

**COMMENT ON  
E. R. ANDERSON'S REVIEW OF  
SUCKLING: KINSHIP MORE FLUID  
BY FADWA EL GUINDI**

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I have no argument with Anderson's comprehensive, objective review. I only take the opportunity of being invited to comment on the review to further highlight main points made in the book. The position held throughout this field-based study is that kinship is a universal analytical category based on lived kinship in human society. It is therefore central to human society and to anthropology.

Kinship, as argued throughout the book, consists of a bounded set of identifiable relations equally grounded in biology, culture and society. Its structure encompasses three ritually embedded, culturally recognized, paths of incorporation. They are: birth, marital 'union,' and a third path that is variable across cultural traditions, but which is characterized by transformational fluidity linking paths of incorporation. In the case of this empirical study the third path lies in the kinship practice of suckling.

Critically, in order to characterize relations as 'kinship' they must at minimum have culturally recognized: 1) rules of incest, 2) corporate boundaries for generational transmission, and 3) a formal set of kin terms.