

Séminaire du CREDO en visioconférence

Vendredi 16 avril 2021
à 16h00

ATTENTION

EN RAISON DU DECALAGE DE FUSEAU HORAIRE DE L'INTERVENANT
LE SEMINAIRE AURA LIEU EXCEPTIONNELLEMENT L'APRES-MIDI DE 16h00 à 18h00

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***“Reconstructing the Proto-Polynesian Terminology:
Kinship Terminologies as Evolving Logical Structures”***

The Polynesian sibling terminologies have been studied extensively from both an anthropological and a linguistic perspective, and can be placed within the pre-historic to historic framework that has been worked out for the peopling of the Polynesian Islands. In this talk I first consider the evolutionary sequences determined, on the one hand, for the Polynesian sibling terminologies from the anthropological assumption that kin terms are to be understood genealogically, and, on the other hand, for the Proto languages of Polynesia reconstructed through analysis of morphological sound changes in the sibling kin terms. I observe, however, that the genealogical sequence is silent on the evolutionary sequence for the Proto languages and the sequence for the historical linguistic reconstruction of the Proto languages is silent on the evolutionary sequence for the Polynesian sibling terminology types. To resolve these gaps in both sequences, I introduce research that makes evident the structural logic of a kinship terminology – where the structural logic for a kinship terminology is much like the grammar for a language – and can be derived from the kin term product calculations used by culture-bearers to compute the kin term relationship of one person to another without reference to genealogy. I then work out the generative logic for each of the Polynesian sibling terminologies and show how this leads to revision of the sibling terminology associated with each of the Proto languages. This revised sequence of sibling terminologies is consistent with both the sequence for the reconstructed Proto languages and the historical migrations and peopling of the Polynesian Islands.