

## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Ursula Wiesemann [ulla\_wiesemann@sil.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2009 10:52 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** Re: kaingang and austronesian

Dear Vladimir,

Thank you for the excellent presentation of these most surprising facts. I don't think that anyone can show that you would be wrong. The paper is well written and well argued. Maybe the only thing now it is to speculate (and eventually prove???) in which direction the separation took place: from South America to Austronesia or the other way around?

And I cannot find Austronesia on my best maps! That your finding should change all that. I had always thought that the Kaingang came from north Brazil originally, Je-speaking people are all over Brazil, but not yet proven on the Western side of South America. That is what makes this connection even more interesting. But your evidence is good. So we live and learn! And change the perception of the world.

So where do we go from here? You would like a copy of the paper by Baldus -- I have no suggestion how you could get that. As far as I know it only exists in Brazil, in the library of the Museu de Sao Paulo where I saw it years ago.

I read your paper quickly, but will now read it more carefully, thank you for sending it to me. Where exactly are the Austronesians located?  
Do you have any idea why they don't seem to appear on any map I have?

Maybe I will get an idea as to where we go from here. As we mull over your facts and findings, maybe we will get some idea.

Sincerely, Ursula

Vladimir Pericliev schrieb:

>  
> Dear Ursula,  
>  
> You may recall that a couple of years ago we exchanged some  
> correspondence regarding my study of similarities between Kaingang and  
> Austronesian. You noted then that much more work is required to show a  
> meaningful link between the languages, and sharing your view I  
> proceeded further in this direction. I attach a paper reflecting  
> subsequent work, which gives a somewhat more detailed account, which I  
> thought you might find interesting to look at. I am going on with the  
> research and am now preparing a paper on the kinship similarities  
> between the languages, elaborating on the brief sketch that can be  
> found in the paper sent. I base my analysis of Kaingang on your "Time  
> distinctions in Kaingang", but I cannot find/order from here (from  
> Europe? as I tried also from Germany several years ago) Baldus paper  
> "Terminologia de parentesco Kaingang" you cite in your paper. I  
> wonder if you would be so kind as to suggest how I could possibly  
> find the paper. Also, I would greatly appreciate any comments and  
> criticisms from you as the authority on Kaingang on the paper I sent.  
> I will keep you informed about the future paper if you are interested.  
>  
> Many thanks in advance for your most kind collaboration. I am looking  
> forwards to hearing from you soon.

## Vladimir Pericliev

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From: Ursula Wieseemann [ulla\_wieseemann@sil.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 9:59 PM  
To: Vladimir Pericliev; Editor\_Ethnologue@sil.org  
Subject: Re: kaingang and austronesian

Dear Vladimir,

Now that we established what I really had not thought possible when you first contacted me about two years ago, it is important that I also make this correspondence available to the person in charge of our Ethnologue.

I don't know if you ever heard of that, and in case you did I will not elaborate now. But it actually claims to list all the languages spoken in the world. So "your" language and the implications we now draw are important to him. I am still amazed at all of this and am wondering about the implications myself. He can help us, I trust.

Ulla

Vladimir Pericliev schrieb:

> Dear Ursula,  
>  
> Thank you very much for your most kind words. Your opinion means a  
> great lot to me, being given by a specialist of your rank and  
> competence in these matters. I also fully agree with your previous  
> words that much more work should be done in order to convince both ourselves and others.  
>  
> Regarding the Austronesian language family, it is a very large family  
> (around 1000 languages) spoken in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. If  
> you search internet with the words "Austronesian language family" or  
> the like, you can find more information. It seems probable that the  
> Kaingang languages are a branch of Austronesian, and the Kaingang people came from the  
> Pacific.  
> Thor Heyerdahl many years ago suggested a link between western South  
> America and Polynesia (in the direction South America --> Polynesia).  
> Today some human population geneticists also suggest genetic  
> similarities between Austronesians and Pacific populations, but this  
> is not the predominant opinion.  
>  
> Perhaps we could collaborate trying to move things further. There are  
> indeed heaps of problems to be solved. As I already mentioned I have  
> thought quite a lot on kinship similarities, and I think have found  
> some pretty interesting facts from Kaingang dialects. If you  
> interested I can send you more information or you could suggest some other topic we  
> could pursue.  
>  
> With best wishes,  
>  
> Vladimir  
>  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Ursula Wieseemann [mailto:ulla\_wieseemann@sil.org]  
> Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 10:52 PM  
> To: Vladimir Pericliev  
> Subject: Re: kaingang and austronesian  
>  
> Dear Vladimir,  
>  
> Thank you for the excellent presentation of these most surprising facts.  
> I don't think that anyone can show that you would be wrong. The paper



## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Ursula Wieseemann [ulla\_wieseemann@sil.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:14 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** Re: kaingang and austronesian

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Well, what do we expect!?! Life continues on, and there will always be problems. As for me, I still marvel at your findings, and don't really know what conclusions to draw. But it all is fascinating. And I congratulate you for having found this. There are ramifications, of

course: what is good for Kaingang, is also good for other Je groups, and Brazil is "full" of them, it being the biggest group of languages in Brazil. After I digested this a bit more I will contact some of the Wycliff people in Brazil -- most of the work being done today is by Brazilians themselves. This is where I hope that the Ethnologue will prepare the way. Not that anything in our current way of working:

translating the New Testament and/or the Old (as I am doing for the Kaingang now, having given up the Xokleng as a "bad job") will be affected. Still, it makes me wonder how the contact really took place in those olden times, when somehow the lands were together (I guess), that are now separated by so much water! Maybe as I am going through the Old Testament I will come to something that suddenly enlightens me? And of course it puts in question all of the Indian groups: the Tupi-Guarani groups that live so close to the Je groups nowadays, the fact that we have not found any Je groups in the Western part of South America, whereas we have found some that are somewhat related to the Tupi groups, and such. Of course, your findings might challenge those "facts", too!

So I think that is important that you contact the new editor of the Ethnologue. He might want your full investigation. If he asks me, I know that to tell him. I suppose that other languages should be examined on both sides of the "big lake". And I thought that I was done with linguistics, being fully occupied with translation! This is not to be understood as a complaint, but to make you understand better why this is to revolutionary for me.

Just for interest sake: what university are you attached to these days?

Ulla

Vladimir Pericliev schrieb:

> Ulla, I'll inform the Editor if you think that might interest him. By  
> the way, I did not intend to sound pessimistic in saying that at  
> present we have more problems than solutions, I was only paraphrasing  
> the philosopher Karl Popper saying that the solution of one good  
> problem usually engenders many other problems awaiting to be solved. -  
> Vladimir

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ursula Wieseemann [mailto:ulla\_wieseemann@sil.org]  
> Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 3:44 PM  
> To: Vladimir Pericliev  
> Subject: Re: kaingang and austronesian

>

> I fully agree. But why don't you inform the Ethnologue editor? You are  
> welcome to cite me as having verified your work. I suspect he knows my  
> name, but I personally do not know him. Ulla

>

> Vladimir Pericliev schrieb:

>

>> Dear Ulla,

## Vladimir Pericliev

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From: Bengt Sigurd [Bengt.Sigurd@ling.lu.se]  
Sent: Saturday, June 12, 2010 11:04 AM  
To: Vladimir Pericliev  
Subject: RE:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up  
Flag Status: Flagged

Hej!

Your book has arrived and I am very impressed. I checked the Heyerdahl part and noted your careful writing. What happened to your note to Science? I will read the book and try to learn.

In return I can only refer to a little powerpoint program you may find a link to my bibliography on my website if you search by Google on my name or go to SOL center Lund university. The powerpoint is called Logistic Linguistics and I am presenting various applications of an algorithm I have worked on with a mathematical friend. You may check logistic grammar if you feel like it. My favourite application is somewhat forensic. Given a set of facts the algorithm presents a chain connecting two items you search for if possible.

Best wishes  
Bengt

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From: Vladimir Pericliev [peri@math.bas.bg]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 1:22 PM  
To: Bengt Sigurd  
Subject:

Dear Bengt,

I hope you have started happily the New Year and things are proceeding smoothly.

I am following your advice to try to reach a wider audience, including the press, by preparing a short note for the "Science" magazine, who previously rejected me without sending the paper for in-depth review. This time, I believe, I present convincing kinship vocabulary data, which it would be more difficult to just close your eyes before and just ignore. I wonder what you think. Also, I would also like to ask you whether I could suggest you as a potential referee, which the journal requires?

All the best wishes for the New Year!!!

- Vladimir

p.s. I will send you my book when it is published (I believe somewhere in March).

## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Bengt Sigurd [Bengt.Sigurd@ling.lu.se]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 09, 2009 2:50 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** RE:

Yes. I have now read part of chapter 7 and noted your even more convincing argumentation. The so called specialists cannot ignore the argument and the interesting problem much longer.

I even think the media will note and report your discoveries.

I will send you a version of my logistic kinship program later.

Best  
Bengt

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**From:** Vladimir Pericliev [peri@math.bas.bg]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:18 AM  
**To:** Bengt Sigurd  
**Subject:**

Dear Bengt,

“hello” again. As you were so kindly helpful and concerned with my Kaingang-Austronesian research, I am just writing to let you know that I sent my Congress of Linguist paper (essentially chapter 7 of book) to Ursulla Wiesamann, the leading specialist on Kaingang, and she was most enthusiastic and positive on my evidence. More certain than I am myself, frankly, for I am still not fully at ease (as you well know we the more mathematically minded linguists are more skeptical). She told me that she would inform the editor of Ethnologue about our correspondence. Anyway, I wanted to share this good news with a friend.

I hope you are doing well!!

Best,

Vladimir



## Vladimir Pericliev

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From: Bengt Sigurd [Bengt.Sigurd@ling.lu.se]  
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 3:24 PM  
To: Vladimir Pericliev  
Subject: RE:

I suggest the following headline:  
Heyerdahl was right!  
But the direction was wrong!

says Bulgarian mathematician....

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From: Vladimir Pericliev [peri@math.bas.bg]  
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:18 AM  
To: Bengt Sigurd  
Subject:

Dear Bengt,

"hello" again. As you were so kindly helpful and concerned with my Kaingang-Austronesian research, I am just writing to let you know that I sent my Congress of Linguist paper (essentially chapter 7 of book) to Ursulla Wiesamann, the leading specialist on Kaingang, and she was most enthusiastic and positive on my evidence. More certain than I am myself, frankly, for I am still not fully at ease (as you well know we the more mathematically minded linguists are more skeptical). She told me that she would inform the editor of Ethnologue about our correspondence. Anyway, I wanted to share this good news with a friend.

I hope you are doing well!!

Best,

Vladimir

## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** drwhite@uci.edu  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2011 10:59 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** Re: book on kinship  
**Attachments:** EthnoAtlasIdentifiers.xlsx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Professor Pericliev,

I have examined your book with great interest.

I referenced it on my wiki site by opening a page for you at [http://intersci.ss.uci.edu/wiki/index.php/Vladimir\\_Pericliev](http://intersci.ss.uci.edu/wiki/index.php/Vladimir_Pericliev)

So that you may login and edit this page as you like, I created a user account for you in the name Vladimir Pericliev with password Vladimir and your email address (so you will get notification).

Editing is done as in Wikipedia (Edit tab). You can create url links but if you wanted a link directly to the pdf you would have to authorize me as the sysop to do so.

I attach an excel file you might be able to help me with. It lists all of the societies in the Ethnographic Atlas and in the last column lists in a stack of 1s all the societies for which I have Murdock's original 3 sheets for listing kin terms and kin behaviors. I could send those pages (3x123) if you wished by regular post.

The help I would appreciate are to index with 1s those societies in Social Structure. NAME for example have a 1 in the last column (3page sheets above) but nothing in column D, simply because they were listed in Social Structure under Hottentots. Since you are familiar with the society names and synonyms this might be an easy job that would enable me to update the excel file.

At some point someone will put the kin behavior codes into an excel file which will enable a new study of language families, kin terms, and kin behaviors.

Thanks for sending this book!

Douglas White

> Dear Professor White,

>

>

>

> I have written a small book related to kin term patterns, so I am  
> sending the book in case it might be of some interest to you. Below is a resume:

>

>

>

> Anthropologist G. P. Murdock's collection of kin term patterns of 566  
> languages is grouped into language families according to Ethnologue,  
> and a sophisticated computer program is employed to profile the  
> language families, so that each language family is distinguished from  
> all others in the most parsimonious way.

>

> The discovered language family profiles reveal that kin term patterns

**Vladimir Pericliev**

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**From:** Ian Maddieson [ianm@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 10:01 PM  
**To:** peri@math.bas.bg  
**Subject:** Review request for Linguistic Typology  
**Attachments:** Affricates 1.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Vladimir,

I am writing on behalf of the Editorial Board to ask if you would be able to write a review of a paper submitted to Linguistic Typology. The title and abstract are as follows:

### **A typological sketch of affricates**

#### **Abstract**

This study focuses on the cross-linguistic patterns of one specific category of sounds: affricates. The inventories of the languages in the genetically-balanced UPSID 1992 survey are examined with respect to different aspects, including place of articulation, voicing and segmental attributes for instance, and besides, the relation between affricates, plosives and fricatives is considered. By presenting a synchronic typological overview, independently of any formal phonological modelling, this paper aims to fill the gaps in the fragmentary picture of the typological structures of affricates, sounds that are still subject to debate in phonological literature.

#### **Key-words:**

Affricates - segment inventories - sibilants - voicing - place of articulation

If you are able to do this we would appreciate receiving the review within six weeks. In the hope that you will be able to help us I have attached a PDF of the paper in order to speed things up. If, on the other hand, you do not think you will be able to do this review, I would appreciate any suggestions you might have for alternative reviewers.

Yours sincerely,

Ian

--

Ian Maddieson  
Department of Linguistics  
MSC 03-2130  
Humanities Bldg. 526  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1196



## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Ian Maddieson [ianm@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** RE: Review request for Linguistic Typology

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

I'm impressed, as always, by the range of your work.

Ian

Many thanks for your wishes regarding my future book (on machine componential analysis of kinship vocabularies). I'll be happy to read yet another paper based on your seminal database.

Vladimir

**From:** Ian Maddieson [mailto:ianm@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 6:26 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** RE: Review request for Linguistic Typology

Thank you for your reply, and my best wishes for finishing the book. I'll be hoping that you will be able to find time for the review too - you are such a 'natural' for this paper!

Ian

Dear Ian,

Many thanks for your message regarding a review of "A typological sketch of affricates". I am actually working on a book which is due after several months, but I will try to do my best.

Sincerely,

Vladimir

**From:** Ian Maddieson [mailto:ianm@berkeley.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 10:01 PM  
**To:** peri@math.bas.bg  
**Subject:** Review request for Linguistic Typology

## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Jacob Fitisemanu [Jacob.Fitisemanu@hsc.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 2:35 AM  
**To:** peri@math.bas.bg  
**Subject:** Brazil-Austronesian

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged  
**Categories:** Red Category

Hello Dr. Pericliev,

I recently read your paper "Significant Lexical Similarities between a Language of Brazil and Some Languages of Southeast Asia and Oceania," and was very intrigued by your research.

I was wondering has any historical linguistic test been conducted in this case since publication in 2006? I am Samoan, and my wife is native Brazilian, so this is a fascinating topic for me!

I would also add that the inclusion and correction of several terms seems to strengthen the Greenberg comparison in some instances:

Table 1. A Comparative Wordlist of Xokleng and Five Austronesian Languages:

- (2) "ear" - an obsolete Hawaiian cognate might be "ka lina" or "lina" instead of the common "pepeiao" that is in modern usage. "Lina" and "linalina" refers to scar tissue or cartilage; "ulina" means soft/rubbery/cartilagenous; "palina" and "papalina" refer to the area of the face around the ears, ie the cheeks, and to fleshy tissue in general.
- (3) "fear" - "matakucia" is the word for fear in the western Fijian Navosa language.
- (4) "feathers" - Fijian Navosa word is "kula," Samoan and Hawaiian also use "?ula" for feathers as well as "fulu/hulu."
- (9) "rain" - Samoan is also "ua"
- (10) "to shoot" - Malay is "memana"
- (11) "stab/kill" - Samoan cognate of "pati" is "fasi," regular p/f and t/s interchange; Hawaiian is "pepehi" (PNP \*pepesi, related to "pasi" and "fasi").
- (13) "three" - "talū" in Banjarese Malay dialect.
- (14) "we" - there is no word "kami" in the Hawaiian language.

I also think that your machine lexical comparison is not as accurate as it could be because it neglects the occurrence of multiple terms for nouns based on chiefly terminology, honorific labels, social register, etc. Your analysis lists only 6 matches with Samoan, but from my own comparison I believe that the following should have registered as matches with Samoan:

- (1) "cut" - Samoan = 'oti/'oki (it should be remembered that the "t" and "k" sounds are interchangeable in Samoan AND Hawaiian. Even today in spoken Hawaiian the "t" is used by certain speaker communities (Ni'ihau, etc.)
- (2) "feather" - Samoan = 'ula
- (3) "man" - Samoan = tāne/kāne
- (4) "manure" - Samoan = tae/kae
- (5) "rain" - Samoan = ua
- (6) "shoot" - Samoan = fana
- (7) "three" - Samoan = tolu/kolu
- (8) "understand/think" - Samoan = mana'o
- (9) "fat/grease" - Samoan = tavula, puta, toutou
- (10) "four" - Samoan = fa
- (11) "stab/kill" - Samoan = fasi
- (12) "small" - Samoan = iti, laiti
- (13) "woods" - Samoan = 'uta (inland/upland terrain)

- (14) "black" - Samoan - 'uli (black), lo'alo'a (deep purple)
- (15) "tail" - Samoan - pusi (eel), pusa (tail of a comet)
- (16) "tooth" - Samoan - nunu (scraping with teeth), nifo
- (17) "head" - Samoan - 'ulu
- (18) "hair" - Samoan - 'ulu
- (19) "hand" - Fijian - liga
- (20) "breast" - Samoan - uma
- (21) "fire" - Samoan - afi
- (22) "blue/green" - Samoan - tai
- (23) "he/she" - Samoan - ia

Other than these suggestions I am very grateful for your treatment of this unique topic and I look forward to reading more of your research.

Cheers!  
Jake



## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** Jacob Fitisemanu [Jacob.Fitisemanu@hsc.utah.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 8:04 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** RE: Brazil-Austronesian

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged  
**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Vladimir,

Thank you for your kind response. I am happy that you and Ursula Wieseemann are persevering in this research because I personally find it very interesting. The actual reason why I started the literature review that brought me to your work is a colleague of mine is documenting the descendants of Polynesian slaves that were taken to Peru and Brazil during the "blackbirding" era of the 1860's. In his research he's found a lot of published evidence for pre-Columbian two-way Polynesian voyaging between Oceania and the South American continent and we have been trying to find more documentation of Polynesian vestiges or clues that had been left behind.

Thank you again for pointing out your other papers and for conducting the work that you are doing, it is very much appreciated!

Cheers,  
Jake

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**From:** Vladimir Pericliev [peri@math.bas.bg]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 27, 2011 3:40 AM  
**To:** Jacob Fitisemanu  
**Subject:** RE: Brazil-Austronesian

Dear Jake,

Thank you very much for your interest in my research. I am attaching two more papers, which I believe are somewhat more convincing than the earlier paper you have read. But the suggested linguistic link between Oceania and Eastern South America seems so implausible on other grounds (as geographical distance) that it is understandable that few will be willing to embrace the hypothesis. For the time being, Austronesianists prefer to stay mute, while the best specialist on Kaingang (Ursula Wieseemann) is fully supportive. So the answer to your question whether historical linguistic tests of the hypotheses have been conducted should probably be "no" as no published response is known to me, except a brief mention in a journal review of my recent book on machine linguistic discovery.

Also, thank you very much for your suggestions and criticisms regarding my data, I'll take these into consideration. Except your native Samoan you must be very competent in other Austronesian languages.

With best wishes,

Vladimir

## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** sunrise120@daum.net on behalf of 진실로 [sunrise120@daum.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2011 4:02 AM  
**To:** peri@math.bas.bg  
**Subject:** Call for papers (Journal of Universal Language)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

Dear Vladimir Pericliev,

I inform you that the Journal of Universal Language calls for papers for the JUL 12:2, which will be published in September, 2011. JUL is concerned with various areas of artificial language, universality in language, and language typology. The website of JUL is <http://www.unish.org/>

The deadline for submission is 31 August 2011. As you are a distinguished scholar who has published in our journal before, we very much hope that you would submit a paper again in the near future.

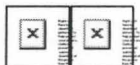
I am also pleased to inform you that the JUL plans to select two academically distinguished papers every year and will award the authors of these papers either \$2,000 or \$3,000 the following March. I am sure it will be a great opportunity for both JUL and the contributors.

Due to the fact that the Journal of Universal Language is now poised for take-off, your contribution to the journal would be momentous and certainly would set the tone for a successful future for the journal.

Please let kindly me know whether you might submit your paper to the JUL for the fall issue.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Wishes,  
Silo Chin  
Managing editor of JUL



## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** victor de munck [demunckv@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 02, 2011 5:00 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** Re: sofia

dear Vladimir,

thank you for your kind letter. It's what i've come to expect from you kindness and intelligence. i'm very interested in computational modeling so i'm hoping that some of your knowledge in this field will rub off on me. I appreciate the positive note that we shall surely "find points of interest" as a consequence i sent you two papers i wrote with andrey korotayev (from moscow state); the one on galton's problem/asset was my idea but the statistical argument was constructed by andrey; the second on comparing structures of love is one that we both worked on together though some of the clever statistical work was of course due to andrey's ingenuity.

my rough idea is what are the main components of kinship structures and how are these related to kinship behavior and those to felt kinship obligations? While these (social structure, behavior, 'felt obligations') are different kinds of systems (see bruce mayhew) there are "emergent properties" of structures that generate behaviors and these behaviors are then (perhaps post hoc) given symbols and a menu of official stories that justify them (from Harrison White). Thus the correlation appears that the stories (i.e., culture) cause the behavior but they (atleast initially) didn't cause anything but were precipitates from initial conditions. so the systems (all having to do with kinship) are delineated as distinct systems and their components analyzed independently and once this is comprehensively done then to investigate how these components fit together or are conjoined in iterative social interactions among similar kin dyads. the relationship should be fairly tight relative to other human systems.

anyway we'll see. i might not get the fellowship as they might think i'm not serious or not know what to do with me.

anyway it would be an adventure. I look forward to meeting you and your daughter--i'd be interested to know what she's interested in.

victor

On Sun, Jul 31, 2011 at 2:08 PM, Vladimir Pericliev <peri@math.bas.bg> wrote:  
Dear Victor,

It is nice that you are planning a scholarship here in Sofia. I myself had not heard about such a scientific funding agency in Bulgaria. I had a look at its site and it seems to be also funding Bulgarian scholars, though it does not seem to be popular among colleagues. Anyway, looks like a good opportunity for your work on Eastern Europe. As you know my primary interests (and competence) lie in computational modelling of componential analysis and similar matters rather than the concerns of a social anthropologist, but I will be glad to cooperate and we will surely find points of intersection, which are not immediately clear to me from my brief acquaintance with your resume. We shall have time to talk over this. By the way, my daughter is PhD student at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies (Academy of Sciences) and may also be of some help and may introduce you to your fellow-scholars from the Academy and Sofia University.

So, good luck with your application (I have no doubt it will work ok).



## Vladimir Pericliev

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**From:** victor [victor@bestweb.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2011 4:07 PM  
**To:** Vladimir Pericliev  
**Subject:** sofia  
**Attachments:** Intl\_Application\_Form\_CAS\_Advanced\_Academia\_2012\_2013.doc

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**Categories:** Red Category

dear Vladimir,  
by sheer coincidence I came across a form for the Advanced akademia fellowship programme at the institute of advanced study, sofia. Its for 5 months and gives 700euro stipends. I decided to apply since I will have a sabbatical (if the financial/budget crisis doesn't metastasize) come august 2012 and will have, i expect some NSF funding and half of my own salary to bolster the 700 euros.

I applied for a number of reasons: my urge to go places; extend my knowledge of eastern europe; and, perhaps most importantly it might give me an opportunity to work with you. Undoubtedly you have your own research agendas and work and your work is not as ethnographically based, i think, as mine is. I attach my proposal. it is somewhat inchoate and certainly hastily written. My main points are this: what is the structure of kinship relationships (in this case Bulgarian) in terms of their relative conceptual closeness to each other? how does this model as represented through an mds or hierarchical clustering correspond with frequency and types of social interactions? do we see any of the attributes by which people conceptualize closeness (or "propinquity") with kin also extended out to non-kin? When they do extend (as when someone calls a non-kin "sister" or "brother" or "uncle" or some non-genealogical but cultural attributes of these relationships extend to non kin do they also lead to corresponding behavioral entailments (i.e., social interactions)? That is, do aspects of the mental modeling of kinship relations and their behavioral entailments also transfer or extend out to some non kin or could they do so? and which types of non-kin and under what conditions?

I package much of this using the term "sameness" (it comes from marilyn strathern). I'm using this term sort of loosely, but it is meant to contrast with "otherness" and "alterity"--terms I am not fond of--and to emphasize that cultural anthropology is not just about finding out about how people are different but how they are the same. sameness becomes a gloss for identifying with the other and also spills over to social interactions as a result. Thus, i do apologize for this vague use of the term, but right now i haven't enough focus on this application to work this out better.

However I think the general idea is good and useful and may be of interest to you. If I am accepted and we actually come I hope we can work together on aspects of this--your strength would be in formalizing and clarifying many of the concepts and their connections with each other and analysis, mine would be similar but mostly in the bridging model with ethnography--the "action" part of the thought-action relation.

thanks for reading this far and hope the project is of some interest to you.  
victor