

Unmarried America



the promise of equality applies to everyone regardless of marital status

January 30, 2003

Dear Department Chair:

I would be very grateful if you would distribute the enclosed survey forms to faculty members and students in your department who have research or teaching interests in the topic of people who are single. By "single people" I mean adults who have always been single, those who are divorced or widowed, single parents, and cohabiting couples who either choose not to marry or who cannot marry.

My goal is to assemble a comprehensive collection of scholarly resources for the study of single people, and make it widely accessible. The study of marriage and the family is already highly developed, with textbooks, handbooks, specialized journals, scholarly conferences, and sources of funding widely known and available. The study of singles, in contrast, is in a much earlier stage.

My efforts to advance scholarship on the study of single people are funded by a grant from the Marchionne Foundation, awarded to me in my role as Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the American Association for Single People (AASP). The Anthony Marchionne Foundation for the Scientific Study of Human Relations and Psychological Processes sponsors the only funding I know of that is dedicated specifically to the study of people who are single. (For more information about the Marchionne Foundation please see www.wsu.edu/~socpsych/anthony_marchionne_foundation.htm.) AASP is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that advocates for an accurate and informed understanding of people who are unmarried. (See the association's website at www.unmarriedAmerica.org, for more details.)

I am a Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, currently a Visiting Professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, depaulo@psych.ucsb.edu. My collaborator on this project is Wendy Morris, of the University of Virginia, wendymorris@virginia.edu. The Executive Director of AASP is Thomas F. Coleman.

We also welcome your own response to the survey form found on the back of this page.

Sincerely,

Bella M. DePaulo
Chair, Academic Advisory Board
Spectrum Institute of AASP

Enclosures:
AASP newsletter and survey forms