

# Economics 7340 - Growth and Development I

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## Cousin Marriage Topic

Family structure is one of tangible ways culture manifests itself. In particular, consanguinity, or cousin-marriage, appears to be a sign of strong kin-based families and a focus on within-kin-group trust. In contrast, restrictions on cousin marriage are associated with less reliance on kin-groups, and possibly more universal trust. There are questions about whether we can observe these differences outside of the European or cross-country context, and about what the sources of variation in cousin-marriage are.

## Reading list

For the purposes of the literature review, there are a few papers that we talked about in class already. So you'll need to expand beyond that for the purposes of review.

Reading list:

- J. F. Schulz (2016). *The Churches' Ban on Consanguineous Marriages, Kin-networks, and Democracy*. Tech. rep. CEDEX
- J. F. Schulz et al. (2018). *The Origins of WEIRD Psychology*. Tech. rep.
- J. F. Schulz (2018). "The Catholic Church, Kin Networks, and Institutional Development". Working paper
- A. Alesina and P. Giuliano (2010). "The power of the family". *Journal of Economic Growth* 15.2, pp. 93–125
- A. Greif and G. Tabellini (2017). "The clan and the corporation: Sustaining cooperation in China and Europe". *Journal of Comparative Economics* 45.1, pp. 1–35
- M. Mitterauer (2010). *Why Europe? The Medieval Origins of its Special Path*. University of Chicago Press [Chapters 1-4 at least]
- J. Goody (1983). *The Development of the Family and Marriage in Europe*. Cambridge University Press

Because we covered several of these in class, this literature review will require that you add 2-3 additional readings to your review. I would encourage you to find citations that deal with family structure outside of Europe.

## Data sources

To work on this topic, I'm going to point you more specifically towards some data on the prevalence of cousin marriage. The DHS has, in a few surveys, specific questions about whether women were related to their husbands prior to marriage, and how they were related (i.e. first cousin on fathers side, second cousin on mothers, etc.). That should form the basis of your work. But the question you ask could range from the determinants of cousin marriage to the consequences of cousin marriage. The other data sources are really the regular ones we have used in class, which may be of use.

- IPUMS-DHS
- GAEZ crop availability datasets
- Ethnographic Atlas