

Name of organizer:	Susan Crawford
Organisation:	Halton Multicultural Council
E-mail	
Title of workshop:	Transnational Families: Where race, culture, and adoption intersect
Format of Workshop:	Presentation workshop
Theme	Familles, enfants et jeunes
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Name of first presenter:	Susan Crawford
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Halton Multicultural Council
Title:	Music, Food and Costumes: Examining cultural enrichment through transracial international adoption
Name of second presenter:	Lynn Gidluck
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	University of Regina
Title:	Falling through the Cracks: Gaps in Service Requirements for Families with Transracially adopted Children
Name of third presenter:	Sonia Corbin Dwyer
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Title:	Falling through the Cracks: Gaps in Service Requirements for Families with Transracially adopted Children
Name of fourth presenter:	Michele Gnanamuttu
E-mail address:	
Organisation:	McGill University
Title:	Adult Adoptees' Experiences and Understandings of Interethnic Adoption and Identity

Abstract

This workshop presents research on transracial and transnational families created through adoption across Canada. Presentations examine: cultural enrichment through adoption, based on the Transracial Parenting Initiative; gaps in delivering Pre and Post Adoption Services and the needs of transracial families; and adult adoptees' complex experiences and understandings of ethno-racial identity.

Summary

This presentation examines notions of cultural enrichment of families adopting children transracially internationally in Canada. Ways in which opportunities for new parents to explore and engage in racially and culturally diverse communities as a result of their adoptions are explored, and how the ideals of multiculturalism in Canada can support and potentially minimize a child's connection to race and culture. Benefits of cultural sharing through adoption and the challenges parents and adoptees may face as a result of multicultural ideals are discussed utilizing findings from the Transracial Parenting Initiative, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

This study reviews best practices in pre-and post-adoption support services for transracial families. Practices vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction on how much emphasis is placed on the unique challenges in adopting children of a race different from the prospective parents during the pre adoption period. Post-adoption, services to assist families in dealing with issues that arise from issues related to race, racism and racial identity and other unique challenges also differ throughout the country. Implications in the gaps in service delivery are identified.

In this presentation, interviews conducted with Canadian adult adoptees, which invite us to consider their perspectives on the often contentious issue of adoptees' ethno-racial identities are discussed. Specifically, this talk explores adoptees' complex lived experiences and understandings of ethnicity, culture and 'race'. This project seeks to underscore how much adult adoptees have to contribute to ongoing debates and best practices of interethnic adoption, although to date their voices have been conspicuously absent.