Annotated Bibliography


The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, thus moving them away from their beliefs in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before getting married helped improve individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families within young adults. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.