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White, DR

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A Note On Replication In Kinship Terminology

Douglas R. White

School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA 92717; drwhite@uci.edu

Murdock's 1970 *Ethnology* publication of kinship terminology codes provides an opportunity to measure the reliability of his coding for cousin terminology. Codes for cousin terminology for societies in the *Ethnographic Atlas* are given in variable 27 of the *Ethnographic Atlas* data base. Most of these societies were coded prior to Murdock's 1970 article. If we assume that Murdock did not merely accept his earlier codings when preparing his 1970 article, but rather re-examined each case, we can view variables 27 and 128 as two independent codings. There is some support for this assumption in that societies in the 1970 article and in the *Ethnographic Atlas* sometimes have different scores. I re-coded variable 27 to the categories of variable 128 as follows:

COUSIN TERMINOLOGY	VARIABLE 27 CODE	BECAME
Missing Data	.	.
Hawaiian	4	1
Iroquois	5	2
Eskimo	3	3
Omaha	6	4
Crow	1	5
Descriptive	2	6
Sudanese	7	7
Mixed	8	.

The Pearson's r between the 511 societies with non-missing values on both variables is 0.83 (Spearman's $r_s = 0.84$). If we eliminate societies that entered the *Ethnographic Atlas* after 1970 (as their coding might have been influenced by the 1970 article), we lose two societies, but both correlation coefficients remain unchanged. It is important that the codes for variable 128 not be "corrected," as it is only by correlating independent codings of the same variable that we get a valid reliability measure. The two variables may be combined in a composite scale (White 1990; White and Gray 1995).

White, D. R.

- 1990 Reliability in Comparative and Ethnographic Observations: The Example of High Inference Father-child Interaction Measures. *Journal of Quantitative Anthropology* 2:109-150.

White, D. R., and J. P. Gray

- 1995 CORR-REL: A Program for reliability Analysis and Optimal One Factor Scaling. *World Cultures* 9(1):58-75.