

---

# Contents

---

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	ix
Georges GUILLE-ESCURET	
<b>Chapter 1. Conditional Conjecture: the Relationship Between Ecology, Evolution and History</b> . . . . .	1
Georges GUILLE-ESCURET	
1.1. Do the sources contaminate history? . . . . .	1
1.1.1. Consequences and extensions of a deadlock . . . . .	2
1.1.2. The return of evolutionism: another disposal of ecology and history . . . . .	4
1.2. The recurrent pitfalls of conjecture in the face of kinship. . . . .	6
1.2.1. The misleading security of the base . . . . .	7
1.2.2. Causes, emergences and functions . . . . .	13
1.2.3. Statistics and anomalies . . . . .	17
1.3. Controllable conjectures: perceiving kinship as conditional . . . . .	21
1.3.1. Aram Yengoyan’s edifying investigation into Australia . . . . .	22
1.3.2. An ecology of kinship from its initial reports . . . . .	26
1.3.3. Prescription and prohibition: “to marry the closest”? . . . . .	34
1.3.4. Contraventions, restrictions and extensions: adaptable kinship? . . . . .	40
1.4. The relationship between filiation and alliance reconsidered as a variable . . . . .	49
1.5. The challenge: correlating and speculating without conclusion . . . . .	54

**Chapter 2. Mode of Reproduction and Prohibition of Incest . . . . . 57**

Sejin PARK

2.1. Mode of reproduction in world III: the case of nomadic hunter-gatherers . . . . .	59
2.1.1. Universal kinship . . . . .	59
2.1.2. Couple formation as condition for reproduction . . . . .	62
2.1.3. Ways to obtain the category of “marriageable kin” . . . . .	64
2.2. Mode of reproduction in world I . . . . .	67
2.2.1. Two invariants and an alternative in community formation . . . . .	67
2.2.2. Promiscuity regime . . . . .	70
2.2.3. Transition from the undivided community to the community divided into consanguineous groups . . . . .	71
2.3. Mode of reproduction in world II . . . . .	74
2.3.1. The meaning of We. . . . .	75
2.3.2. From immediate to delayed sexuality . . . . .	77
2.3.3. Mode of reproduction and delayed sexuality . . . . .	78
2.4. On the evolutionary pertinence of the prohibition of incest . . . . .	83
2.4.1. Sexual avoidance and exogamy . . . . .	83
2.4.2. Prohibiting more to specify more . . . . .	87

**Chapter 3. Open and Closed Systems: Rebuilding  
the Social Organization of Prehistoric Societies . . . . . 93**

Laurent DOUSSET

3.1. Introduction. . . . .	93
3.2. Theoretical proposals . . . . .	99
3.3. Kinship and the problem of symmetry . . . . .	101
3.3.1. What is a “kinship system”?. . . . .	101
3.3.2. Recalling the basic principles of terminology representation . . . . .	103
3.3.3. The system called “Eskimo” or cognatic . . . . .	109
3.3.4. The so-called “Dravidian” system and its variants . . . . .	111
3.3.5. The problem of symmetry. . . . .	117
3.3.6. Lévi-Strauss and the origins of kinship . . . . .	119
3.3.7. Nick Allen’s “tetradic” theory . . . . .	127
3.3.8. Why are section systems not strictly speaking kinship? . . . . .	134
3.3.9. Practice and rule . . . . .	141
3.3.10. The basics necessary for the discussion of open and closed systems . . . . .	146
3.4. Kinship and ecology: hunter-gatherers and Sahul . . . . .	148
3.4.1. To be or not to be a hunter-gatherer . . . . .	148
3.4.2. Closed systems: the “classic” Australian model . . . . .	153

3.4.3. Open systems: ethnography of the Western Desert . . . . .	158
3.4.4. The first occupants of Sahul . . . . .	173
3.5. Is a “sociobiology” of exchange realistic? . . . . .	178
3.6. For a new typology . . . . .	188
<b>Conclusion</b> . . . . .	193
Laurent DOUSSET	
<b>References</b> . . . . .	203
<b>Index</b> . . . . .	225