

Notions abordées : Lieux et formes de pouvoir, L'idée de progrès & Espaces et échanges

An interview with Frank Brown by Shelly De Vito

US Voices

Gay Marriage in the US

Shelly: The subject of same-sex marriage provokes a lot of different reactions, some of them very surprising. Listen to the researcher Frank Brown speak about his findings during a tour of the United States.

Frank: They asked me to talk about same-sex marriage, and that was great fun, because the class was two-thirds women, and two-thirds black... and the men all wanted to be very polite and not say anything that was politically incorrect, whereas the women were talking about what they saw, on the one hand, as moral issues about child-rearing and some of them said, "Well, as much divorce as there is in this country, who could care less, as long as you've got two parents?". And then one woman finally said "They wanna have it? They wanna have it, this marriage? Well give it to 'em, they'll find out!".

If these guys want to get married, well, let them get married, and let them just find out what a sorry institution marriage is all too often, and what they have to put up with, and what are the restrictions, and what are the social mores and codes by which everyone is going to examine you. So what they're saying is, yes, we should open up the whole debate about whether the European, American-style of nuclear family is bankrupt.