



THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES

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CONTACTS: Brenna McLaughlin

212/989-1010 x 24

bmclaughlin@aaupnet.org

## ***ISSUE OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE EXPLORED IN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING'S FREE ONLINE SERVICE***

***Books for Understanding* lists experts and resources to expand and inform public debate**

NEW YORK (March 11, 2004) – As news coverage increases on local and national levels about same-sex marriage, the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) has posted a new bibliographic listing on its *Books for Understanding* website. The list features categorized books and experts available to comment on Constitutional issues raised by same-sex marriage, studies of the history of marriage and marriage law, and broader looks at the movement for gay and lesbian civil rights.

The resource is available to journalists and the public at:

<http://www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/marriage/list.html>

For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest or scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

Included in the dozens of books on the new list about same-sex marriage are the following, all for a general audience:

Author Evan Gerstmann's look at the Constitutional arguments marshaled on both sides of the issue in *Same-Sex Marriage and the Constitution* (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

With intriguing tales and historical insight, *What Is Marriage For?* by E. J. Graff has been praised for filling a gap in the literature of marriage history. (Beacon Press, 2004)

*Man and Wife in America: A History* by Hendrik Hartog (Harvard University Press, 2002) is a study of marriage in law

*Just Married: Gay Marriage and the Expansion of Human Rights* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2002) is by Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell, the couple at the center of an Ontario ruling that made it illegal to deny same sex couples marriage licenses.

**71 WEST 23RD STREET SUITE 901 NEW YORK NEW YORK 10010 WWW.AAUPNET.ORG**

*Books for Understanding* is a permanent, easy-to-use, free online resource for anyone looking for in-depth information, research, and expertise on the news of the day. Sponsored and managed by AAUP, *Books for Understanding* features subject-specific bibliographies on the critically important topics in the headlines. It is a dynamic resource, with new bibliographies compiled when a major news story breaks or heated public debate takes place. Lists now archived at the site include resources on voting behavior, civil liberties, environmental issues, taxation, space flight, Iraq, North Korea, Haiti, and more.

The idea for *Books for Understanding* was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The program has since expanded into a dynamic public service web resource, and new lists are created as news warrants. The Association of American University Presses is the world's largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of its 125 university press members.