

# Making Migration Sexy: Immigrants in Same-Sex Couples in the United States \*

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Galvanized by greater social acceptance and new rights, numbers of same-sex couples in the United States are increasing, yet few demographers have studied immigrants in same-sex couples. Using the American Community Survey from 2008 to 2018, this study compares same-sex couples including at least one immigrant to corresponding opposite-sex couples in order to characterize and assess the scale of sexual migration to the U.S. Moreover, we evaluate how the policy environment related to same-sex couples shapes migratory patterns. We find that same-sex couples generally have higher incomes and occupational prestige and are somewhat more educated. Moreover these couples are influenced by LGBT policies, both in their origin country and their U.S. state destination, and are less influenced by previous migration of conationals. Our findings put into question predominant models of migration that emphasize economic and network effects, suggesting the importance of considering political and lifestyle motivations.

*Keywords:* immigration, same-sex couples, LGBTQ policy

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## Introduction

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## References