

ANTH 112.21 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology  
Winter 2019

I acknowledge that St FX is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 5: Kinship

READ: *Perspectives*: Mary Kay Gilliland, "Family and marriage"

Kral, M. J. 2012 "Postcolonial Suicide among Inuit in Arctic Canada." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*. 36(2), 306-325.

What tools have been developed to study kinship, in its different forms?  
How do people use kin relations? What is its societal importance?

Where kinship exists, what conceptual tools have been developed to study it?  
- Basic Kin Symbols and Terminology

On what kinds of things is kinship based?

- consanguineal (socially perceived blood ties, shared substance, sharing food, etc.)
- affinal (on the basis of marriage)
- fictive

Kin Diagrams/ Genealogies:

- kin status, kin role

Some common symbols:

Ego: the person from whose point of view the diagram is understood.

F - father

Z - sister

S - son

H - husband

M - mother

B - brother

D - daughter

W - wife

Consanguineal Descent Terms

- Bilateral descent

- Unilineal descent

- patrilineal/agnatic (includes children of men in the lineage)

- matrilineal (includes children of women in the lineage)

Note: lineages are considered to be corporate descent groups (i.e. of political and economic importance in social organization). The standard example is considered to be the segmentary lineage system.

## Affinal Kinship Terms

Marriage: very complex and variable cross culturally

a possible definition: "Marriage is a socially binding contract that usually involves some definition of sexual relationship, access to property, mutual obligations for the provision of income or services, and outlines obligations and rights to children."

Monogamy - one spouse

Serial monogamy: one spouse at a time, but several through one's life

Polygamy - multiple spouses:

- polygyny (one man, several wives)
- polyandry (one woman, several husbands [usually brothers])
- group marriage

Preferences:

e.g. for cross cousins or parallel cousins; members of specific groups or with specific personal characteristics

-notion of romantic love versus arranged marriages (how is each related to other patterns in the society in which they are the norm?)

Exogamy: rule that prescribes marriage outside a specific group

-NOTE: NEEDS AN ADJECTIVE

Endogamy: rule that prescribes marriage within a specific group

-NOTE: NEEDS AN ADJECTIVE

Incest taboo: rule that prohibits marriage within a specific subset of kin

Hypergamy: Bride marries up

Hypogamy: Bride marries down

Isogamy: Bride and groom of equivalent status

Marital exchanges:

- bridewealth: goods that go from the groom's family to the wife's family
- brideservice: work performed by the groom for the wife's family
- dowry: goods given by the wife's family to the groom, or the groom's family, or held in trust for the children
- groom price: goods that go from bride's family to married couple and groom's family
- wedding presents: goods given by family and friends to the bride and groom

Location after marriage:

- neolocal: separately from wife's and husband's families
- patrilocal: with the husband's family, usually patrilineage
- matrilocal: with the wife's family, usually matrilineage
- avunculocal: with the husband's mother's brother (that is, his matrilineage rather than hers); in matrilineal societies (note that Gilliland's definition is unusual and you should follow the one I have given as more widely accepted)
- ambilocal: couple chooses to live with either his or her family, and stays there
- bilocal: couple shifts between both families

## Fictive Kinship

Examples include godparenthood, use of kin terms in worker unions, use of kin terms for close family friends, etc.

## Kral

- how did kinship operate before the 1950s?
- what impact did settlement, day and residential schools have on kin patterns?
- how is the loss of the combined duo of affection-closeness and respect-obedience related to increasing inter-generational segregation?
- how has the loss of parenting skills led to young male suicide?
- how has changing romantic partnership led to young male suicide?
- how have Inuit in the communities Kral studied worked to prevent young male suicide?

Debate: Resolved: That romantic love causes more harm than good; all intimate relationships should be arranged.