**Chapter 3**

**Key Concepts**

adult

arranged marriage

courtship

daughter-in-law

engagement

extended family

gendered division of labor

marriage as an institution

mother-in-law

nuclear family

patriarchy

patriarchal norms

patrilocal residence

tradition

youth

**Discussion Questions**

1. Prior to the era of international migration, how did Calakmuleños meet a potential marriage partner? What did their weddings look like, and how did these rituals reflect their cultural values?

2. What does the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law look like in places that practice patrilocal residence? Why is the relationship such an important one for the women involved?

3. Why was divorce so frowned upon and so difficult to achieve in pre-migratory Calakmul? What factors kept married people together? What were the consequences of splitting up?

*Personal reflection*

What do marriages and weddings look like in your social circle? What norms and practices encourage you to participate in these kinds of marriages? Are there courtship or marital arrangements people in your social world would find unacceptable? What would be the consequences to you of creating new courtship or marital practices?

**Suggested Activities**

1. How might Elvia describe the perfect marriage partner? How would you describe one? This activity has two parts. First, write up a “want ad” that describes the kind of marriage partner Elvia might seek for one of her children. Then, drawing inspiration from [this exercise](https://u.osu.edu/adventuresinhdfs/2018/03/19/active-learning-activity-perfect-partners-and-the-suffocation-of-marriage/) on the perfect partner, develop an ad for yourself or for someone you know personally. Compare and contrast the two profiles.

2. Marriage can broaden people’s life choices in some ways and narrow their choices in other ways. How does an agrarian-based, patrilocal marriage in Calakmul narrow peoples’ choices? What aspects of marriage can make it suffocating to a husband or wife? Then, read [this short interview](https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/09/we-expect-way-too-much-from-our-romantic-partners/541353/) with Eli Finkel, author of *The All or Nothing Marriage.* What sorts of expectations does Finkel believe we bring to a marriage in the United States? How do those expectations create their own suffocation? Finally, contrast the two models of suffocation. Where are the pressure points in a Calakmuleño marriage in comparison to the pressure points in the marriages Finkel describes?

3. What are the most dangerous jobs in the United States? How likely is it that immigrants are working in these jobs? Explore the data provided by the federal government via the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm> Notice the link to the “interactive charts.” Craft a profile of the most common kind of “fatal workplace injury,” which is to say a profile of the most common injuries that result in death. The interactive charts do not distinguish between documented and undocumented workers. But they do list injuries for Latinos/Hispanics (and not other ethnic or racial groups). How do you make sense of the inclusion of some information and not other?

**Delve Deeper (Additional Readings)**

Beres, M. A., 2007. ‘Spontaneous’ sexual consent: An analysis of sexual consent literature. Feminism & Psychology, 17(1), 93–108.

Collier, J. F. and Yanagisako, S. J., 1987. *Gender and kinship: Essays toward a unified analysis*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Davies, S. G., 2007. *Challenging gender norms: Five genders among Bugis in Indonesia*. New York: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Esteinou, R., 2005. The emergence of the nuclear family in Mexico. *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, 31(1), 1–18.

Esteinou, R., 2007. Strengths and challenges of Mexican families in the 21st century. *Marriage & Family Review*, 41(3–4), 309–334.

Gutmann, M. C., 1997. *The meanings of macho: Being a man in Mexico City*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Netting, R. M., 1993. *Smallholders, householders: Farm families and the ecology of intensive, sustainable agriculture*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Pasternak, B. and Ember, M., 1997. *Sex, gender, and kinship: A cross-cultural perspective*. New York: Pearson College Division.

Pauli, J., 2008. A house of one’s own: Gender, migration, and residence in rural Mexico. *American Ethnologist*, 35(1), 171–187.

Stross, B., 1974. Tzeltal marriage by capture. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 47(3), 328–346.