

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL ISSUE

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In Issue 1 of Volume 2 of *Kinship* we published a number of interesting articles and reviews. This was itself a demonstration of what we had promised when we founded the journal *Kinship*, that kinship ethnography covers a wide range of topics, not only on kinship terminology, but on emergent, neglected, or empirically discovered forms of kinship relations that further set up challenges to kinship theory, such as *kafala*, suckling, adoption, etc. What is interesting about such discoveries is how they provide further affirmation of not only the universality of the category kinship, but its very widely distributed ethnographic manifestations that share the fundamental properties that characterize kinship as a bounded kind of social relations:.

One of the articles just published in the last issue of *Kinship* (Volume 2, Issue 1) was co-authored by the two Founding and Senior co-Editors, Dwight W. Read and Fadwa El Guindi (Read and El Guindi 2022). The title of the article is: "What Is Kinship About? Again. Critique of *the Cambridge Handbook of Kinship*, Edited by Sandra Bamford." Once published, and to our amazement and delight, it received a phenomenal response in the form of views, comments, discussions, likes, downloads, etc. The platform known as Academia.edu, on which we uploaded the published critique, provides the mechanism for comments about an uploaded work. The content of the comments on our critique, along with counter comments, and engaged commentaries, kept pouring in to the point where we were stimulated to request permission from Academia to republish all of the comments in a Special Issue of *Kinship*.

This is an indication of how kinship research is both alive and growing and so it merits publication space and theoretical attention. We asked those on the Kinship Circle list to comment on the comments. The idea was warmly received. Then, to involve anthropologists around the world who are serious about kinship study to engage fully in the debate, we decided to provide translations of everything into several of the languages in which kinship research is published, using Word translations. So, this Special Issue of *Kinship* consists of a re-publication of

our Critique, the Comments uploaded from Academia, and the Comments on Comments that we solicited. All of this material is provided with Word translations.

Enjoy this Special Issue, stay engaged with kinship study, and share your active research with the world.

References

Read, D. W., and F. El Guindi. 2022 What is Kinship About? Again. Critique of the *Cambridge Handbook of Kinship*, Edited by Sandra Bamford. *Kinship* 2(1): 4-11.