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Matching Patterns among Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples in Latin America♠

Ercio A. Muñoz♦*

Dario Sansone♣

Abstract

Using microdata from the censuses of eight countries in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay), this paper describes matching patterns by age, ethnicity, and education among same-sex and different-sex couples. It shows that same-sex couples are more diverse than different-sex couples in terms of age, ethnicity, and education, although for ethnicity and education the differences are not large or statistically significant in all countries. It also reports notable differences between male and female same-sex couples, particularly in age and education matching.

Keywords: Latin America, LGBTQ+,

JEL: J12; J15

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Historically, economists have argued that individuals may search for partners based on production complementarities in order to maximize the gains from intra-household specialization (Becker 1991). As these gains have decreased over time due to various factors such as technological progress, increasing female labor force participation, and changes to divorce laws, consumption complementarities have gained more relevance (Stevenson and Wolfers 2007).

While these theories have been developed mainly to explain assortative mating among heterosexual individuals, they can also be (partially) applied to sexual minority individuals.[1] Indeed, a few studies have analyze matching patterns among same-sex couples in the US and Europe (Badgett et al. 2024a). This paper extends this literature by comparing matching patterns among same-sex and different-sex couples in eight countries in Latin America.

I. Conceptual framework on assortative mating and literature review

As noted in Badgett et al. (2024a), the consumption complementarities highlighted in Stevenson and Wolfers (2007) are also valid among same-sex couples: e.g., sexual minority individuals want to find a partner with whom they can enjoy spending time together, too.

At the same time, other factors may lead to distinct matching matters among same-sex couples compared to different-sex couples. For instance, the lack of same-sex relationship legal recognition in many countries weakens the role of unions as a commitment device for sexual minority individuals (Badgett et al. 2024b), thus potentially increasing relationship instability and leading individuals to invest less in the search for a partner.

Relatedly, negative social attitudes towards sexual minority individuals implies that those individuals may face additional search frictions and may not be able to rely on family or friends to meet their future partners: sexual minority individuals may therefore search outside their network or lower their reservation value, thus leading to more diverse matches. Similarly, sexual minority individuals are more likely to live in urban areas, where there is a higher diversity in socio-economic traits, thus making it easier to cross racial and social boundaries.

Lower rates of childbearing and childrearing among same-sex couples could lower the gains from intra-household specialization and incentivize sexual minority individuals to search for partners similar to them rather than someone who can complement their production inside or outside the household. Less binding gender norms may play a similar role. On the other hand, children often act as commitment devices, so lower fertility could ex-ante make same-sex couples less stable, thus actually leading to lower search efforts and more diverse same-sex couples.

Finally, since sexual minority individuals may already break social norms by being in a same-sex relationship, they may face lower costs from defying other norms such as heterogamy in age,

[1] Sexual orientation refers to one's sexual attraction, behavior, and/or identity. Individuals with same-sex attraction and/or same-sex sexual activity – as well as those who identify with certain categories such as lesbian women, gay men, bisexual and queer individuals – are generally referred to as sexual minorities.

ethnicity, or class. They may also have different preferences for partners than heterosexual individuals.

The existing evidence from the US and Europe is broadly in line with these predictions (Jepsen and Jepsen 2002; Andersson et al. 2006; Schwartz and Graf 2009; Ciscato, Galichon, and Goussé 2020): same-sex couples have larger age gaps and higher rates of racial heterogamy than different-sex couples. Individuals in same-sex couples are also more likely to match with a partner with a different education level, although such gaps compared to those of different-sex couples have decreased over time (or even reversed).

II. Data

This paper uses microdata from the censuses of Argentina (collected in 2010), Brazil (2010), Chile (2017), Colombia (2018), Guatemala (2018), Mexico (2020), Peru (2017), and Uruguay (2011). The census extracts for Argentina and Brazil were obtained from IPUMS international (IPUMS 2020), Chile and Uruguay made their censuses microdata publicly available in their websites (INE Chile 2017; INE Uruguay 2011), while the rest of the data were obtained directly from the respective National Statistical Offices (DANE 2018; INE Guatemala 2018; INEGI 2020; INEI 2017).

The main figures focus on the sample of same-sex and different-sex couples identified based on each household member's sex and relationship with the household head. Once the analysis is restricted to couples with at least one individual age 18 or older, it is possible to identify more than 25.5 million different-sex couples, almost 55,000 female same-sex couples, and around 60,000 male same-sex couples. Given the research question, the empirical analysis is conducted at the couple level, rather than at the individual level.

Full-count census microdata are available for Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay, thus the analysis does not require sampling weights. Similarly, the 10% sample for Argentina does not require weighting as it was drawn to make each observation self-weighted. However, in the cases of Mexico and Brazil, the data set corresponds to the sample that received the long questionnaire and requires the use of sampling weights to make it nationally representative.

A more detailed discussion on the main sample and the data harmonization process is provided in Section A of the Online Appendix and in Muñoz and Sansone (2024).

III. Results

A. Matching by age

Figure 1 shows the average age gap in years between the household head and their partner by couple types.

In line with the literature from high-income countries, same-sex couples have on average lower levels of positive assortative mating by age. While the average age gap in different-sex couples is

around 5-6 years and remarkably similar across countries, the age difference between same-sex partners is usually between 6 and 9 years. The only exceptions are Argentina, where the average age gap for both male and female same-sex couple is 3 years, and Guatemala, where female same-sex couples have an average age gap of 4 years.

Interestingly, in countries such as Brazil and Uruguay male same-sex couples have the highest average age gap, while in countries like Colombia and Mexico the largest differences are found among female same-sex couples.[2]

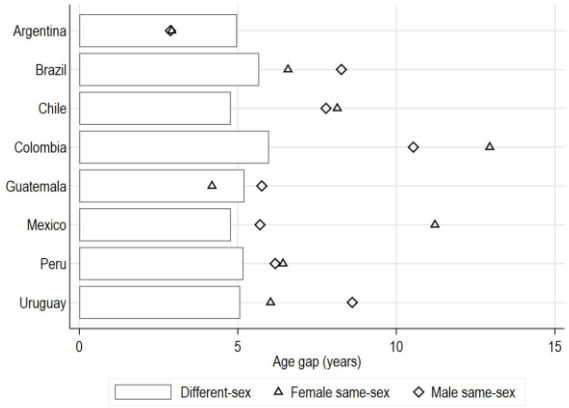

FIGURE 1. MATCHING BY AGE

Note: Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and the age of their spouse or partner. Weighted statistics.

B. Matching by race and ethnicity

Figure 2 reports the share of household heads who are partnered or married with a person within the same race or ethnicity.

Across countries, individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to partner with individuals outside their ethnic or racial network. This is especially noticeable among both men and women in same-sex couples in Brazil and Uruguay. For other countries, such as Colombia, Guatemala, or Mexico, the matching patterns are more similar across couples, but positive assortative mating remains relatively less common among same-sex couples, and the gap between same-sex and different-sex couples is still statistically significant (except for Guatemala).[3]

[2] Table B1 in the Online Appendix reports p-values for the statistical tests comparing matching by age between same-sex and different-sex couples. All the differences between same-sex and different-sex couples reported in Figure 1 are statistically significant, with the exception of the difference between male same-sex couples and different-sex couples in Guatemala. Similar conclusions as in Figure 1 can be obtained by comparing the within-couple correlation in age by couple types and countries, as reported in Table B2 in the Online Appendix.

[3] Table B3 in the Online Appendix reports p-values for the statistical tests comparing matching by race and ethnicity between same-sex and different-sex couples.

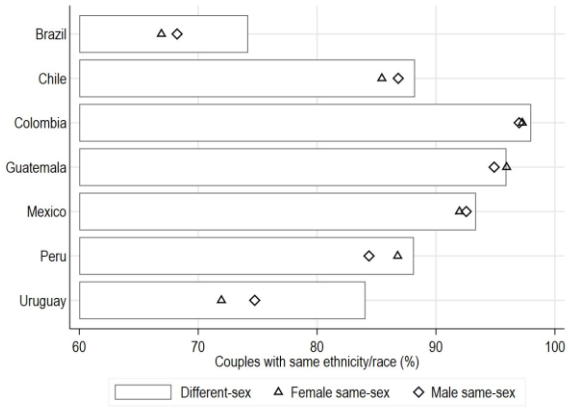

FIGURE 2. MATCHING BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same race or ethnicity if the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity is not available for Argentina. Weighted statistics.

C. Matching by education

Figure 3 reports the share of household heads who are partnered or married with a person with the same education level.

In line with the matching patterns by race and ethnicity, individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to partner with individuals with a different level of education. Indeed, the share of couples in which the household head has the same level of education of their spouse or partner is lower for same-sex couples than different-sex couples in all the countries, and these gaps are all statistically significant.[4] In terms of magnitude, matching by education appears remarkably different between same-sex and different-sex couples in countries such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay, while the differences are smaller in Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru.

Within same-sex couples, female same-sex couples are more alike than male same-sex couples in educational attainment in Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay, while the opposite is true in Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico.

These patterns are qualitatively similar, although with some exceptions, when considering the difference in years of schooling within couples, or an indicator similar to the one used in Figure 3 but constructed with four educational levels (Figures B1-B2 and Table B5 in the Online Appendix).

[4] Table B4 in the Online Appendix reports p-values for the statistical tests comparing matching by education between same-sex and different-sex couples.

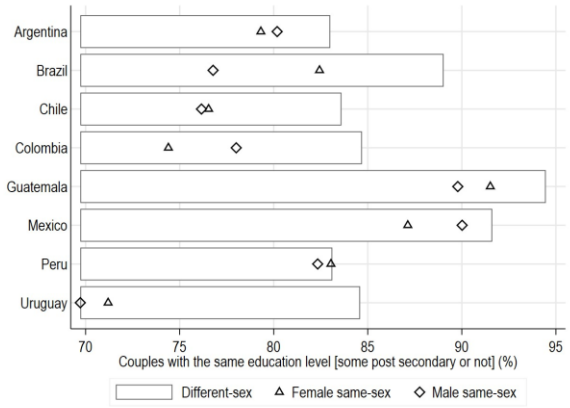

FIGURE 3. MATCHING BY EDUCATION

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. Weighted statistics.

D. Extensions and robustness checks

The Online Appendix includes additional extensions and robustness checks.

Table B6 reports matching patterns in age among same-sex and different-sex couples with and without children. The age gaps shown in Figure 1 are present both among couples with and without children. For some countries, the age gaps are even larger on average among male and female same-sex couples with children when compared to different-sex couples with children than between same-sex and different-sex couples without children.

Similarly, household heads in same-sex couples remain less likely to partner with individuals from the same ethnic or racial group than household heads in different-sex couples when restricting the analysis to couples with children, as well as when restricting the analysis to couples without children. In most cases, the gaps by couple types are larger among couples with children (Table B7).

As then reported in Table B8, same-sex couples with or without children are also less likely to have both partners with the same educational level than different-sex couples with or without children, respectively.

When focusing on younger couples (age 18-49) to account for selective union dissolution, the matching patterns are qualitative similar to the main ones using the full sample in Figures 1-3, although the size of the gaps between same-sex and different-sex couples is smaller in most cases (Tables B9-B11).

The significant higher levels of heterogamy among same-sex couples when compared to different-sex couples are also found in multivariate analysis by estimating Logit models on the probability

of being in a same-sex couple versus a different-sex couple and including age gap, homogamy by race or ethnicity, and homogamy by education as regressors (Table B12).

Finally, the differences in matching patterns by age, race or ethnicity, and education are qualitatively similar when same-sex couples are compared to either married or unmarried different-sex couples (Tables B13-B15).

IV. Conclusions

Observational data from eight countries in Latin America provide evidence that same-sex couples are more diverse than different-sex couples in terms of age, ethnicity, and education, although for ethnicity and education the differences are not always large or statistically significant. There are also interesting differences by gender, with some countries having higher levels of heterogamy among female same-sex couples than male same-sex couples, and vice versa in other countries.

From a policy perspective, these findings are important since assortative mating can have distributional effects, affect income inequality (Eika, Mogstad, and Zafar 2019), and potentially influence inter-generational mobility. More generally, given the central role played by families in many Latin American countries, it is important to understand in which dimensions non-traditional partnerships may differ from other relationships.

Future research could adapt and extend structural matching models such as those in Ciscato, Galichon, and Goussé (2020) to more comprehensively analyze matching patterns among same-sex and different-sex couples in low- and middle-income countries.

In addition, as new data become available, future studies should investigate whether trends in assortative mating are changing over time within each country. Scholars should also test whether differential selection out of unions for same-sex and different-sex couples (e.g., if different-sex couples whose partners have different education levels are more likely to split than same-sex couples whose partners have different education levels) may explain some of the patterns observed in cross-sectional data.

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By ERCIO A. MUÑOZ AND DARIO SANSONE

Online Appendix

Appendix A. Additional Details on Data.

Sex reports whether the person was male or female. Our data do not allow us to distinguish between sex and gender.

Age reports the respondent's age in years at the time of the interview except for Colombia where age is reported in 5-year bins (0-4, 5-9, […] ,95-99,100+), which are replaced with the mid-point of each bin.

Age gap is defined as the absolute difference between the age in years of the head of the household and their spouse or partner.

Ethnicity and race. Ethnicity is a multidimensional concept that can be measured using a diverse set of approaches, including ethnic ancestry or origin, ethnic identity, cultural origins, nationality, race, color, minority status, language, religion, or various combinations of them. The countries in our sample asked individuals to self-identified phrasing the question by including some of the concepts previously listed. There are two ways in which these questions have been asked: a yes/no question about belonging to a group; and self-identification in one of a set of groups. In the latter case, there is a set of possible answers that vary across countries. We group responses into three categories: "Indigenous", "African descendant" and "Neither Indigenous nor African descendant".

In the case of Chile and Mexico, as shown in Table A1, respondents were asked a yes/no question about belonging to any indigenous people or to the African descendant community (the questionnaire in Chile only asked about Indigenous status). In this case, we categorize as Indigenous or African descendant respondents who answered "yes" to the respective question, and those who answered no in both questions are categorize as "Neither Indigenous or African descendant".

Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay asked the question of ethnicity based on self-identification with any group from a list. This list is classified into the three categories according to Table A2.

It's important to note that Brazil and Uruguay incorporated supplementary inquiries in their classification methods. In Brazil, an additional yes/no query was presented to individuals who did not self-identify as Indigenous, asking whether they considered themselves Indigenous. Those answering affirmatively are also categorized as Indigenous.

In Uruguay, the question adopted a multiple-choice format. An additional question sought to identify the primary ethnicity in cases where individuals identified with multiple ethnicities. This supplementary question serves to complement the primary classification, aiding in the delineation of predominant ethnic affiliation.

Homogamy in race and ethnicity (Indigenous, African descendant, or Neither Indigenous nor African descendant) is an indicator variable equal to one if the head of the household have the same race or ethnicity as their partner or spouse, zero otherwise. In Chile, the available categories are just Indigenous and Not Indigenous, so homogamy is only defined with respect to ethnicity, not race.

Education is described by three indicators. The first variable is the years of schooling, which is calculated according to the highest completed grade and duration of the different levels within the educational system of each country, and it is available for all countries except Brazil and Colombia. The second indicator is a binary variable indicating if the respondent has at least one year of post-secondary studies. The third indicator is the highest-level completed, which we categorize in four options: "No education/Incomplete primary", "Primary education", "Secondary education", and "Tertiary education". In the case of Colombia, we cannot distinguish if a person was able to finish tertiary education, so this indicator captures tertiary education in a way similar to the second indicator.

Homogamy in education is an indicator variable equal to one if the head of the household have the same educational attainment as their partner or spouse, zero otherwise. The main analysis uses a binary variable indicating whether an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education. In the appendix, we also include homogamy defined using the aforementioned variable with four educational levels (less than primary, primary education, secondary education, and tertiary education), or by computing the absolute difference in the years of schooling completed by the head of the household and their spouse or partner.

Married is an indicator equal to one if the respondent was married; zero if the respondent was not married. In Brazil and Colombia, this variable is coded from a question about civil status. In Chile, it is coded from the relationship to the head, which contains a category for married couples, and a category for couples in civil union, and a category for partners without a legal union (or de facto). In Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay the variable is coded from a question about conjugal status. Information is available only for different-sex couples. Information about civil or conjugal status is not available for Argentina.

Table A1: Indigenous status in Chile and Mexico.

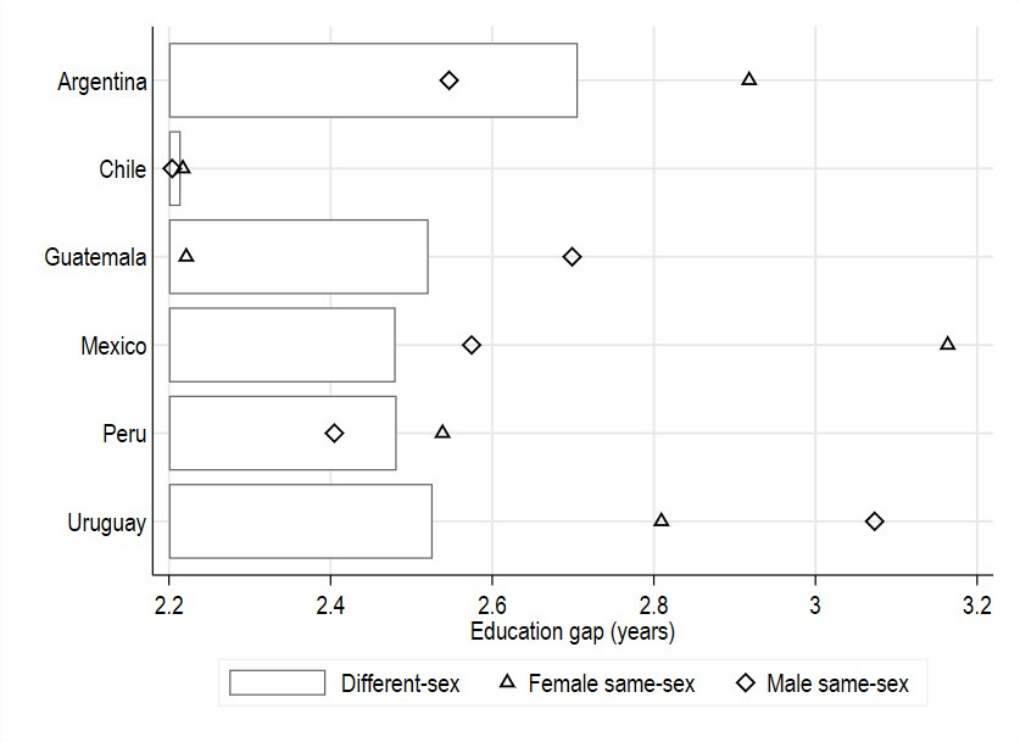
Country	Chile	Mexico
Year	2017	2020
Target population	For all people	3 years and older
Indigenous Questions	Considers themselves to belong to an indigenous or native people (Yes/No)	According to your culture,[...] Do you consider yourself indigenous? (Yes/No)
African descendant question		For their ancestors and in accordance with their customs and traditions, [...] Are they considered Black Afro-Mexican or African descendant? (Yes/No)

Table A2: Ethnicity question.

Country	Brazil	Colombia	Guatemala	Peru	Uruguay
Year	**2010**	**2018**	**2018**	**2017**	**2011**
Target population	For all people	For all people	For all people	12 years and older	For all people
Ethnicity Questions	Their color or race is..	According to their culture, people or physical traits, they are or are recognized as…	Based on your background or history, how do you consider or self-identify:	Because of their customs and their ancestors, Do you feel or consider:	Do you think you have ancestry…
Indigenous categories	Indigenous	Indigenous	Maya Garífuna Xinka	Quechua Aimara Native or indigenous to the Amazon Belonging to or part of another indigenous or native people Shawi Ashaninka Awajun Shipibo Konibo	Indigenous
African descendant categories	Brown Black	Raizal of the archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina Palenquero de San Basilio Black, mulatto, Afro-descendant, Afro-Colombian	Afro-descendant / Creole / Afromestizo?	Black, moreno, zambo, mulatto / Afro-Peruvian or Afro-descendant people	Afro or Black?
Non indigenous nor African descendant categories	White Yellow	Gitano o rom No ethnic group	Ladin(s) Foreigner	White Mestizo Other No know / No answer Nikkei Tusan	Asian or Yellow White Other

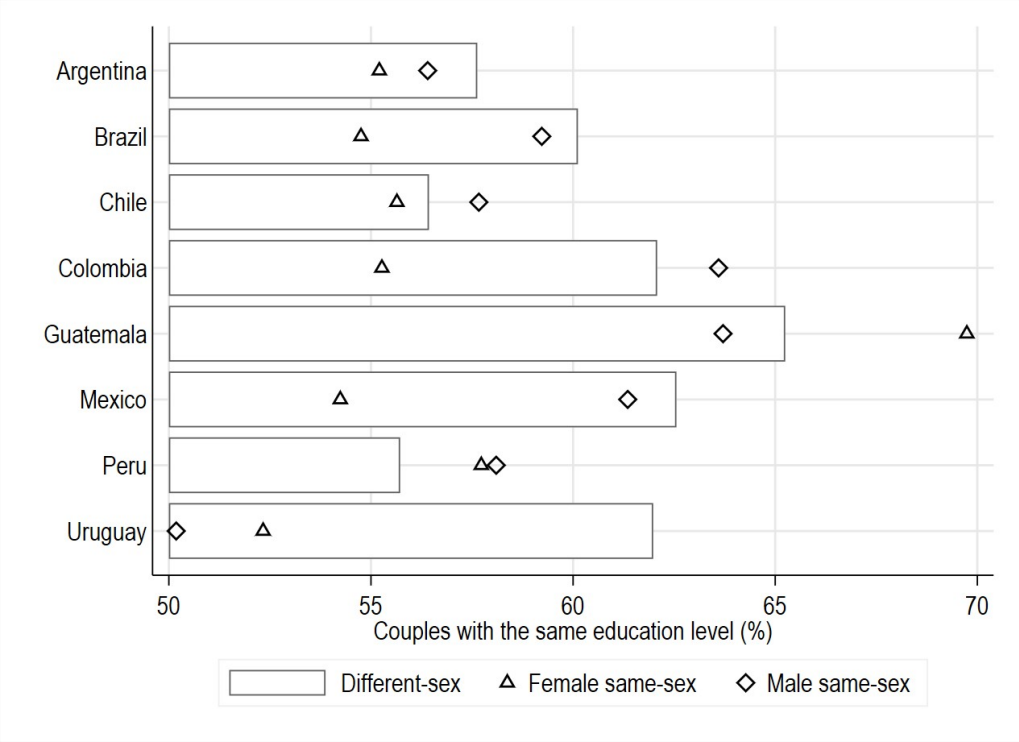
Appendix B. Additional Figures and Tables

Figure B1: Matching by education: years of education.



Note: Education gap is defined as the absolute difference in years of schooling between the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Information on years of education is not available for Brazil and Colombia. Weighted statistics.

Figure B2: Matching by education: four educational levels.



Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. The levels are incomplete primary education (or no formal education), primary education, secondary education, and tertiary education. Weighted statistics.

Table B1: Matching by age.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Argentina	4.974	2.915	2.874	-2.058	-2.100
	{0.006}	{0.057}	{0.070}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Brazil	5.672	6.581	8.267	0.909	2.595
	{0.003}	{0.118}	{0.169}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	4.779	8.135	7.780	3.356	3.001
	{0.003}	{0.123}	{0.092}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	5.981	12.945	10.536	6.964	4.555
	{0.002}	{0.081}	{0.079}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	5.208	4.185	5.755	-1.024	0.547
	{0.004}	{0.241}	{0.358}	(0.000)	(0.127)
Mexico	4.781	11.217	5.700	6.437	0.919
	{0.003}	{0.114}	{0.045}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	5.174	6.425	6.178	1.251	1.004
	{0.002}	{0.114}	{0.121}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Uruguay	5.074	6.032	8.609	0.959	3.536
	{0.006}	{0.226}	{0.250}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics. See also Figure 1.

Table B2: Matching by age: Pearson correlation coefficients.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Argentina	0.899	0.983	0.978
Brazil	0.865	0.632	0.516
Chile	0.902	0.483	0.519
Colombia	0.857	0.362	0.452
Guatemala	0.888	0.937	0.826
Mexico	0.915	0.584	0.855
Peru	0.903	0.825	0.847
Uruguay	0.904	0.724	0.584

Note: The table reports the Pearson correlation coefficient between the age of the head of the household and the age of their spouse or partner. Weighted statistics.

Table B3: Matching by race and ethnicity.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Brazil	0.742	0.669	0.682	-0.073	-0.060
	{0.000}	{0.010}	{0.011}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.882	0.854	0.868	-0.028	-0.014
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.980	0.973	0.970	-0.007	-0.010
	{0.000}	{0.001}	{0.001}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.959	0.959	0.949	0.000	-0.010
	{0.000}	{0.012}	{0.011}	(0.989)	(0.366)
Mexico	0.934	0.920	0.925	-0.014	-0.008
	{0.000}	{0.002}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.881	0.868	0.844	-0.014	-0.038
	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.007}	(0.013)	(0.000)
Uruguay	0.841	0.720	0.748	-0.121	-0.093
	{0.000}	{0.020}	{0.015}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same race or ethnicity if the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics. See also Figure 2.

Table B4: Matching by education.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Argentina	0.830	0.793	0.802	-0.037	-0.028
	{0.000}	{0.011}	{0.013}	(0.001)	(0.026)
Brazil	0.890	0.824	0.768	-0.066	-0.123
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.010}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.836	0.765	0.762	-0.071	-0.074
	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.005}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.847	0.744	0.780	-0.103	-0.067
	{0.000}	{0.003}	{0.003}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.945	0.915	0.898	-0.030	-0.047
	{0.000}	{0.017}	{0.016}	(0.081)	(0.003)
Mexico	0.916	0.871	0.900	-0.045	-0.016
	{0.000}	{0.003}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.831	0.830	0.823	-0.001	-0.008
	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.007}	(0.901)	(0.281)
Uruguay	0.846	0.712	0.697	-0.134	-0.149
	{0.000}	{0.020}	{0.016}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics. See also Figure 3.

Table B5: Matching by education: Pearson correlation coefficients.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Argentina	0.641	0.591	0.694
Chile	0.705	0.563	0.533
Guatemala	0.723	0.801	0.751
Mexico	0.700	0.601	0.697
Peru	0.714	0.705	0.694
Uruguay	0.627	0.479	0.504

Note: The table reports the Pearson correlation coefficient between the years of schooling of the head of the household and the years of schooling of their spouse or partner. Information on years of education is not available for Brazil and Colombia. Weighted statistics.

Table B6: Matching by age: couples with and without children.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Panel A: Couples living with children					
Argentina	4.936	2.731	3.714	-2.204	-1.221
	{0.008}	{0.100}	{0.407}	(0.000)	(0.003)
Brazil	5.605	6.932	8.337	1.328	2.733
	{0.004}	{0.188}	{0.406}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	4.657	11.812	13.772	7.156	9.115
	{0.004}	{0.282}	{0.535}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	5.934	13.751	10.903	7.817	4.969
	{0.003}	{0.110}	{0.133}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	5.088	4.450	6.218	-0.638	1.130
	{0.004}	{0.567}	{0.770}	(0.261)	(0.142)
Mexico	4.693	12.011	5.459	7.318	0.766
	{0.004}	{0.153}	{0.055}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	5.118	6.616	5.737	1.498	0.620
	{0.003}	{0.161}	{0.187}	(0.000)	(0.001)
Uruguay	5.087	6.732	11.300	1.645	6.213
	{0.008}	{0.544}	{1.649}	(0.003)	(0.000)
Panel B: Couples living without children					
Argentina	5.035	2.989	2.849	-2.046	-2.186
	{0.010}	{0.069}	{0.071}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Brazil	5.911	6.363	8.254	0.452	2.343
	{0.007}	{0.151}	{0.186}	(0.003)	(0.000)
Chile	4.944	6.658	7.295	1.713	2.351
	{0.004}	{0.123}	{0.087}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	6.074	11.945	10.308	5.871	4.234
	{0.004}	{0.121}	{0.099}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	5.708	4.073	5.498	-1.635	-0.210
	{0.009}	{0.245}	{0.356}	(0.000)	(0.555)
Mexico	4.983	9.956	6.156	4.974	1.174
	{0.006}	{0.168}	{0.081}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	5.312	6.199	6.435	0.887	1.123
	{0.005}	{0.162}	{0.158}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Uruguay	5.057	5.861	8.507	0.804	3.450
	{0.009}	{0.248}	{0.251}	(0.001)	(0.000)

Note: Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B7: Matching by race and ethnicity: couples with and without children.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Panel A: Couples living with children					
Brazil	0.737	0.642	0.658	-0.095	-0.079
	{0.000}	{0.016}	{0.026}	(0.000)	(0.002)
Chile	0.873	0.854	0.856	-0.018	-0.017
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.015}	(0.021)	(0.264)
Colombia	0.979	0.972	0.964	-0.007	-0.014
	{0.000}	{0.001}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.959	0.988	0.970	0.029	0.011
	{0.000}	{0.012}	{0.015}	(0.021)	(0.451)
Mexico	0.934	0.919	0.925	-0.015	-0.009
	{0.000}	{0.003}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.877	0.860	0.844	-0.017	-0.033
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.012}	(0.025)	(0.004)
Uruguay	0.818	0.629	0.533	-0.189	-0.284
	{0.001}	{0.049}	{0.091}	(0.000)	(0.002)
Panel B: Couples living without children					
Brazil	0.758	0.686	0.687	-0.073	-0.072
	{0.001}	{0.013}	{0.012}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.896	0.855	0.869	-0.041	-0.026
	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.983	0.974	0.974	-0.009	-0.009
	{0.000}	{0.002}	{0.001}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.961	0.948	0.937	-0.014	-0.024
	{0.000}	{0.016}	{0.016}	(0.399)	(0.126)
Mexico	0.932	0.921	0.927	-0.012	-0.006
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.003}	(0.003)	(0.056)
Peru	0.892	0.877	0.843	-0.015	-0.049
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.009}	(0.056)	(0.000)
Uruguay	0.868	0.742	0.756	-0.126	-0.112
	{0.001}	{0.022}	{0.015}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same race or ethnicity if the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B8: Matching by education: couples with and without children.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Panel A: Couples living with children					
Argentina	0.833	0.769	0.786	-0.064	-0.047
	{0.001}	{0.021}	{0.078}	(0.002)	(0.543)
Brazil	0.893	0.844	0.813	-0.049	-0.080
	{0.000}	{0.012}	{0.023}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.828	0.752	0.799	-0.076	-0.029
	{0.000}	{0.010}	{0.017}	(0.000)	(0.090)
Colombia	0.844	0.744	0.783	-0.101	-0.062
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.005}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.950	0.950	0.932	0.000	-0.018
	{0.000}	{0.024}	{0.022}	(0.992)	(0.411)
Mexico	0.918	0.892	0.912	-0.026	-0.006
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.014)
Peru	0.829	0.827	0.839	-0.003	0.010
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.011}	(0.753)	(0.384)
Uruguay	0.859	0.814	0.733	-0.044	-0.125
	{0.001}	{0.039}	{0.081}	(0.263)	(0.121)
Panel B: Couples living without children					
Argentina	0.826	0.803	0.802	-0.023	-0.023
	{0.001}	{0.013}	{0.013}	(0.074)	(0.072)
Brazil	0.879	0.812	0.759	-0.067	-0.120
	{0.000}	{0.011}	{0.011}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.847	0.771	0.759	-0.076	-0.088
	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.005}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.852	0.745	0.778	-0.107	-0.074
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.921	0.901	0.879	-0.021	-0.043
	{0.000}	{0.022}	{0.021}	(0.334)	(0.043)
Mexico	0.912	0.838	0.877	-0.074	-0.035
	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.836	0.835	0.814	-0.001	-0.022
	{0.000}	{0.009}	{0.009}	(0.904)	(0.019)
Uruguay	0.831	0.687	0.696	-0.144	-0.135
	{0.001}	{0.023}	{0.016}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B9: Matching by age: people aged 18-49 years.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Argentina	4.016	2.709	2.830	-1.307	-1.186
	{0.006}	{0.075}	{0.084}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Brazil	4.685	6.009	6.926	1.324	2.242
	{0.003}	{0.110}	{0.152}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	3.795	4.799	5.577	1.004	1.782
	{0.003}	{0.065}	{0.064}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	4.629	5.862	5.690	1.232	1.061
	{0.002}	{0.051}	{0.049}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	4.049	3.629	4.505	-0.420	0.457
	{0.003}	{0.217}	{0.231}	(0.054)	(0.048)
Mexico	3.801	5.465	4.118	1.664	0.317
	{0.003}	{0.075}	{0.036}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	4.238	4.536	5.070	0.298	0.832
	{0.002}	{0.092}	{0.112}	(0.001)	(0.000)
Uruguay	4.168	5.532	7.229	1.364	3.061
	{0.007}	{0.222}	{0.230}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B10: Matching by race and ethnicity: people aged 18-49 years.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(3)-(1)
Brazil	0.728	0.657	0.672	-0.070	-0.056
	{0.000}	{0.011}	{0.012}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.868	0.856	0.867	-0.013	-0.002
	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.004}	(0.008)	(0.695)
Colombia	0.978	0.969	0.970	-0.008	-0.008
	{0.000}	{0.001}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.956	0.959	0.938	0.003	-0.018
	{0.000}	{0.014}	{0.015}	(0.848)	(0.211)
Mexico	0.934	0.918	0.926	-0.016	-0.008
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.873	0.860	0.836	-0.013	-0.037
	{0.000}	{0.007}	{0.009}	(0.062)	(0.000)
Uruguay	0.821	0.717	0.727	-0.104	-0.094
	{0.001}	{0.022}	{0.018}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same race or ethnicity if the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B11: Matching by education: people aged 18-49 years.

	Different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)-(1)	(1)
Argentina	0.811	0.751	0.778	-0.060	-0.033
	{0.001}	{0.016}	{0.016}	(0.000)	(0.040)
Brazil	0.880	0.830	0.768	-0.050	-0.112
	{0.000}	{0.009}	{0.011}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.807	0.767	0.758	-0.040	-0.049
	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.005}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.824	0.783	0.787	-0.041	-0.037
	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.942	0.902	0.879	-0.040	-0.063
	{0.000}	{0.021}	{0.020}	(0.060)	(0.001)
Mexico	0.908	0.854	0.889	-0.054	-0.020
	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.003}	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.823	0.814	0.821	-0.009	-0.002
	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.009}	(0.229)	(0.835)
Uruguay	0.834	0.713	0.701	-0.121	-0.133
	{0.001}	{0.022}	{0.018}	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B12: Matching by age, ethnicity or race, and education: Logit model.

	Argentina	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Guatemala	Mexico	Peru	Uruguay
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Age gap	-0.000402***	0.000069***	0.000302***	0.000368***	-0.000001	0.000782***	0.000052***	0.000126***
	(0.000014)	(0.000003)	(0.000004)	(0.000002)	(0.000002)	(0.000008)	(0.000003)	(0.000006)
Homogamy in ethnicity	-0.000484***	-0.001233***	-0.002033***	-0.002742***	-0.000158***	-0.003525***	-0.000010	-0.001595***
	(0.000138)	(0.000065)	(0.000084)	(0.000053)	(0.000037)	(0.000205)	(0.000047)	(0.000103)
Homogamy in education		-0.000517***	-0.000725***	-0.001265***	-0.000035	-0.001210***	-0.000286***	-0.001099***
		(0.000055)	(0.000105)	(0.000143)	(0.000051)	(0.000242)	(0.000051)	(0.000110)
Observations	729,857	4,126,853	3,005,109	7,461,018	2,326,388	2,708,927	4,402,147	623,253

Note: Marginal effects at means. Robust standard errors are reported in parenthesis. Weighted estimates (and unweighted number of observations). The dependent variable is a binary variable equal to one if the couple is a same-sex couple, zero if the couple is a different-sex couples. Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Homogamy in ethnicity indicates whether the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity is not available for Argentina. Homogamy in education indicates whether the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. See also Figures 1-3. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Table B13: Matching by age: by marital status.

	Married different-sex couples	Unmarried different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3)-(1)	(4)-(1)	(3)-(2)	(4)-(2)
Brazil	4.999	6.928	6.581	8.264	1.582	3.265	-0.348	1.336
	{0.003}	{0.006}	{0.118}	{0.169}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.003)	(0.000)
Chile	4.534	5.522	8.134	7.780	3.600	3.246	2.613	2.259
	{0.003}	{0.006}	{0.123}	{0.092}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	5.241	6.554	12.838	10.421	7.597	5.180	6.284	3.867
	{0.003}	{0.003}	{0.081}	{0.079}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	4.809	6.027	4.169	5.740	-0.640	0.931	-1.858	-0.287
	{0.004}	{0.007}	{0.240}	{0.358}	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.000)	(0.422)
Mexico	4.315	5.746	11.214	5.697	6.899	1.382	5.468	-0.049
	{0.003}	{0.007}	{0.114}	{0.045}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.288)
Peru	4.834	5.530	6.421	6.170	1.587	1.336	0.891	0.640
	{0.003}	{0.004}	{0.114}	{0.121}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Uruguay	4.574	5.972	6.032	8.609	1.458	4.035	0.060	2.637
	{0.007}	{0.012}	{0.226}	{0.250}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.790)	(0.000)

Note: Age gap is defined as the absolute difference in years between the age of the head of the household and their spouse or partner. Information about marital status is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B14: Matching by race and ethnicity: by marital status.

	Married different-sex couples	Unmarried different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3)-(1)	(4)-(1)	(3)-(2)	(4)-(2)
Brazil	0.758	0.713	0.669	0.682	-0.088	-0.075	-0.044	-0.031
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.010}	{0.011}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.005)
Chile	0.893	0.850	0.854	0.868	-0.039	-0.025	0.005	0.019
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.004}	{0.004}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.259)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.985	0.976	0.973	0.970	-0.013	-0.015	-0.003	-0.006
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.001}	{0.001}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.002)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.963	0.952	0.960	0.949	-0.003	-0.014	0.008	-0.003
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.012}	{0.011}	(0.792)	(0.230)	(0.530)	(0.793)
Mexico	0.937	0.926	0.920	0.925	-0.018	-0.012	-0.006	0.000
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.002}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.017)	(0.905)
Peru	0.893	0.869	0.868	0.844	-0.026	-0.049	-0.001	-0.025
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.007}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.797)	(0.000)
Uruguay	0.864	0.797	0.720	0.748	-0.145	-0.117	-0.078	-0.050
	{0.001}	{0.001}	{0.020}	{0.015}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.001)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same race or ethnicity if the head of the household and their spouse or partner are classified in the same race/ethnicity category. The categories are African descendant, Indigenous, and other. Information about ethnicity and marital status is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.

Table B15: Matching by education: by marital status.

	Married different-sex couples	Unmarried different-sex couples	Female same-sex couples	Male same-sex couples	Comparisons by couple types			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3)-(1)	(4)-(1)	(3)-(2)	(4)-(2)
Brazil	0.875	0.920	0.824	0.768	-0.050	-0.107	-0.095	-0.152
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.008}	{0.010}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Chile	0.843	0.816	0.765	0.762	-0.077	-0.081	-0.050	-0.054
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.005}	{0.005}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Colombia	0.835	0.857	0.745	0.781	-0.090	-0.054	-0.112	-0.076
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.003}	{0.003}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Guatemala	0.935	0.964	0.915	0.898	-0.020	-0.037	-0.049	-0.066
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.017}	{0.016}	(0.245)	(0.018)	(0.004)	(0.000)
Mexico	0.911	0.928	0.871	0.900	-0.039	-0.011	-0.056	-0.028
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.003}	{0.002}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)
Peru	0.834	0.828	0.830	0.823	-0.004	-0.011	0.002	-0.006
	{0.000}	{0.000}	{0.006}	{0.007}	(0.552)	(0.131)	(0.753)	(0.446)
Uruguay	0.834	0.863	0.712	0.697	-0.122	-0.137	-0.151	-0.166
	{0.001}	{0.001}	{0.020}	{0.016}	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.000)

Note: Individuals in couples are coded as having the same education level if the head of the household and their spouse or partner have the same educational attainment. Education is coded as an indicator variable that takes a value equal to one if an individual completed at least one year of post-secondary education, zero otherwise. Information about marital status is not available for Argentina. Robust standard errors are reported in curly brackets. P-values for the statistical significance of the differences by couple types are reported in parenthesis. Weighted statistics.