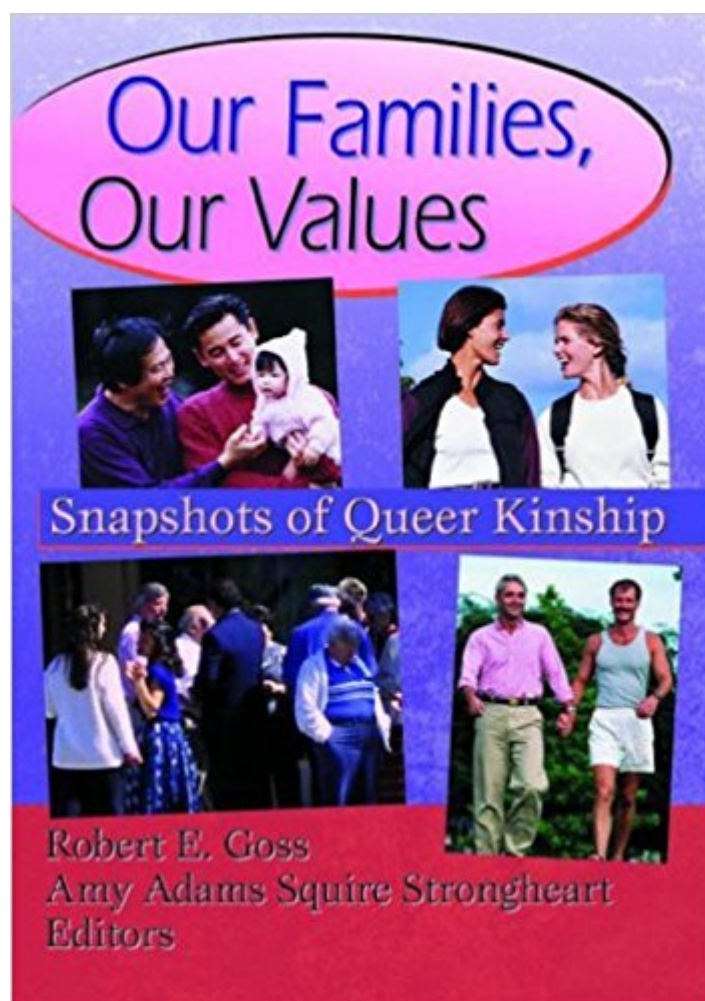


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Our Families, Our Values: Snapshots Of Queer Kinship (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies)



Synopsis

Our Families, Our Values challenges both the gay community and American society to examine carefully the meaning of family values and the nature of social institutions such as marriage and the family. It asks you provoking, even disturbing, questions such as: "Is it prudent for members of the Lavender community to mimic heterosexual marriage or define personal relations networks as families, when these institutions are rapidly collapsing?" "Are we attempting to mainstream American society into accepting different views of marriage and families?" "Are we subscribing to notions of sexual property that are inherent to the marriage ceremony and the institution of marriage, when we choose to be married?" Despite the complexities of this issue, marriage constitutes a privileged position in western society, and, as this book shows you, without the legal recognition of same-sex marriages, there are many fundamental rights, as well as privileges, denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons. As Our Families, Our Values turns upside-down the widely accepted notion that only heterosexual people are entitled to get married, have sex, and rear children, you gain insight into personal struggles and affirmations that testify to the spirituality, procreativity, and wholesomeness of the diverse relationships of the Lavender community. You will also learn about various ongoing efforts to give religious pride to the various configurations of gay relationships, families, and values and the disruption of popular interpretations of the Scriptures that have been used to justify the oppression of sexual minorities. This book will intrigue you over and over again, as you read about: value systems transphobia equal marriage rights Buddhism's rejection of "traditional family values" • Brazil's sex-positive culture differences between gay male social formations and families choosing a language and terms that empower sexual minorities and the essence of the liberation movement sex as communion relationships based on nurture, not transaction Designed for academics and students of religion, pastors, priests, rabbis, and lay readers alike, Our Families, Our Values is a multifaceted view of the gay community's response to the public controversy over gay marriage, adoption, and foster care rights. Ideal as a textbook for courses in sexuality, theology, sociology, women's studies, and gay and lesbian studies, this book will both inform you and delight you as it reminds you that same-sex unions bring much cause for celebration and that religion and homosexuality are not mutually exclusive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, a disclaimer. I wrote the third essay of this book. Yet even if I hadn't, I would still consider this to be an excellent book and the finest anthology of essays on the spiritual nature of same sex relationships and families. However, it is important to be clear about what it is and what it is not. It is a sampler, and not a systematic presentation of a single integrated "theory," or even a systematic presentation of multiple "theories." A number of different, and even conflicting, takes on our relationships are presented by the various authors. This is also not a scholarly treatise, but it is written to intellectually engage the general reader. It is not fluff. It is collection of thoughtful essays -- some are written from the first person, and all are expressions of the real experiences of a very diverse collection of writers. Some of the pieces may strike a positive chord, and others may offend, depending on the individual reader. Hopefully, all will make the reader think about something new.

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