

Abstract

The American family has radically simplified over the course of the past over the past century. This paper places changes in intergenerational coresidence, divorce, unmarried fertility, and marriage into historical context. I describe the transformation of the family economy over two centuries and its implications for changing power relations within the family, and discuss the causes and consequences of married women's employment. in wage labor. I present new estimates of the sharp decline in the relative income of young men, and assess the effects of declining economic opportunity on trends and race differentials in marriage behavior during the past 50 years.