

Eastern European-US Couples: Where Do They Fit?



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Purpose

EE-US couples in the international context

- compare EE-US couples with other international couples

EE-US couples in the US context

- compare EE-US couples with US-US couples

Slide 2

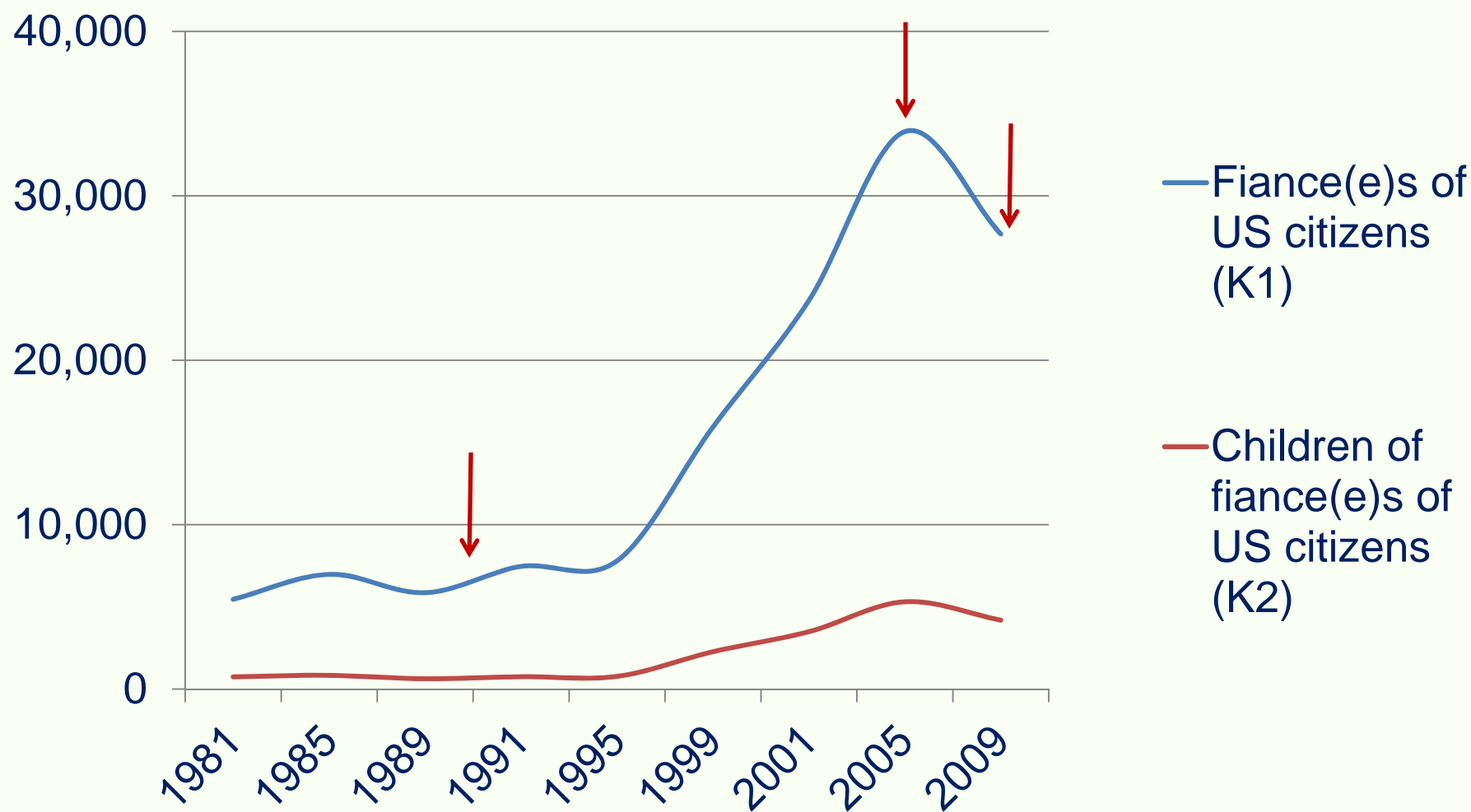
P1

SCCR presentatoin

Polina Sheldeshova, 10/18/2011

Why study?

Marriage migration is increasing



Why study?

- Eastern European immigrants
 - perceived as White
 - yet share immigrant experience

Robila (2007)

Wozniacka (2007)

- Eastern European-US couples
 - (might be) perceived as White couple
 - yet (might share) characteristics of other international couples

Sample & comparison groups

Eastern European-US (EE-US)

- Eastern European-born women,
- age 18 to 70
- immigrated [1992 – 2007/2008]
- married same year as migrated
 - proxy for K1 visas
- married to US-born men
- N=442

US-US

- US-born women,
- age 18 to 70
 - White, non-Hispanic
- married to US-born
 - White, non-Hispanic
- N=7773

Asian-US (AS-US) &

Latin American-US (LA-US)

- (...)
- N=1222 (Asian-US)
- N=1090 (Latin American-US)

Measures

Dataset: ACS 2008-2009

- age,
- marital history
- level of education,
- income

Crandall et al (2005)

Hass, Ammar, & Orloff (2006)

Heyse (2010)

Rossiter (2005)

Analysis

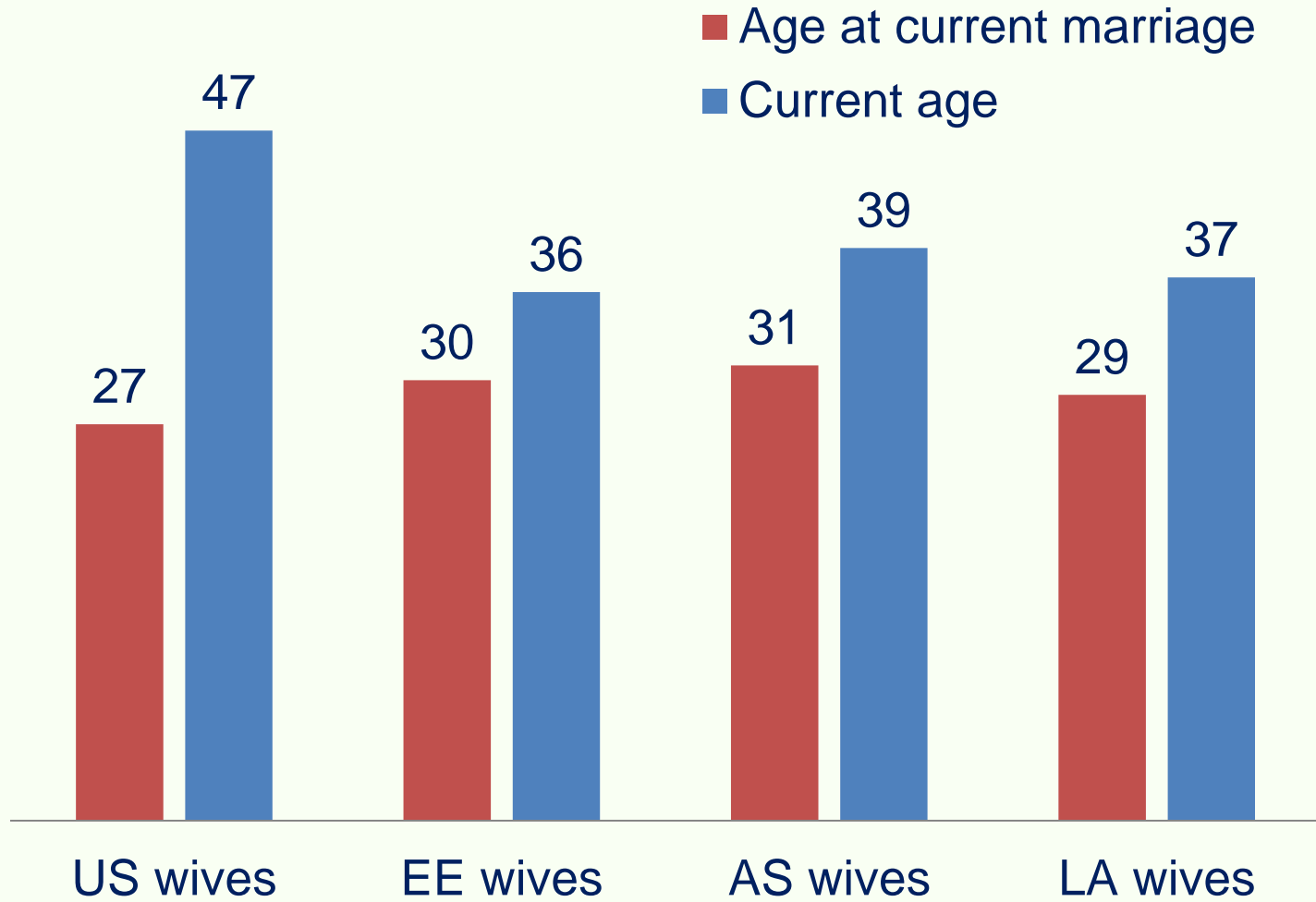
EE-US vs. US-US

- paired t-test
- chi-square

EE-US vs. AS-US & LA-US

- ANOVA
- chi-square

AGE: wives



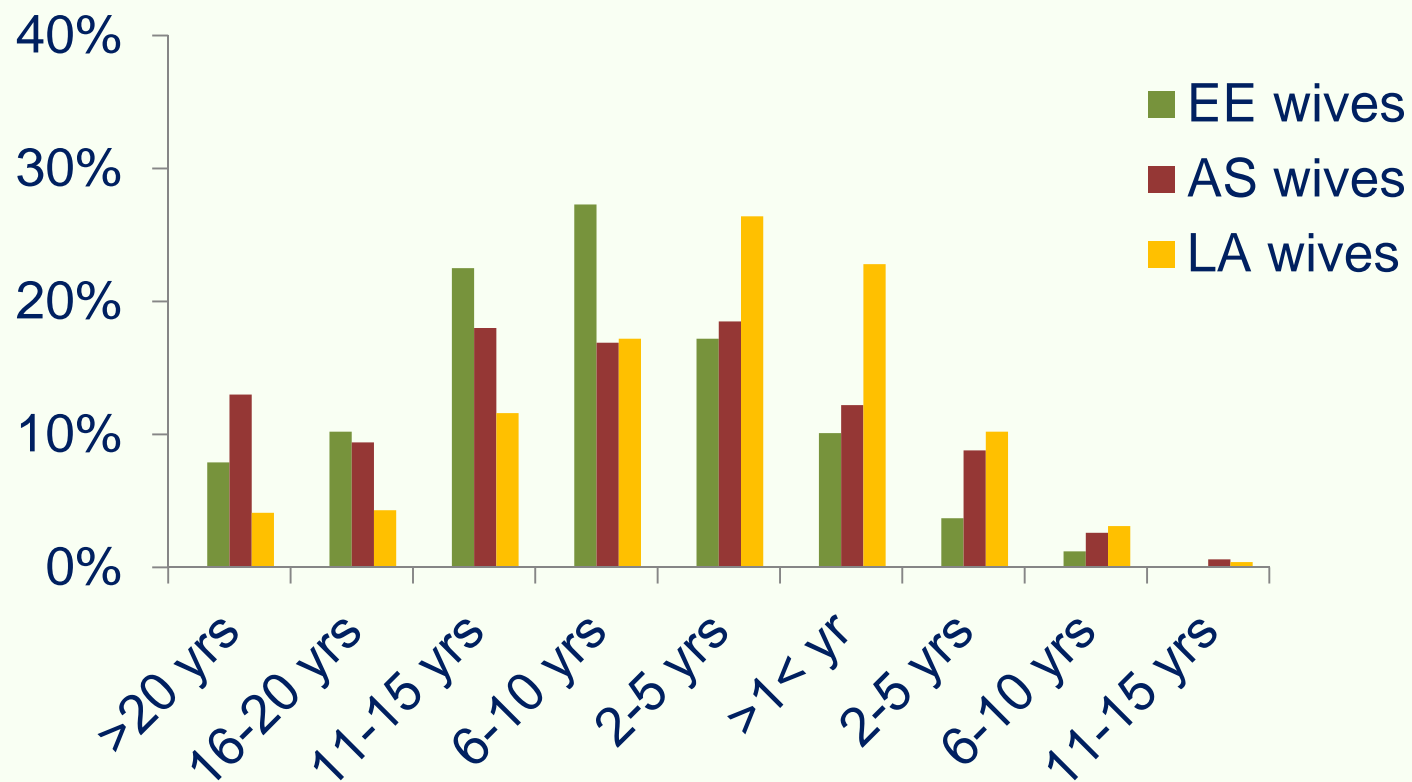
AGE: spousal differences

EE-US = -9.4 years

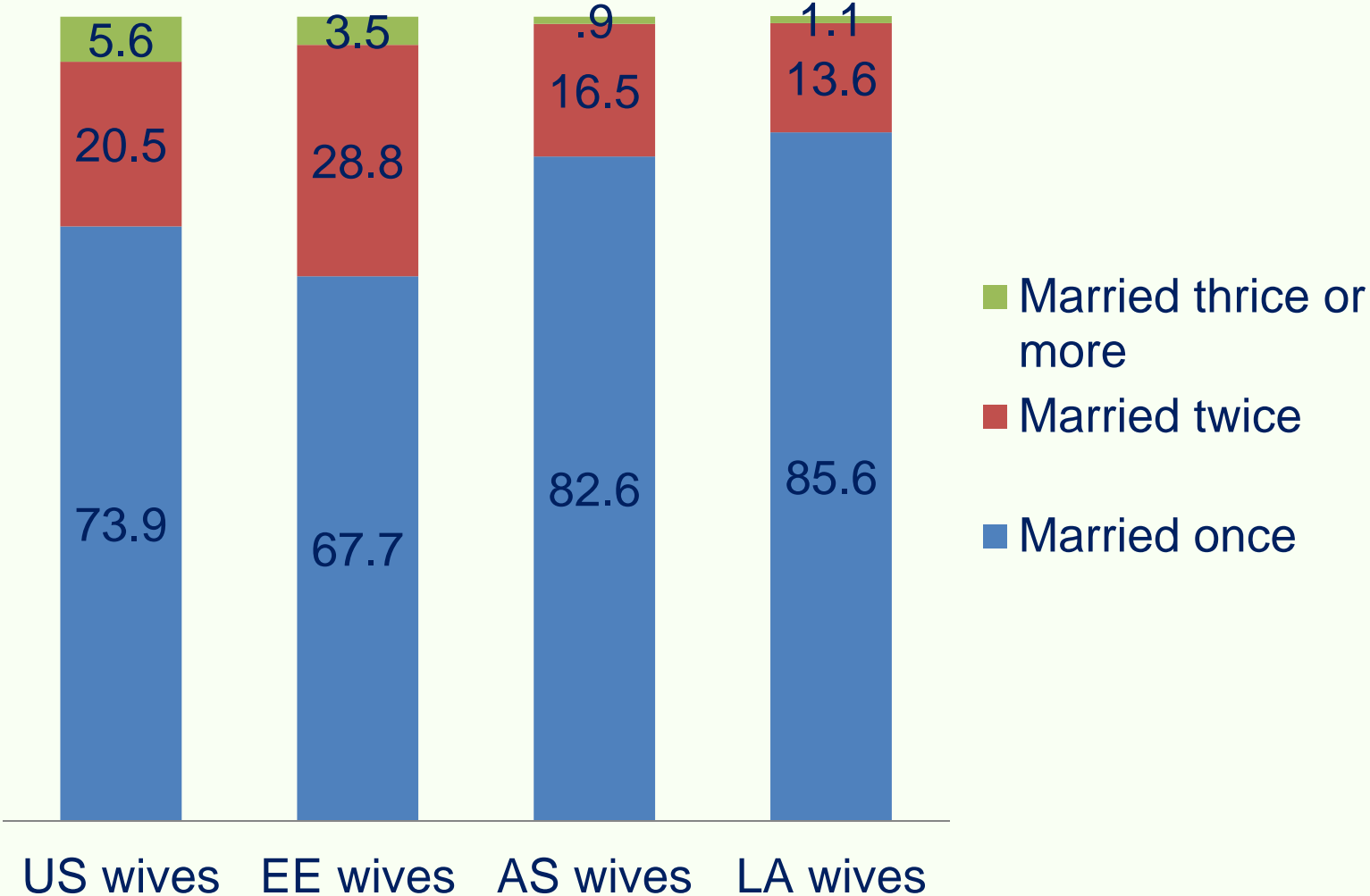
AS-US = -9.0

LA-US = -5.1

US-US = -2.3



MARITAL HISTORY: wives

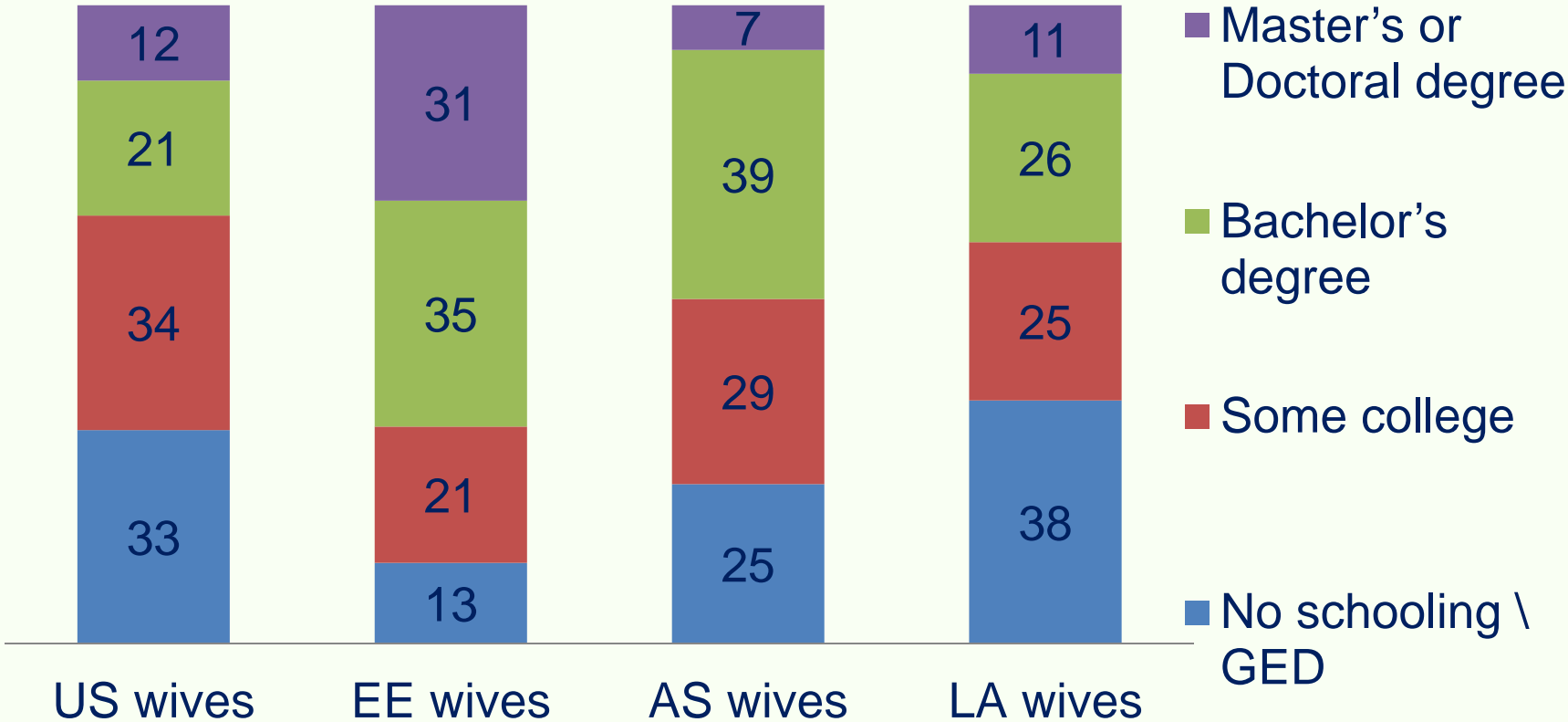


MARITAL HISTORY: spousal differences

EE-US couples

- compared to other international couples,
 - EE wives were **more likely** to have previous marriages (observed count 49 vs. expected count 30).
- compared to US-US couples,
 - EE wives were **more likely** to have previous marriages than it was expected (143 vs. 117)

EDUCATION: wives



EDUCATION: spousal differences

EE-US couples

- compared to other international couples,
 - EE wives were **especially likely** to have advanced degrees (observed count 65 vs. expected count 37)
- compared to US-US couples,
 - EE wives were **especially likely** to have higher educational level than that of their husbands (observed count 65 vs. expected count 27).

INCOME: wives

Wives with earned income

US – 71%

EE – 70%

AS – 59%

LA – 56%



INCOME: spousal differences

EE-US couples

- compared to other international couples
 - had no significant differences in average spousal relative income
- compared to US-US couples
 - had no significant differences in average spousal relative income

Summary

EE-US marriages

in the context of **international marriages**

- EE wives younger than Asian wives;
- spousal age difference similar to Asian couples and greater than in Latin American couples;
- EE wives especially more likely to be remarried;
- more EE wives had advanced degrees;
- earn similar income.

Summary (cont)

EE-US marriages

in the context of **White non-Hispanic marriages**

- spouses in EE-US marriages have bigger age difference;
- EE wives had more previous marriages;
- more EE wives had advanced degrees;
- EE wives earn less.

Conclusions

- Observations from social work studies hold true for the majority of marriages
- Individual & spousal characteristics of EE-US couples
 - follow the trend of international marriages (e.g., spousal age difference, wives' earned income)
 - come close to US-US couples (e.g., wives' marital history)
 - unique features include high percent of wives with advanced degrees and higher number of remarriages
- Yet, we do not know the quality of these marriages, average marriage length, rate of divorce.

OPEN FOR
QUESTIONS
and SUGGESTIONS