Call for Manuscripts

Public Opinion about Gay Rights/Marriage

Special issue of The International Journal of Public Opinion Research
Guest editor: Paul Brewer, University of Delaware

Over the past few decades, dramatic shifts in both public policy and public opinion regarding gay rights have occurred in many nations. The most recent, and perhaps most striking, set of changes has revolved around the legal status of gay marriage. Since 2001, a number of nations have extended governmental recognition to same-sex marriages. In other nations, the topic is currently the subject of intense political controversy. In still other nations, legal recognition of gay marriage appears unlikely to occur anytime soon. During all of this, public opinion polls conducted in a wide range of nations have captured large shifts over time in public support for gay rights in general and gay marriage in particular. At the same time, polling also reveals sizable differences in such support across nations as well as across groups within single national populations. Thus far, research has pointed to a variety of explanations for these phenomena, ranging from social and cultural forces to political debate to messages in popular media.

This special issue of the International Journal of Public Opinion Research focuses on factors and processes that shape public opinion about gay rights/marriage or related constructs such as attitudes about and tolerance toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, as well as changes over time and differences/similarities across contexts in public opinion in these domains. All papers should be theoretically motivated. Papers may draw on any social-scientific disciplinary approach and use any empirical method (including, but not limited to, survey research, experimentation, and content analysis) to examine public opinion in a single nation or from a comparative perspective. Analyses that draw on interdisciplinary approaches and/or use innovative or multiple methods are welcome.

Submissions for this special issue may be in the form of regular-length manuscripts or research notes as specified at http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/intpor/for_authors/index.html.

Manuscripts to be considered for this special issue must be submitted by October 15 2013 through the IJPOR online system. The cover letter should indicate that the contact author wishes to have the manuscript considered for the special issue. All queries should be directed to the guest editor, Paul Brewer (email: prbrewer@udel.edu; telephone +1 302 831 7771).