



Consanguinity in Context (Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology)

By Alan H. Bittles

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An essential guide to this major contemporary issue, *Consanguinity in Context* is a uniquely comprehensive account of intra-familial marriage. Detailed information on past and present religious, social and legal practices and prohibitions is presented as a backdrop to the preferences and beliefs of the 1100+ million people in consanguineous unions. Chapters on population genetics, and the role of consanguinity in reproductive behavior and genetic variation, set the scene for critical analyses of the influence of consanguinity on health in the early years of life. The discussion on consanguinity and disorders of adulthood is the first review of its kind and is particularly relevant given the ageing of the global population. Incest is treated as a separate issue, with historical and present-day examples examined. The final three chapters deal in detail with practical issues, including genetic testing, education and counseling, national and international legislation and imperatives, and the future of consanguineous marriage worldwide.

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Review

"Professor Alan H. Bittles offers the reader a comprehensive, balanced overview of consanguinity - including historical, legal, medical, socioeconomic, religious and geographical perspectives. Packed with fascinating facts on the history of consanguinity, and statistics comparing practices and resources between countries, *Consanguinity in Context* makes for 'must read' material on a complex, often controversial, issue."
OrphaNews Europe

"I found Alan Bittles' book to be extremely fascinating. Bittles provides an eye-opening and exhaustive review of the political, religious, economic, social, and biological factors impinging on consanguineous unions. His goal for this work is well summarized at the end of chapter one: '... to provide an appropriately extensive framework of information within which the subject [of consanguineous unions] can be rationally and dispassionately evaluated'. *Consanguinity in Context* admirably fulfills this objective."
Jamie Schwendinger-Schreck, *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*

"This book is a treasure trove of information and anecdotes on consanguineous unions."
Elof Axel Carlson, *The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"*Consanguinity in Context* is a rich, well-structured, well-written, convincing, and in many details astonishing book recommendable for students as well as for scholarly work."
Anthropos

About the Author

Alan H. Bittles is Research Leader at the Centre for Comparative Genomics, Murdoch University and Adjunct Professor of Community Genetics at Edith Cowan University, Australia.

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