The Janus Forum Steering Committee is composed of representatives from Brown’s political student organizations. The Steering Committee proposes topics, researches issues, and invites experts to take part in the lecture series. To get more information about joining the Janus Steering Committee, email JanusForum@gmail.com.

**For Better or For Worse?**
The Impact of Legalizing Gay Marriage

**Thursday, February 17, 4pm**

- **With Featured Speakers**
  - Douglas Allen, M.V. Lee Badgett
  - Maggie Gallagher, Andrew Koppelman

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- Anish Sarma
- Faisal Baqai
- Brown Muslim
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- Sarah Schuster
- Brown Animal Rights Club (BARC)
- Elana Goldstein
- At Large
- Jeanne Jeong
- At Large
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Janus Forum Lectures are sponsored by Brown’s Political Theory Project. The Lectures are part of the Project’s Janus Forum, a student-run initiative that encourages open-minded debate about political ideas. The Janus Forum seeks to actively promote critical thinking and discourse by exposing students to a variety of perspectives regarding controversial social and political issues. Under the sponsorship of the Political Theory Project, the Janus Forum organizes a number of political events, including: Janus Conversations, Open Seminar Luncheons, and Janus Political Union Debates.

Douglas Allen grew up in Langley, British Columbia, and attended Simon Fraser University (SFU) as an undergraduate. He earned his PhD at the University of Washington in 1988. He was an assistant professor at Carleton University in Ottawa before he moved back to SFU in 1990, where he is now the Burnaby Mountain Professor of Economics. Professor Allen has published over 70 academic articles, along with five books. His latest book, The Institutional Revolution: Measurement and the Economic Emergence of the Modern World, is published by the University of Chicago Press, and will be available in fall of 2011.

M. V. Lee Badgett is a Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She also serves as research director of the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA’s School of Law. Her most recent book is When Gay People Get Married: What Happens When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage. She recently directed a successful four-year project funded by the Ford Foundation to encourage more and better data collection on sexual orientation. Other publications include Money, Myths, and Change: The Economic Lives of Lesbians and Gay Men and the co-edited Sexual Orientation Discrimination: An International Perspective.

Andrew Koppelman is John Paul Stevens Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University. He is the author of Religious Neutrality in American Law (Harvard University Press, forthcoming), A Right to Discriminate? How the Case of Boy Scouts of America v. James Dale Warped the Law of Free Association (with Tobias Barrington Wolff, Yale University Press, 2009), Same Sex, Different States: When Same-Sex Marriages Cross State Lines (Yale University Press, 2006), The Gay Rights Question in Contemporary American Law (University of Chicago Press, 2002), Antidiscrimination Law and Social Equality (Yale University Press, 1996), which won the A. F. Mahon Prize, and more than 60 articles. He is also an occasional contributor to the Balkinization blog.


The first recorded mention of same-sex marriage occurred during the early Roman Empire. These marriages were solemnized with the same ceremonies and customs as heterosexual marriages. Gay marriages continued until Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

1970 Jack Baker and James Michael McConnell apply for a marriage license in Hennepin County, MN. The license is denied. The denial was appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case.

1973 Maryland becomes the first state in the US to ban same-sex marriage. Under the Family Law Act “only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this State.”

1989 Denmark grants the world’s first modern, legally recognized same-sex unions, called “registered partnerships.”

1994 45 out of 50 US states define a marriage under statute as being between a man and a woman.

1996 The Defense of Marriage Act, banning the federal Government from recognizing same-sex marriages or any other kind of same-sex union, is signed into law by Bill Clinton.

2000 Vermont becomes the first state to legally recognize the rights of same-sex couples and so invents the term “civil union.”

2001 Two same-sex marriages were performed in Ontario, making them the first legal same-sex marriages in modern times.

2003 The MA Supreme Judicial Court found that the state may not “deny the protections, benefits and obligations conferred by civil marriage to two individuals of the same sex who wish to marry.”

2004 On May 17 in Massachusetts the first legal same-sex marriages in the US are performed.

2005 Connecticut legalizes same-sex civil unions.

2006 Arizona voters reject an initiative banning same-sex marriage; the first state in the country to do so. However, seven other states pass marriage amendments.

2007 Iowa’s Defense of Marriage Act is struck down as unconstitutional. In the Massachusetts Legislature, a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage is defeated. New Hampshire legalizes civil unions. Oregon and Washington legalize domestic partnerships.


2009 Vermont, Iowa, and New Hampshire legalize same-sex marriage. California’s Supreme Court upholds Proposition 8, constitutionally defining marriage between a man and a woman, but rules that previously officiated same-sex marriages will remain valid.

2010 A CA District Court declares that Proposition 8 violates due process and equal protection clauses of the US Constitution.

2011 The RI House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing on a bill, which has the support of RI’s governor and openly gay House speaker, that would legalize same-sex marriage.