

Future Interdisciplinary Research Explorations (FIRE) Seed Grant from University of Illinois College of ACES Office of Research

Project Title: The Impact of Access to Marriage on the Daily Lives of Same-Sex Couples

Applicant Name: Ogolsky (Principal Investor), Wilson and Oswald (Co-Principal Investors)

Question under examination: Our research seeks to understand how access to marriage affects the daily lives of same-sex couples by: 1) examining the experiences of couples who live in states with different degrees of legal recognition of same-sex marriage, 2) examining the way that uncertainty about the entitlement to marry, or legal validity of one's marriage, changes couples' relationship experiences, and 3) comparing the way same-sex and heterosexual couples experience legally recognized marriages. We will conduct a natural experiment involving the collection of pilot data from individuals in 100 same-sex relationships and a matched sample of individuals from 100 heterosexual relationships who live in four U.S. states that grant different access to marriage (i.e., Illinois, Arizona, Colorado, and Texas). The pilot data generated from this FIRE grant will strengthen our proposal for funding from the Interdisciplinary Law and Social Science Program of the National Science Foundation.