

partially addressed some of the issues that remain to this day.

The authors then turn to considering the Bayh-Dole Act. The quantitative analyses in chapter 7 highlight the impact of the Act. The authors document the dramatic increase in university patenting that followed the passage of the legislation. But their analyses also suggest that much of this increase might have taken place in any case, a conclusion which echoes earlier work by Henderson, Jaffe, and Trajtenberg. Needless to say, such an analysis must leave the broader questions about the social impact of Bayh-Dole unanswered.

The authors attempt to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of the Act by examining the commercialization of five technologies in depth in chapter 8. Unfortunately—as is so often the case in field research—our ability to draw general lessons from these cases is limited. In some cases, the ability of the university to patent and exclusively license the technology in question seems to have been absolutely critical to its utilization. In other instances, it seems probable that the technology would have been licensed in any case.

The concluding chapter is quite disappointing. Here, the authors abandon the reasoned and scientific tone that characterizes the rest of the volume. While acknowledging that “any evidence of significantly detrimental effects [of the Bayh-Dole Act] ... will take time to emerge,” the authors nonetheless devote much of the chapter to the downsides of the Act. As opposed to the rest of the volume, the support for many of the claims here is scanty: the authors largely cite law review pieces that rely either on polemical argument or highly selective case studies to make their points. The conclusions go far beyond those that can be reasonably drawn from the rigorous economic research on this topic by such authors as Jerry and Marie Thursby, Fiona Murray and Scott Stern, and Daniel Elfenbein.

Another omission is the authors’ failure to consider the economic impact of commercialized academic research. To cite just a few examples, companies such as Cisco, Genentech, and Google sprang from university research. The authors spend almost no time discussing the impact of academic commercialization on the overall economic environment: significantly, the words “start-up” and “venture capital” do not appear in the index.

Weighing the economic consequences of firms commercializing university technology is surely critical to an assessment of the Bayh-Dole Act.

These comments, however, should not take away from the overall contribution of the book. The authors have focused on an extremely significant and controversial topic, and collected much-needed historical and contemporary evidence. This book belongs on the shelves of all those interested in innovation, and will hopefully stimulate additional research into these fascinating questions.

JOSH LERNER
Harvard University

J Labor and Demographic Economics

Marriage and the Economy: Theory and Evidence from Advanced Industrial Societies. By Shoshana A. Grossbard-Shechtman. Foreword by Jacob Mincer. Cambridge, New York and Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. xxi, 349. \$75.00, cloth; \$25.00, paper. ISBN 0-521-81454-5, cloth; 0-521-89143-4, pbk. JEL 2003-1453

The fourteen chapters in this edited volume cover a wide range of issues related to the links between marriage and the economy. The editor of the book, Shoshana Grossbard-Schechtman, has made significant contributions to research on the economics of marriage and has assembled an interesting group of authors to survey some of the major topics in the field.

Following an introductory chapter by Grossbard-Schechtman, the book begins with a broad overview of the economics of marriage and household formation by Michael Brien and Michelle Sheran. This chapter provides a nice survey of trends in variables such as marriage, divorce, and out-of-wedlock childbearing that form a backdrop for the chapters that follow.

A number of the chapters focus primarily on reviewing existing research on particular topics, including the marriage premium in earnings, the socioeconomic correlates of divorce, and the economics of child support. James Alm and Leslie Whittington provide a good review of the literature analyzing the impact of public policy on marital status, including issues such as the impact of the “marriage penalty” on marriage rates in the United States. The authors discuss the many ways