how each spouse values taking care of their own elderly parents and the type of reward these obligations provide, [according](#) to Courtney Polenick of Pennsylvania State University and colleagues. As long as the reward they gain does not replace or displace their affection for their spouse, spouses are happy.



More Men Means More Marriage

In areas where men outnumber women, men are more likely to marry, remain sexually committed to a single partner, and participate in family affairs. In their new [report](#) Ryan Schacht and Karen Kramer of the University of Utah map U.S. counties by the ratio of men to women to assess implications for the United States. For China there is a stark contrast as covered in Mei Fong's book, [One Child](#).

MARRIPEDIA ENTRIES RELATED TO THESE FINDINGS

- 1) [“Effects of Divorce on Children’s Sexual Activity”](#)
- 2) [“State of the Family in America”](#)

With an eye to the future of America,

Pat Fagan

Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Information (MARRI)