# Part 8: Kinship and Family

## Discussion Questions (Collated from the text)

1. What are the advantages to fraternal polyandry? What are the drawbacks?
2. Compare the common explanations offered for the continuation of fraternal polyandry to those offered by Goldstein.
3. Consider the relationship between marital practices, social prestige, and the control of family wealth in your own culture. Does maintaining the wealth and prestige of a family factor into marital practices in the United States?
4. Which actors have the ability to allocate land and sanction its use in Mozambique?
5. How was land allocated before colonial rule? What role did kinship play in the distribution of land? What were the gendered effects of precolonial land allocation practices?
6. What is a *machamba*?
7. How did the conflict between Renamo and the Frelimo government affect settlement patterns and land use?
8. What does Walker mean by saying, “Mariana’s land use rights are both secure and insecure”? How can land be both secure and insecure? What role does gender play in land security?
9. What is the difference between land access and property?
10. Discuss what it means to say that Alto mothers’ resignation to infant death was a “moral code” in the 1960s–1980s when Scheper-Hughes observed such high rates of infant death.
11. Name and discuss the factors that contributed to a reproductive transition in the Alto.
12. How have teachings in Catholicism changed in the Alto that has altered how mothers view infant mortality?
13. What political-economic shifts occurred in the Alto between the 1960s and Scheper-Hughes’ most recent visit there, and how do those changes impact social life in the Alto?