

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910137618803321
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Titolo	Les métamorphoses du mariage au Moyen-Orient // Barbara Drieskens
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Presses de l'Ifpo, 2008 France : , : Presses de l'Ifpo, , 2008
ISBN	2-8218-1561-1 2-35159-274-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (152 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cahiers de l'Ifpo ; ; 2
Soggetti	Sociology & Social History Social Sciences Family & Marriage
Lingua di pubblicazione	Francese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Sommario/riassunto	For several years, demographers have drawn our attention to the rise of celibacy, the narrowing of the age gap between partners and the fluctuating divorce rate in the contemporary Middle East. This book brings together various contributions aiming to account for the implications of all these phenomena on the ideas and practices underlying quantitative data. Collective marriages, civil marriages, temporary or secret marriages: so many new matrimonial paradigms which seem to be gradually establishing themselves. But are they really new, and what needs do they meet? What about the growing gap between adolescence and marriage? What about celibacy as a choice but also as a reality imposed by socio-economic constraints? Where are the marriage policy and the promotion of stable family unity as the foundation of social order? The various chapters of this book are only a starting point for exploring the possible answers to these questions.