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Dr. Grossbard-Shechtman develops a theory of marriage in the tradition of Nobel-prize-winning economist Gary Becker. By incorporating the concept of spousal labor into her theory, the author derives many new hypotheses regarding various aspects of marriage, divorce, and cohabitation, thereby improving our understanding of the institution of marriage. Her analysis is also an improvement over conventional theories of labor force participation and labor productivity. She provides empirical evidence for sex ratio effects on the status of women in society, sex ratio effects on women's labor force participation, and compensating differentials in marriage. Although her studies of cohabitation, divorce, intermarriage, polygamy, labor force participation, spousal help, and religiosity put emphasis on the effects of wage, income, and education, she also considers cultural and social influences on behavior.

Shoshana Grossbard-Shechtman is professor of economics at San Diego State University. She has also taught in the economics or sociology department at Bar-Ilan University, the Claremont Colleges, Occidental College, Tel-Aviv University, and the University of California in San Diego. While a fellow at Stanford's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, she co-organized an interdisciplinary group studying marriage, which led to a joint book with Kingsley Davis, *Contemporary Marriage--Comparative Perspectives on a Changing Institution*. The economics of marriage has contributed to her success at combining an academic career with the career of wife and mother of four.