

■ **Portrayals of Early Relationship Formation Between Chinese-Born Girls and U.S. Adoptive Families in Children’s Storybooks**

Jacki Fitzpatrick, PhD, Texas Tech University • Erin Kostina-Ritchey, PhD, Texas Tech University

THIS QUALITATIVE STUDY examined portrayals of early relationship formation (between U.S. adoptive parents and Chinese female adoptees) in children’s storybooks. The books portrayed easy as well as difficult formations, reflecting some ethnic/cultural challenges in international adoption. Such books might be useful in addressing realities during pre-adoption education and post-adoption adjustment processes.

■ **The Experience of Adopted Siblings upon the Arrival of a New Child in the Family**

Patricia Germain, RN, PhD, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

THE ADOPTION of a second child into an adoptive family is often perceived positively by the first child adopted. However, a different situation may prevail when the second child is biological, rather than adoptive. This study examines the reactions of adopted children and their parents to the arrival of a biological child.

■ **Like Angie and Sandra: Dreaming about Adoption with Celebrity Magazines**

Patricia Germain, RN, PhD, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières • Mireille Lalancette, PhD, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

THIS POSTER is an interdisciplinary collaboration between two scholars: a media discourse specialist and a childcare and adoption specialist. We joined together our expertise to study the narratives about adoption in three U.S. celebrity magazines.

■ **The Removal of America’s Adopted Children**

DeLeith Duke Gossett, J.D., Texas Tech University School of Law

MANY FOREIGN-BORN ADOPTEES are noncitizens because their adoptive parents did not complete their naturalization process, subjecting them to removal. The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 granted retroactive citizenship to those under 18 years of age. The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2015 seeks to close the age loophole but current polarized politics threaten its passage.

■ **Historically Conscious Action: A Methodological Approach to Closed Records Legislation**

Allison F. Hall

THIS POSTER introduces a model for research on search and reunion in relation to closed records legislation: “historically conscious action.” This approach borrows from hermeneutic phenomenology and encourages scholars to integrate two interrelated processes into their work. The poster provides practical examples for applying historically conscious action to adoption research.

■ **Adoption and Special Needs Children**

Desiree Holloway, Montclair State University • Kailif Williams, Montclair State University

THIS POSTER will provide a broad overview of a successful adoption process. We will focus on special needs children as a possible vulnerable group, who may face extra challenges during the adoption process. We will describe the societal views on disabilities and its impact on children with special needs, which may make it more difficult for them to become part of an adopted family unit.

■ **A Birthparent’s Choice: Avoiding the Harsh Consequences of State Statutes**

Michelle M. Leverton, J.D., Whittier Law School

MANY STATES have statutes that allow courts to withhold reunification services to parents who have had parental rights involuntarily terminated to previous children. This poster will explain the consequences of those statutes, and both the benefits and the risks associated with educating parents about their choice to voluntarily relinquish their parental rights to avoid the harsh consequences of these statutes.

■ **Conceptualizing Adoption Through a Diversity Framework: Practical Guidelines for Adoption Competent Therapists**

Alexa Steinberg, MA, Azusa Pacific University • Holli Eaton, PsyD, Azusa Pacific University
• Joshua Morgan, PsyD, Azusa Pacific University • Charles Chege, PsyD, Azusa Pacific University

THE PURPOSE of this poster session is to present a theoretical framework for mental health professionals working with members of the adoption triad that applies a diversity perspective. This framework emphasizes a strengths-based approach that values the individual’s adoption narrative within the context of psychotherapy.

■ **Truly, Madly, Deeply, Understanding the Inner Life of Your Foster and/or Adopted Child**

Jeanette Yoffe, MA, MFT

UNDERSTANDING A CHILD’S internal life experience, especially if he or she has experienced trauma, helps families build a stronger parent-child connection. A strong parent-child emotional bond is the hallmark of resilient, happy, well-adjusted families. It’s also the soundest way to a better society. This poster will define and recognize behavioral signs of trauma, understanding the effects of trauma on children as well as for the parent/caregiver and its implications for a trauma informed approach for children in foster care or children who have been adopted.

