



# CAFÉ-DÉBAT AMERICAN CENTER

THÈME : **IS THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE BECOMING OBSOLETE?**

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PREVU LE : MARDI 14 FEVRIER 2012 : 19H00-20H30

A : AMERICAN CENTER MARSEILLE

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## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does the practice of marriage symbolize today?
2. What does a couple's choice to remain unmarried represent?
3. Why, in your opinion, are there fewer marriages than 50 years ago?
4. Could a decline in marriage be in any way a detriment to society?
5. (Only if you feel comfortable sharing)-What has been your personal experience of marriage and why do you/do you not condone it?
6. Is there really a "7 Year Itch?" What does it take to keep a long-term relationship alive under the pressures of today's world?

## VOCABULARY

bachelor/-ette  
civil ceremony  
cohabit  
commitment  
cusp  
engagement  
faithfulness

"get hitched"  
infidelity  
mid-life crisis  
offspring  
self-sacrificing  
"seven-year itch"  
single parenthood

"tie the knot"  
trustworthy  
threshold  
unwed mother  
"watershed moment"  
wedding vows  
wedlock

## READING MATERIAL

1. WHY IS THE US MARRIAGE RATE FALLING SHARPLY?  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-16274740>
2. WHAT REALLY IS THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE?  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/philosophicalfragments/2011/07/14/what-really-is-the-institution-of-marriage/>
3. AMERICA'S RASH RETREAT FROM MARRIAGE  
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2011/12/14/America-s-rash-retreat-from-marriage>

## AUDIO/VIDEO MATERIAL

1. ABC NEWS VIDEO: MARRIAGE ON THE DECLINE?  
<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/marriage-decline-15158309>
2. BBC AUDIO: WHAT DOES MARRIAGE MEAN IN 2007?  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/stoke/content/articles/2007/03/08/talent\\_marriage\\_in\\_2007\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/stoke/content/articles/2007/03/08/talent_marriage_in_2007_feature.shtml)