



CHALLENGING AND CHANGING THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE OF ADOPTION



Open Book
1101 Washington Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55415

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024

4:30pm
Gabrielle Glaser
Shannon Smith
Shana King

Open Book
Performance Hall

Generations Stolen: Screening and Discussion

Screening of the award-winning short documentary film *Generations Stolen*, followed by discussion of the film and a conversation about the future of ICWA. Featuring the film's co-producer Gabrielle Glaser; Shannon Smith, director of the Minnesota-based ICWA Law Center; and Shana King, ICWA Law Center Parent Mentor, Three Affiliated Tribes. Open to the community, available virtually.

Doors open at 4:30pm • Program begins at 5:00pm

8:00 to 9:30pm
Peter Møller
Jennifer Kwon Dobbs
Ryan Gustafson

Truth and Reconciliation: An Update on Korea

Discussion with Korean intercountry adoptees Peter Møller, Ryan Gustafson, and Jennifer Kwon Dobbs about their work and involvement with the Korean government's investigation into past adoptions from the country, plus an update on legal cases being filed in relation to current adoption practices. **Virtual only**, with later release as an AU podcast episode.

SATURDAY JUNE 29, 2024

All Saturday sessions are in-person in Room 203 and available via Zoom.

10:00am
Check-In

Opening Remarks at 10:15am

10:30am
Sara Docan-Morgan

Not Just 'Happily Ever After': Expanding Narratives of Birth Family Reunion for Transnational Korean Adoptees

Sara Docan-Morgan, PhD, presents on reunion in the context of Korean transnational adoption, drawing from her research and her new book: *In Reunion: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Communication of Family*

11:00am
Kim Park Nelson

Strangers in the House: Adoption Tropes in Popular Media

Common depictions of adoption in film and television that show a history of particular tropes around adoption representation that is mostly divorced from real life adoption experiences.

Q&A for these two sessions follow immediately after second session

11:45 - 12:15pm. Catered light lunch from Baba's

12:15pm
Margie/Eun Joo
Andreason Kurt
RuKim • Katherine
Wald

Reflections on Sustaining a Politicized Adoptee-led Organization

Network of Politicized Adoptees will highlight how they are building a community of politicized adoptees and how important the way they operate as an organization is to who they are.

1:30 - 1:45pm. Break

1:45pm
Dr. Liz DeBetta

Un-M-Othered: A Story of Adoption & Patriarchy - Personal Storytelling and the Arts as Advocacy

Presented by Dr. Liz DeBetta, writer and performer of the award-winning solo show *Un-M-Othered*, this interactive workshop will introduce adoptees to the ways that personal storytelling and the arts can be used to advance advocacy.

3:00 - 3:15pm. Break

3:15pm
Adoptees United
& Guests

Ending Session - The Future Adoptee

Adoptees United's board and additional guests open up a free-ranging discussion about the future---specifically "The Future Adoptee." With special guest Mia Ives-Ruble (subject to availability), and with an overview of Adoptees United's legal clinic for intercountry adoptees.

4:30 - 4:45pm. Break/End of Sessions

4:45pm
Gregory Luce

Optional. Wikipedia Editathon Introductory Workshop

Adoptees United's Gregory Luce will kick off the first Wikipedia Editathon through a workshop showing how easy it can be to change---or at least challenge---the dominant narrative of adoption on Wikipedia, the world's largest online encyclopedia of information and knowledge.

Join Us!

6:30pm. Happy Hour at Prye's Brewery
1401 West River Road N, Minneapolis, MN 55411



Schedule current as of
June 26, 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Gabrielle Glaser

Gabrielle Glaser is a journalist and author whose work on mental health, women's rights, and families challenges conventional wisdom and highlights underreported issues. Last year, she co-produced the documentary "Generations Stolen," an award-winning PBS documentary that explores the history and impact of the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families in the United States. Her most recent book, "American Baby," examined the disturbing realities of the country's adoption industry in the 20th century.

Ryan Gustafsson

Ryan Gustafsson is a researcher in the Faculty of Arts. Trained in continental philosophy (phenomenology) and social theory, they conduct research on Korean overseas adoption, transracial adoptee lived experiences, migration, and diaspora. Ryan is the co-founder of the Philosophies of Difference (PoD) group and the Korean Adoptee Adoption Research Network (KAARN), which organize open-to-public seminars and symposia. Their nonfiction writing has appeared in literary outlets including Sydney Review of Books, Liminal Magazine, Peril Magazine, Island Magazine, and others.

Shana King

Shana King works as a parent mentor and community outreach advocate with the Indian Child Welfare Act Law Center in Minneapolis and she provides support to American Indian families affected by the child protection system. Shana helped to create the organization's Parent Mentor Program. She provides peer-to-peer support to Native American families involved in child protection in Minnesota and brings her personal story to agencies across Minnesota and nationally to help bring change and allow stakeholders to hear a personal perspective.

Jennifer Kwon Dobbs

Born in Wonju, Republic of Korea, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs is the author of *Interrogation Room* (White Pine Press, 2018); *Paper Pavilion* (White Pine, 2007), winner of the White Pine Press Poetry Prize; and the chapbooks *Notes from a Missing Person* (Essay Press, 2015) and *Necro Citizens* (German/English edition, hochroth Verlag, 2019). *Interrogation Room* received mention in *The New York Times*, was praised by *World Literature Today* for "a vigorous restlessness," and won the Association of Asian American Studies Award in Creative Writing: Poetry. She also co-translates Sámi poetry with poet-scholar Johanna Domokos, and their translation of Niillas Holmberg's *Juolgevuoddu*, published as *Underfoot* (White Pine Press, 2022), received the American-Scandinavian Foundation's Lief and Inger Sjöberg Prize. She is professor of English and Race, Ethnic, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at St. Olaf College and lives in Minnesota.

Peter Møller

Peter Møller is a Korean-born Danish adoptee and one of the co-founders of Danish Korean Rights Group (DKRG), which has been instrumental in compelling the Korean government to investigate past and current intercountry adoption practices. He is currently the co-director of KoRoot, a Korean organization that supports Korean overseas adoptees with challenges they face in navigating an unfamiliar country and seeking answers about their family background and identity.

Shannon Smith

Shannon Smith has served as the Executive Director of the ICWA Law Center since 2004. She has over 20 years of experience working in the field of Indian child welfare, providing direct legal representation to hundreds of families impacted by the child protection system in state and tribal courts. She also provides ICWA training to local and national audiences. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, she is highly regarded as a leader in the field of Indian child welfare and has served on numerous committees, including the Supreme Court Juvenile Protection Rules Committee, the Legal Service Advisory Council Emerging Leaders, and the Minnesota Tribal/State Agreement drafting committee.

Adoptees United Board and Staff

At the conference: CS Wright (Chair); Shawna Hodgson (Treasurer); Annette O'Connell (Secretary); Gregory Luce (Executive Director). **Additional board members:** Erica Babino and Aubrey Jackson



SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Margie/Eun Joo Andreason

Margie Andreason (she/her), also known as Eun Joo to some, is part of the larger Korean diaspora and is co-founder of Network of Politicized Adoptees. Margie's desire to start NPA grew out of her own healing journey and wanting to find social justice-minded adoptees to organize with. She lives in Mni Sota Makoce (Minnesota, homeland of the Dakota people) with her partner and Sammy, the cutest-dog-ever. Eun Joo takes team building and social change work seriously, but also takes care and joy just as seriously. She does her best to be intentional about where and how she shows up in the community. This has been informed by her 15 years working in nonprofits, and leading community organizing efforts. You'll also catch Margie taking great joy in food, Yelping about said food, playing tennis, appreciating local art, and hiking in the parks year round.

Liz DeBetta

Dr. Liz DeBetta, creator of Migrating Toward Wholeness® is an adoptee and independent scholar-artist-activist committed to changing systems and helping people navigate trauma through creative processes. She believes that stories are powerful change agents and when we write them and share them we connect and heal. Liz is a proud member of Actor's Equity, SAG-AFTRA, Affiliate Faculty at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender and part of the Diversity Scholars Network at the National Center for Institutional Diversity at the University of Michigan. She has published articles on autoethnography and adoptee narratives, has an award-winning one woman show called *Un-M-Othered*, and facilitates trauma informed healing workshops for adoptees and women. Her book *Adult Adoptees and Writing to Heal: Migrating Toward Wholeness* is available from Brill Publishers.

Sara Docan-Morgan

Sara Docan-Morgan (she/her) (PhD, University of Washington) is Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. Her research focuses on how family and personal identities are formed and negotiated through messages in both adoptive and birth families. Her work has been published in various scholarly journals and edited books. She is a former Fulbright scholar to South Korea, an award-winning teacher, and a co-organizer of the International Symposium on Korean Adoption Studies. She is an adult Korean adoptee and a mother of three.

Kim Park Nelson

Kim Park Nelson, PhD, is a Minnesota Korean adoptee whose scholarship and advocacy has focused on the experience of American transnational and transracial adoptees. Dr. Park Nelson has authored or coauthored several published articles on adoption cultures and communities. Her book, *Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences and Racial Exceptionalism* was published by Rutgers University Press in Spring 2016. Last year, Dr. Park Nelson was awarded 2023-2024 Bush Fellowship in recognition of her equity and justice work within organized labor. She teaches Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies at Winona State University.

Kurt RuKim

Kurt RuKim (he/him) is a transracial transnational Korean adoptee who joined the NPA steering committee in 2014. Kurt has found many memorable moments with NPA from pot luck dinners to direct organizing, and presenting at adoptee conferences. All of these experiences have brought necessary attention to his adoptee and Asian American identity. In 2015, Kurt traveled to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the Korean Education Exposure Program KEEP. A former professional dancer-turned educator, Kurt is committed to creating spaces and places that are radically welcoming.

Katherine Wald

Katherine Wald (she/her) is a Chinese adoptee who lives in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota with her cat, 19 (give or take) plants, and overflowing bookcases. She is a licensed social worker who works with teens in foster care to find permanency as well as provides full spectrum adoption services to both kin and non-kin families. Katherine is also back in school to earn her master's degree in social work. In her rare free time she can be found at her local boba shops, eating good food, and playing Stardew Valley on her switch. Katherine values belonging, connection, and community which ties into her involvement as a steering committee member for Network of Politicized Adoptees.