



FUTURE SPECIAL ISSUE  
CALL FOR PAPERS

# *Irregularities in Transnational Adoptions and Child Appropriations: Challenges for Reparation Practices*

*Childhood: A Journal of Global Child Research*

## Guest Editors

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**In this special issue of *Childhood***, we would like to explore the abusive practices in transnational adoption and child appropriations around the world. We are particularly interested in analyzing the impact of illicit practices in the victims' lives, their claims, and identifying practices and examples of justice and reparation.

**Aims and Scope:** Transnational adoption is a global movement of children across borders to new permanent and irreversible legal relationships. Far from being simple, transnational adoptive processes involve social, economic, cultural and political relations marked by geographies of inequalities of power on a global scale. It is a child circulation that visualizes unequal relations between sending and receiving countries, as children circulate mainly from poor regions and families to richer ones.

Countries with low birth rates put considerable pressure on poor countries to locate children in order to satisfy the demands of foreign families. The cases of child 'trafficking' for adoption are one of the consequences resulting from this 'imbalance' in terms of 'supply and demand'. In this context, the process of obtaining children for transnational adoptions is characterized by illicit forms such as sale, fraud, deception, force, falsification of their legal status as orphans abandoned or in need of care, which at the same time are some of the possible means through which to include them in the international adoption system.

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In various spaces, researchers and children's rights organizations study the abuses committed in intercountry adoption procedures and analyze them as practices involving serious irregularities and violations of the rights of the child and of their birth families. By way of example, several reports of international organizations such as UNICEF, Terre des Hommes, and International Social Service investigate the grey zones of intercountry adoption and inform against practices that violate the principle of 'best interests of the child', the principle of subsidiarity and the condition of the 'adoptable' child.

In this issue, we welcome empirical and theoretically-informed contributions that adopt local and global perspectives and investigate the conceptual and practical implications of adoption and appropriation experiences.

### **Possible themes for papers include, but are not limited to:**

- historical and geographical contexts of illegal adoptions, appropriations, child laundering, 'social orphanhood', 'orphanage business';
- public secrets, silenced stories of kidnapping, sale and trafficking, missing and stolen babies and children, genocide, appropriation of children in dictatorship regimes;
- voices and testimonies of adoptees, cases of discovering illegal adoption or false identities;
- deconstruction of the 'rescue' discourse, violations of the rights of birth families;
- local, global and intersectional inequalities in transnational adoptions and repercussions in family relationships
- effects of international hegemonic adoption regulations and their collision with the local regulations of the adopted countries of origin;
- examples of good reparation practices for victims: legal reforms and developments, recommendations and best practices guidelines;
- models of open adoption among the adoptive triad;
- systems that guarantee comprehensive reparation, bilateral efforts and conventions, protocols of action between countries in order to find the origins of transnational adoption, role of international mediation;
- impact of digital social networks to trace origins and contact transnational adoptive families;
- preventive DNA programs, genetic identification against child trafficking and illegal adoptions.

### **Schedule**

- Submission of abstracts (300 words, in English) by **February 15, 2020**. Abstracts should be sent electronically to the Managing Editor Ragnhild Berge ([ragnhild.berge@ntnu.no](mailto:ragnhild.berge@ntnu.no)).
- Please include author's name(s), affiliation(s) and contact information.
- Invitation sent to possible paper contributors: **February 25, 2020**.
- Submission of full papers: **June 30, 2020**.

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