

CALL FOR PAPERS

Adoption & Culture is the journal of The Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture (ASAC). ASAC promotes understanding of the experience, institution, and cultural representation of domestic and transnational adoption and related practices. In its conferences, gatherings, and publications, ASAC provides a forum for discussion and knowledge creation about adoption and related topics through interdisciplinary, culture-based scholarly study and creative practice that consider many ways of perceiving, interpreting, and understanding the institution of adoption.

This special volume of *Adoption & Culture* invites new and original essays that expressly examine perspectives related to first/natal/surrendering mothers in domestic, customary, interracial, and transnational adoption in closed, semi-open, or open systems, so as to forefront these mothers who remain on the margins of critical adoption scholarship. We seek papers that critically examine and explore debates, issues, ideas, and concerns encompassing mothers separated from their child by adoption. Essays or proposals may address a range of critical questions that are elicited at the crossroads of adoption and natal mothers, and should speak to the volume's main theme.

Papers should attempt to challenge or think differently about traditional and institutionalized ideas, assumptions, pathologies, psychologies, and dominant discourses that historically and currently surround adoption. Papers can be written from a variety of perspectives and disciplines (philosophy, history, psychology, law, sociology, social work, women's studies, critical race, transnational or sexuality studies, activism, arts).

Papers might also examine the following:

- * The role of race and class in adoption related to the first/natal/surrendering mother in domestic or transnational contexts including state intervention/state gaze and the severing of filial ties.
- * Critical perspectives of closed, open, customary, and/or informal adoption systems, policies and practices, past and present, as they relate to the first/natal/surrendering mother.
- * Aspects of the meaning, experience, identity, and/or subjectivity of the mother separated from her infant/child by adoption.
- * Offering new critical perspectives on coercion, choice, pre-birth matching, hospital practices, birth alerts, safe havens, consents, open adoption agreements, as related to the first/natal/surrendering mother.
- * Reproductive oppression/exploitation, human rights, and reproductive justice as related to the first/natal/surrendering mother.
- * Impact of separation, and post-adoption outcomes for the first/natal/surrendering mother
 - Proposals or abstracts that vary or interrelate these themes are welcome.
 - Proposals or abstracts about other topics that speak directly and creatively to the volume's theme of first/natal/surrendering mothers in adoption are also welcome.

Please submit your proposals by **August 1, 2022**. Completed manuscripts must be submitted by or before: **November 15, 2022**. Submit all proposals, essays, or direct questions to: Valerie Andrews vjandrews@yorku.ca or Lori Chambers lchambe2@lakeheadu.ca with “**Adoption & Culture Submission**” in the subject line

Adoption and Culture is a peer reviewed journal in the U.S. and the source of cutting edge critical theory and research on adoption.