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1 Saami reindeer herders cooperate with social group members and genetic kin¹

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3 Short Title

4 Gift games among Saami reindeer pastoralists

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29 Abstract

30 Cooperative behaviors evolve by ultimately increasing the inclusive fitness of performers as well as
31 recipients of those behaviors. Such increases can occur via direct or indirect fitness benefits,
32 theoretically explained by reciprocal altruism and kin selection respectively. However, humans are
33 known for cooperating with individuals who are not necessarily genetic relatives, which seemingly
34 precludes kin selection as an explanation. Here, we aim to quantify the relative importance of
35 kinship and social group membership as mediators of cooperative behavior. Using an experimental
36 gift game, we test whether indigenous Saami reindeer herders in Norway give gifts to genetic
37 relatives or to members of their cooperative herding group (the 'siida'), or both. Membership of the
38 same siida strongly increased the odds of gift-giving. Kinship had a smaller, albeit positive, effect.
39 Gifts were not preferentially given to younger family members, contrary to predictions relating to
40 inter-generational resource transfers as a form of parental investment. These patterns suggest that
41 social grouping can be at least as important as genetic factors in mediating cooperative behavior in
42 this population. This is likely to reflect the importance of herding groups in day-to-day subsistence.

43 Key words: humans, cooperation, economic games, kin selection, reciprocal altruism, social groups

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44 **Lay Summary**

45 Humans cooperate extensively and flexibly. The extent to which we prefer helping kin over non-kin
46 (or vice versa) remains an open question. Our experiments with indigenous reindeer herders in
47 north Norway investigated the relative importance of kin and non-kin in determining cooperative
48 behavior. Our results suggest that herders give gifts to members of their herding alliances regardless
49 of whether or not the recipient is a genetic relative, although within groups, kin were favored.

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51 Introduction

52 Cooperation is prevalent in a wide range of taxa, including humans. Cooperative behaviors benefit
53 other individuals, either at a cost to the cooperator or not; such behaviors can be favored by
54 selection due to their effects on others (West et al. 2007). The most long-standing explanations of
55 the evolution of cooperative behavior are kin selection (Hamilton 1964) and reciprocal altruism
56 (Trivers 1971), both of which are likely to play a role in human social interactions. A panoply of
57 theoretical models of these and other effects have shown how the existence of cooperation is
58 relatively easy to explain in evolutionary terms (Lehmann & Keller 2006; Nowak 2006; West et al.
59 2007). Ultimately, cooperative behaviors will evolve if they increase the inclusive fitness of the
60 individuals performing the behavior. Exactly with whom one should cooperate, and to what extent,
61 remains a contentious issue that is expected to depend on context.

62 Humans cooperate extensively in many regards. For example, cooperation is vital for survival and
63 reproduction among humans following a pastoralist way of life: a subsistence strategy involving a
64 dependence on livestock. Across the world, most pastoralist societies work in cooperative herding
65 groups formed from multiple families in multiple households (Næss 2012). Ariaal and Rendille
66 pastoralists of East Africa herd in cooperative units typically formed of siblings' families that, among
67 the Ariaal at least, can fission from the wider settlement (Fratkin 1986). In Tibet, the *rukor* (or *ru*
68 *skor*) is a cooperative group which tends to form for the summer and disband during winter
69 (Nietupski 2012). Mongolian nomadic herders cluster into groups known as *Khot-Ail*, living and
70 managing livestock as a socio-economic unit (Upton 2008). Saami pastoralists, the focus of this
71 study, work in a cooperative institution known as the *siida* (Paine 1994).

72 Working in cooperative groups has many advantages, allowing herders to pool risk, defend herds
73 from raiders or predators, protect pastureland, share knowledge and information, loan or gift
74 animals to those in need, and exchange labor (Dyson-Hudson & Dyson-Hudson 1980; Paine 1994;
75 Aktipis et al. 2011; Næss 2012). These forms of cooperative behavior may be a least-cost strategy

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76 compared to herding alone, allowing herding groups to achieve economies of scale, i.e. an increase
77 in the percentage of output coupled with a reduction in the costs related to labor investment (Næss
78 et al. 2009; Næss 2012).

79 Kin selection theory (Hamilton 1964) predicts that cooperative behaviors would evolve between
80 genetic relatives as long as the fitness benefits, tempered by the degree of relatedness between
81 them, outweigh the costs. Previous work on Saami reindeer pastoralists has shown that decisions to
82 slaughter are mediated through kin relations (Næss et al. 2012) and that the presence of genetic
83 relatives, along with the availability of workers, had a positive effect on herd size (Næss et al. 2010).
84 Such an effect is important for year-on-year household viability as well as during crisis periods; those
85 with large pre-collapse herd sizes also had the largest post-collapse herds (Næss & Bårdsen 2010;
86 Næss & Bårdsen 2013).

87 Group living can lead to a social dilemma where rational actors might choose not to contribute to a
88 common enterprise (i.e. defect) but still try to reap the benefits of other's contributions, eventually
89 leading to a breakdown in cooperation. Avoidance of defectors can allow cooperators to assort
90 together, either through mobility (Aktipis 2011), severing social links (Wang et al. 2012) or choosing
91 partners (Stiff & Van Vugt 2008). The ability to choose from a 'marketplace' (Noë & Hammerstein
92 1994) of competing potential partners can lead individuals to act more cooperatively in relation to
93 others, resulting in an escalation of 'competitive cooperation' (Barclay & Willer 2007). Individuals
94 may direct cooperative behaviors to others based on their knowledge of the recipient's reputation
95 (indirect reciprocity (Nowak 2006)). In biological markets, being cooperative could act as an indicator
96 of status, as can factors such as skill, prestige or experience.

97 Once partners have been chosen, rewards (such as gifts) and punishment may be important
98 mechanisms for maintaining cooperation through partner control (Trivers 1971; West et al. 2007).
99 However, gift exchange might also function as a method of pooling risk in unpredictable

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100 environments in order to benefit all social group members. For pastoralists, exchanging gifts of
101 livestock has been theoretically shown to boost long-term herd survival (Aktipis et al. 2011).

102 Predictions

103 Previous work on Saami pastoralists has looked at how genetic relatedness and labor availability
104 affect cooperation across districts, which are administrative clusters of herding groups (Næss et al.
105 2010; Næss et al. 2012). We extend this to investigate the relative effects of kinship and cooperative
106 group membership on gift giving behavior between individuals within a district. Saami pastoralists
107 organize themselves into groups – composed of kin and non-kin – for the purposes of cooperative
108 herding, their primary means of subsistence. Given the reliance on herding groups, we predict a
109 strong cooperative bias towards fellow group members, regardless of whether or not the recipients
110 are genetic relatives.

111 However, this hypothesis does not imply that kinship will be unimportant. One manifestation of kin
112 selection in humans may take the form of inter-generational resources flows from older to younger
113 family members, especially from parents to children (Kaplan 1994). Thus, we predict that resources
114 such as gifts would be given preferentially to younger people when they are given within families.

115 We aim to quantify the relative effects of factors predicting cooperative behavior by conducting a
116 culturally salient experimental gift game among Saami reindeer herders living in Finnmark, Northern
117 Norway. Participants could choose between one and three other reindeer herders to receive a gift of
118 money. In order to ensure the game had contextual relevance to participants, we framed the gifts in
119 terms of how much gasoline they could be used to purchase, since gasoline is a valuable commodity
120 for Saami pastoralists.

121 Methods

122 This research was approved by the University College London research ethics committee.

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123 Study Area

124 The term Saami describes a group of people indigenous to the areas that comprise northern
125 Fennoscandia (Norway, Sweden and Finland), as well as the westernmost part of Russia. Today only
126 a minority of Saami people subsist on reindeer pastoralism; as of 2013, there were 533 licensed
127 reindeer herders (Norwegian: *siidaandeler*) living in Norway and 3,112 other Saami people
128 connected to reindeer husbandry (Anonymous 2013).

129 The *siida* is an important economic and cultural unit of cooperation and subsistence (Paine 1994).
130 Membership is, for the most part, influenced by long-standing relationships between families, some
131 of whom will be genealogically related. Traditionally, the *siida* was based on conjugal and sibling
132 solidarity, which could be extended to include cousins and other affinal relatives of the same
133 generation (Bergman et al. 2008). Unmarried people and unrelated wage laborers may also join
134 *siidas* on a facultative basis. Therefore, *siidas* can include both kin and non-kin.

135 People from different *siidas* can interact in a number of ways. With the adoption of snowmobiles
136 and other vehicles as well as communication technologies, herders now live more sedentary lives:
137 Members from several *siidas* live in the same towns for much of the year. In addition, herders from
138 different *siidas* may help one another by splitting up mixed herds or finding lost reindeer. Conflicts
139 may also arise, which has resulted in the destruction of fences separating the pasture areas of
140 different *siidas*, among other issues.

141 In general, herders belong to two *siidas*: summer and winter. Summer *siidas* are large groups of
142 households whose reindeer graze on the coastal pastures and islands of Norway. The summer *siida*
143 became a legal entity in 2007 and can be thought of akin to a corporation with elected boards of
144 leaders. Before the legal consolidation of *siidas*, membership was more flexible and could change
145 over time; of the herders in our study sample, only 1 person had moved summer *siida* within the
146 past 15 years. Every year, summer *siidas* split into 1 or more smaller winter *siidas* whose herds graze

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147 in the interior of the country (Paine 1994). Summer siidas are grouped into administrative regions
148 defined by the government, known as districts (Næss et al. 2009).

149 In the present study, we focus on a single district in Finnmark County – the northernmost and largest
150 reindeer herding area in Norway (Figure 1). Our sample was formed of licensed herd owners within
151 summer siidas. The Norwegian Government provides licenses to a subset of herders within each
152 summer siida/district. These license owners are legally allowed to keep reindeer and the Norwegian
153 Agriculture Agency (*Landbruksdirektoratet*) tracks the productivity of their herds over time. As of
154 2013, there were 377 license owners in the county of Finnmark (Anonymous 2013).

155 Saami herders face occupational stresses from predators, weather conditions, financial pressures,
156 changing land tenures, conflicts, and ethnic discrimination (Bjerkli 2010; Hansen et al. 2010; Allard
157 2011; Pape & Löffler 2012). A recent report found that the high levels of reindeer mortality observed
158 in Finnmark might be due not to predation, as commonly believed, but rather overcrowding of
159 reindeer and the poor condition of the animals (Tveraa et al. 2013). Conflicts can involve
160 governments, industry (e.g., mineral extraction or logging companies), landowners, researchers, as
161 well as other reindeer herders. Within the reindeer husbandry community, conflicts can arise over
162 encroachment onto a rival siida's pasture, theft of reindeer, and destruction of fences, among other
163 things (Paine 1970).

164 Siidas are also loci for collective action. Siida group members work together on maintenance
165 activities, run slaughterhouses, and gathering herds into corrals so as to weigh and administer
166 medicine to the animals, determine the number and quality of pregnant cows, and split herds by sex
167 before seasonal migrations. Given the conflicts and cooperative behaviors described above, we
168 would expect the siida to represent more than a decision-making body: rather, it would act as an
169 important social unit. The focus of our study is the summer siida.

170 **Gift Game**

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171 In July and August 2013, the first author interviewed 30 licensed reindeer herders across all 9
172 summer siidas in 1 district in Finnmark, Norway (Figure 1) with the help of a Saami field assistant.
173 Participants were endowed with vouchers (see below) and were then asked to give these as
174 anonymous gifts to other licensed herd owners in their district. Respondents were presented with a
175 list of license owners in the district (collected by a combination of publically available contact
176 information and snowball sampling, whereby one participant suggested other potential participants)
177 coded with randomly generated ID numbers. Respondents read the ID numbers of their desired gift
178 recipients to the field assistant. This procedure aimed to minimize experimenter bias, since the
179 assistant was also a member of the district, although not a licensed herd owner.

180 We gave players 3 vouchers, each representing 5 liters of gasoline. At the time, 1 liter of petrol cost
181 approximately NOK 15 (US\$ 2.54). Players could choose to give the vouchers to 1-3 other license
182 owners – in multiples of 5 liters. They were not allowed to keep anything for themselves; they had to
183 give the vouchers to at least 1 recipient. Players also gave reasons for their distribution of gifts. We
184 coded these open answers into 1-3 keywords, blind to the giver's name, siida and distribution of gifts
185 (see Supplementary Methods). At the end of the experimental period, all recipients were given their
186 rewards in the form of cash, since the vouchers were created for the purposes of this study and
187 were not legal tender, although all gift decisions were framed in terms of liters of gasoline.

188 Communication was not allowed within the parameters of the experiment. However, due to the
189 vagaries of the herding lifestyle, we were unable to conduct all interviews within a sufficiently short
190 time to rule out for the chance that herders did not communicate with one another.

191 Experimental materials were translated into Norwegian by an independent person and back-
192 translated by the second author. The first and second authors agreed on the final translations.
193 Norwegian and English materials are available on request.

194 **Kinship Data**

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195 Genealogical data were collected in May 2014 detailing how each license owner in the district (n =
196 75) was related to one another. We linked license owners to their previously assigned ID numbers
197 and calculated a coefficient of relatedness (r_{ij}) for each pair of herders (i, j). This resulted in a full
198 kinship network of licensed herd owners in the target district.

199 Herd Size Data

200 Herd sizes held by individual license owners were collected from data published by the Norwegian
201 Broadcasting Corporation (*Norsk rikskringkasting AS*; Aslaksen (2014)). We used the numbers of
202 reindeer held by individuals in 2012 – the most recent data available. We were able to match herd
203 sizes for 62 of the 75 people in our database, not achieving complete coverage due to changes in
204 license owners between 2012 and our study period. Herd sizes were group-mean centered across
205 the district.

206 Statistical Analysis

207 We fitted generalized estimating equation (GEE) models to all potential gift-giving dyads, where the
208 egos were the 30 gift game participants and alters were the 75 licensed owners, giving $30 \times (75 -$
209 $1) = 2,220$ possible dyads. The binary response variable in all models was whether or not a gift
210 was given within a dyad. We present unstandardized and standardized estimates, where in the latter
211 case, binary factors were mean-centered and continuous variables were standardized over 2
212 standard deviations to allow estimates to be compared within models, following the
213 recommendations of Gelman (2008) and Schielzeth (2010).

214 GEE is a population-averaged approach that accounts for multiple observations of each ego by
215 clustering standard errors. We specified an exchangeable working correlation matrix, which models
216 the dependence of observations within clusters. GEE does not use full likelihood estimates, so we
217 computed and compared the quasi-likelihood under the independence model information criterion
218 (QIC) for model selection (Pan 2001). Note that we did not fit models containing the individual-level

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219 predictors gathered from our questionnaires since doing so would have dramatically reduced the
220 number of dyads in our analysis.

221 Analyses were conducted in R 3.2.0 (R Core Team 2012). Details of packages and additional software
222 used, as well as where to download archived data and analysis code, are available in the
223 Supplementary Information.

224 Results

225 Description of the District and the Gift Network

226 61 of the 75 herd owners in the district were male, with a median age of 53 (see Supplementary Fig.
227 S1 for the age distribution and Table S1 for descriptive statistics). The median number of reindeer
228 owned by herders in the district in 2012 was 456.5, ranging between 55 and 1,604 reindeer
229 (Supplementary Fig. S2). The 30 herders interviewed gave 71 gifts to 43 people (Figure 2a), some of
230 whom were also participants. Of the 71 gifts, 45 (63.4%) were given to members of the same
231 summer siida. A significantly higher proportion of gifts were given within siidas ($\chi^2_1 = 4.563, P =$
232 0.033). The majority of gifts (59) were for 5 liters of gasoline and were given by 18 of the 30 people
233 interviewed. 5 gifts, given by 5 separate individuals, were worth 10 liters, while 7 gifts, given by 7
234 different people, were for 15 liters.

235 The number of gifts received by individuals (in-degree) ranged from 0 to 7 (median = 1, mean = 0.95,
236 standard deviation [SD] = 1.16). We do not report the number of gifts given (out-degree) or include
237 it in the models since only the 30 people interviewed were able to give gifts. Gift givers received
238 more gifts; that is, out-degree significantly correlated with in-degree (Pearson's product-moment
239 correlation, $r = 0.415, P < 0.001, 95\% CI [0.208, 0.587]$). One outlier received 7 gifts totaling 50
240 liters of gasoline – twice as much as the second most popular herder. The reasons given for his gifts
241 fell on a wide spectrum, from "Deserves it" and "Good reindeer herder" to "Always empty of fuel".

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242 Ten gifts (28.2%) were reciprocated (Figure 2b), despite communication not featuring in the
243 experiment. Of the reciprocated gifts, only 1 was given to a member of another siida. In this case,
244 both were males living in the same town who clearly had a history of working together based on
245 their stated reasons for giving the gifts. Supplementary Table S2 shows descriptive statistics for the
246 gift network.

247 Siida leaders did not receive more gifts than others (Table 1). There was a significant sex difference
248 between number of gifts received where males on average received more (Mann-Whitney test, $W =$
249 $258.500, P = 0.015$), although the sample contains substantially fewer females (4 of the 43 herders
250 who received gifts).

251 Relatedness in the District

252 The smallest two siidas ('a' and 'f' in Figure 3) were formed entirely of siblings and/or parents with
253 children ($r_{ij} = 0.5$). These siidas contained, respectively, 2 and 3 licensed owners. As the number of
254 members increases, there was no discernible trend in relatedness across the nine siidas. The mean
255 relatedness across the district was $r_{ij} = 0.02$ (i.e., between 2nd and 3rd cousins), whereas the grand
256 mean of mean relatedness within siidas was $r_{ij} = 0.19$. Due to the small number of groups and their
257 small sizes, we did not perform analyses grouped by individual siidas.

258 Analysis of gift giving

259 Table 2 shows the distribution of gifts, split by whether recipients were genetically related to the
260 giver and/or belonged to the same siida. We calculated correlation coefficients between the
261 networks of gifts, relatedness and siida membership (Supplementary Table S3). Summer siida
262 membership correlated with genetic relatedness ($r = 0.42, P \ll 0.01, 95\% CI [0.38, 0.45]$). The
263 coefficient of relatedness between givers and receivers correlates with receiving a gift ($r =$
264 $0.32, P \ll 0.01, 95\% CI [0.29, 0.36]$).

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265 In the best-fitting GEE model (Table 3), belonging to the same summer siida as the other person in a
266 dyad was the strongest predictor of gift-giving (standardized log odds = 1.875, S.E. = 0.447)
267 compared to genetic relatedness (standardized log odds = 0.691, S.E. = 0.187). Note that these
268 estimates are only biologically interpretable in their unstandardized form (Table 3).

269 From the full set of candidate models, the model containing only a term for siida membership
270 (model 5 in Supplementary Table S4) fitted the data better than the model containing only a term
271 for relatedness (model 6 in Supplementary Table S4). Models with an interaction between
272 relatedness and siida membership (models 3 and 4 in Supplementary Table S4) and models
273 containing herd sizes for the potential giver and recipient (models 2 and 4 in Supplementary Table
274 S4) did not provide a better fit compared to the model containing additive terms for relatedness and
275 siida membership (Table 3; model 1 in Supplementary Table S4).

276 We hypothesized that gifts would preferentially be given to younger herders within families (where
277 gifts to younger herders are scored as a negative age difference). Contrary to expectations, gifts
278 were not preferentially given to younger kin ($\chi^2_1 = 0.05, P = 0.82$; Table 4). Age also had no
279 significant effect on the number of gifts received (Spearman's rank correlation, $\rho = -0.140, P =$
280 0.279 ; Figure 4).

281 **Why give?**

282 Table 5 lists the coded translations of all reasons for giving gifts (Supplementary Table S5 provides
283 the full text). The most common category ($n = 24$) for giving a gift, regardless of kinship and siida
284 membership, was current or future reciprocity. Thirteen gifts were given to recipients with good
285 reputations.

286 An interesting case is the gifts given to non-kin belonging to other siidas. Over half of these gifts
287 were split between those with reputations of being a 'good herder' and young license owners who
288 were newly established in reindeer husbandry.

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289 Discussion

290 Summer siidas are stable cooperative groups. Only 1 person of 30 interviewed had moved between
291 summer siidas within the last 15 years. Belonging to the same summer siida was the stronger
292 predictor for gift-giving compared to being genetically related (Table 3). Interactions between
293 relatedness and siida membership (models 3 and 4 in Supplementary Table S4) did not provide a
294 better fit to the data. Similarly, including the herd sizes for the potential gift giver and recipient did
295 not improve the fit (models 2 and 4 in Supplementary Table S4). Siida membership may be
296 important for this population if strategies that benefit direct fitness are optimal compared to those
297 increasing indirect fitness. Alternatively, herders might receive inclusive fitness benefits by virtue of
298 assorting into the same groups as kin, whereas cooperation with non-kin might need to be
299 maintained via reward mechanisms such as gift giving.

300 There was no preference for giving gifts to younger herders within families (Table 4 and Figure 4),
301 contrary to our prediction derived from parental investment theory regarding the flow of resources
302 down generations within families. The absence of this pattern is likely due to participants not
303 viewing the gifts as resources to be invested in younger relatives. It should be noted that some close
304 relatives (such as a son and heir) might be jointly herding with the herd owner and therefore not
305 eligible to receive a gift as they are not yet a licensed herd owner themselves.

306 Twenty-four of the 71 gifts (33.8%) were given for reasons related to existing reciprocal relationships
307 or developing future relationships (Table 5). In addition, 10 gifts (28.2%) were reciprocated although
308 the experimental setup did not allow communication between participants (Figure 2b). This form of
309 direct reciprocity has been conceptualized as an important mechanism behind the evolution of
310 cooperation (Trivers 1971; Nowak 2006). Our experiment did not explicitly account for either
311 indirect (reputational) or direct reciprocity as mechanisms underlying cooperation; rather, we
312 investigated the relative importance of kinship and social group membership in predicting gift giving.
313 Membership of the same siida may imply multiple opportunities for reciprocation.

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314 While the stated reasons for why participants gave particular gifts were *ad hoc*, we argue they
315 provide valuable insight into behavior in the games. Thirteen of the 71 gifts (18.3%) were given to
316 those with the reputation of being a 'good herder' (Table 5), something important to Saami
317 pastoralists (Paine 1970). Gifts were not given preferentially to siida leaders (Table 2). In this study,
318 we were not able to control for potential confounds such as prestige, skills, experience, etc. that may
319 have biased gift giving behaviors, although we did control for herd size as a proxy of wealth. Given
320 this indication that cultural factors such as reputation may be important mediators of cooperative
321 behavior for Saami reindeer herders, future work could attempt to define measures of reputation
322 and prestige that are meaningful to this population. One approach would be to ask herders,
323 preferably in group interviews, to rank others by their experience, skill, history of good decisions,
324 etc. These culturally derived measures could then be linked to quantitative measures of wealth and
325 used to predict gift giving.

326 Gifts in our study were small and anonymous, and communication between participants was not
327 allowed. This makes it unlikely that costly signals, reputation or competitive altruism were driving
328 the observed behaviors, although we were unable to test this formally. However, indirect reciprocity
329 and competitive cooperation play important roles in human social groups, especially when
330 cooperative behaviors are public (Barclay 2013; Sylwester & Roberts 2013). Our study investigated
331 the factors underlying partner choice but did not look at mechanisms of partner control that might
332 enforce or maintain cooperation. Future work should attempt to understand the relative importance
333 of partner control compared with partner choice as well as the roles of indirect reciprocity, partner
334 choice and direct reciprocity (especially reciprocity based on reputation, i.e., competitive
335 cooperation) in real-world contexts.

336 This work represents a first step towards quantifying the forms and diversity of cooperative
337 strategies among Saami people. Saami pastoralists face many social and ecological challenges.
338 Competition for access to winter pastures may explain herd accumulation as the only viable risk-

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339 reducing strategy, although the efficacy of this strategy may be limited by quotas on maximum herd
340 size (Næss & Bårdsen 2010). This suggests the future of reindeer husbandry presents a collective
341 action problem for the herders: one that may be solved from within the community without
342 necessitating the privatization of pastures (Bjørklund 1990; Marin 2006; Hausner et al. 2012). At
343 present, management policies seem to be designed to attain sustainability by targeting only
344 individual reindeer owners (e.g. providing subsidies to increase slaughter rates), while disregarding
345 the cooperative nature of reindeer pastoralism (Næss et al. 2012). Understanding the mechanisms
346 of cooperation in this population will be an important task for its future viability.

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432 Figure Legends

433 Figure 1: Location of the study site, situated in the county of Finnmark, Norway (shown in blue). The
434 study site was a single district (dashed ellipse and inset). The inset map shows the study site, with
435 the black outline representing the district border and red outlines representing summer siida
436 pasture boundaries. Pastures are labelled with the siida code used in this study. Note that siida 'd'
437 has two pastures since it was two siidas at the time the map was drawn; it is now considered a single
438 siida. Map credits are listed in the supplementary information.

439 Figure 2: Gift networks showing license owners in the district (nodes) colored by siida membership
440 for (a) the entire district and (b) reciprocated gifts only. Filled circles represent the 30 license owners
441 interviewed for this study. Edges are gifts, where edge thickness corresponds to gift size (5, 10 or 15
442 liters of gasoline) and color shows the siida from which the gift came.

443 Figure 3: Relatedness within the 9 siidas. Points are the mean coefficients of relatedness between
444 licensed herd owners within each siida. Error bars show standard deviation. Data are ordered, from
445 left to right, in increasing group sizes (also shown within the data points). The grey dotted line shows
446 the mean relatedness in the entire district (i.e. across all siidas); the red dotted line shows the grand
447 mean (i.e. mean of the mean within-siida relatedness coefficients).

448 Figure 4: Age differences between givers and receivers of gifts where the pair are (a) kin or (b) non-
449 kin. Positive values represent gifts given to older herders (brown bars) whereas negative values
450 represent gifts to younger herders (blue bars). No gifts were given to herders of the same age.

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452 **Tables**

453 Table 1: Number of gifts received (In-degrees) split by whether the herder is on their siida's leadership board or not.

Leader?	N	In-degree		
		Median	Mean	SD
Yes	18	1	1.28	1.02
No	12	1	1.75	1.91
Unknown	45	0	0.60	0.78

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457 Table 2: Counts of people receiving a gift or not, split by whether they are genetic relatives and/or members of the same

458 summer siida, for all possible dyads in the district.

Same siida?	Related?	Received gift?		% receiving gift
		No	Yes	
Yes	Yes	74	30	28.8%
	No	153	15	8.9%
No	Yes	88	3	3.3%
	No	1,834	23	1.2%

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462 Table 3: Results from the best-fitting generalized estimating equation. Column 2 shows unstandardized log odds (S.E.);
463 column 3 shows log odds (S.E.) standardized over 2 SD (Schieletz 2010; Gelman 2008) so that the effect sizes can be
464 directly compared. The predictors are the coefficient of relatedness, r , and a binary factor coding whether or not a dyad
465 belongs to the same summer siida. The siida membership predictor most strongly predicts gift giving, although relatedness
466 also has a positive effect. See Supplementary Table S4 for a comparison of all candidate models.

Parameter	Log odds (S.E.)	Standardized log odds (S.E.)
Intercept	-4.178 (0.225)	-3.868 (0.184)
r	4.263 (1.152)	0.691 (0.187)
Same siida?	1.875 (0.447)	1.875 (0.447)

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470 Table 4: Number of gifts given to older or younger herders, split by whether or not the dyad were kin.

Gift to...	Older	Younger	Unknown
... kin	19	13	1
... non-kin	16	14	8

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474 Table 5: Coded reasons for giving gifts, split by whether or not the recipient is a genetic relative and/or belongs to the same
 475 summer siida.

Reason category	Kin in same siida	Non-kin in same siida	Kin in another siida	Non-kin in another siida	Total
Good herders	3	2		8	13
Young/new owners	1	1		5	7
Current or future reciprocity	12	9	1	2	24
Old friend				1	1
Need help		1		1	2
Deserving	2	1			3
Lazy				3	3
Selfish	1				1
Family	7		2	2	11
No reason given	4	1		1	6
Total	30	15	3	23	

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