



Academy

**Elevating Clinical Practice
In Permanency**

Beyond the Textbook: Incorporating the Wisdom of Lived Experience

LO & Timed Agenda

Learning Objectives

1. Apply a critical lens to child welfare history and legislation, allowing clinicians to better address systemic impacts on adoptees in their therapeutic work.
2. Facilitate empowering discussions that help adoptees identify and navigate oppressive systems, fostering both individual healing and collective advocacy in therapy.
3. Adapt therapeutic approaches to account for adoption-related issues throughout the client's life, promoting holistic support tailored to the adoptee's evolving identity and needs.

Session One (2-hours): Historical Context and Present-Day Shifts: Clinician Biases and Therapeutic Practices

Module Learning Objective: Understand the historical and legislative context for the current child welfare system and realize how these can impact adoptees today.

Instructor: Tony Parsons

Agenda:

1. Lecture: Adoption as gold standard/orphan trains (15 mins)
2. Lecture: Post-1950 South Korean adoptions begin as a result of the Korean war (15 mins)
3. Break (5 minutes)
4. Legislative Laws and History
 - a. ICWA 1978 (5 mins)
 - b. AACWA, 1980 (5 mins)
 - c. MEPA/IAEPA, 1994/96 (5 mins)
 - d. ASFA, 1997 (10 mins)
 - e. FFPSA, 2018 (5 mins)
5. Practical Application Scenario (30 mins)

Research/Works Cited

Susan Harris O'Connor - Racial Identity Model

- Roberts, Dorothy, et al. "Black Families Matter: How the Child Welfare System Punishes Poor Families of Color." *The Appeal*, theappeal.org/black-families-matter-how-the-child-welfare-system-punishes-poor-families-of-color-33ad20e2882e/.
- Yarrow, Andrew L. "History of U.S. Children's Policy, 1900-Present." *First Focus*, Apr. 2009
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- "Best Interests: How Child Welfare Serves as a Tool of White Supremacy." *Best Interests: How Child Welfare Serves as a Tool of White Supremacy*, Political Research Associates, 26 Nov. 2019, www.politicalresearch.org/2019/11/26/best-interests-how-child-welfare-serves-tool-white-supremacy.
- Volk, Steve. Can Racial Bias Be Corrected in the Child Welfare System?. *Next City*, 12 Apr. 2021, nextcity.org/features/view/can-racial-bias-be-corrected-in-the-child-welfare-system?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.
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- Adoption Council. (2024.). "Predictors of Adoption Disruption and Dissolution: A Literature Review". <https://adoptioncouncil.org/publications/predictors-of-adoption-disruption-and-dissolution-a-literature-review/>
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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). *Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 - P.L. 96-272*. Child Welfare Information Gateway. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/adoption-assistance-and-child-welfare-act-1980-pl-96-272/>.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2020, December 7). *The Multiethnic Placement Act and Transracial Adoption 25 Years Later*. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/multiethnic-placement-act-transracial-adoption-25-years-later>.
- Adoption Council. (n.d.). *Understanding the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997*. <https://adoptioncouncil.org/publications/understanding-the-adoption-and-safe-families-act-asfa/>.
- Congressional Research Service. (2022, December 20). *Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)*. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN10858>

Session Two (2-hours): Adoptee Consciousness Model

Module Learning Objectives:

1. Offer ways to incorporate processes marginalized groups develop awareness about oppressive systems and structures, both as individual and importantly collective, in order to engage in activism for social justice.
2. Highlight how adopted individuals move between the touchstones in non-linear ways.
3. Provide updated language for “coming out of the fog.”

Instructor: Angela Tucker

Agenda:

1. Lecture: Model overview (10 mins)
2. Lecture: Adoptees as a marginalized group? (5 mins)
3. Status quo: believing the dominant narrative of adoption (5 mins)
4. Rupture (5 mins)
5. Dissonance (5 mins)
6. Expansiveness (10 mins)
7. Forgiveness and Activism (10 mins)
8. Break (5 mins)
9. Group Discussion: Impact of the Model on Your Work
10. Roleplay: “My Parents Loved Me So Much: (10 mins)
11. Roleplay: [Adoptee Development Video](#) (18 mins)
12. Roleplay: [Therapy for Adoptees](#) [3:35] (15 mins)
13. Roleplay: Harper [8:56] What touchstone is Harper in? (20 min)

Research/Works Cited

- [Coming to consciousness – Harlow's Monkey](#)
- [Penny, Borders & Portnoy's reconstruction model, Amanda Baden's reculturation, Betty Jean Lifton, Paulo Friere, Gloria Anzaldúa, Grace Newton](#)
- [The trauma and healing of consciousness - ScienceDirect](#)
- [Out of the Fog and into Consciousness](#)

Session Three (2-hours): Expanding the Therapeutic Lens to Adulthood: Adoption Over the Life-course for Adopted Persons

Module Learning Objectives:

1. To discuss the mental health services needs of adopted people in adulthood.
2. To identify clinical models for approaching for working with adoptees in adulthood.
3. To learn clinical approaches to working with adopted adults that incorporates a life-course perspective.

Instructor: Hollee A. McGinnis, MSW, PhD

Agenda:

1. Lecture: Adoptee mental health service needs and mental health service use (10 mins)
2. Lecture: Clinical models for thinking about adoption in adulthood: The past is still present, the cyclical nature of human development, and theories of adult achievement (10 mins)
3. Clinical approaches to working with adopted adults (20 mins)
4. Summary: returning and revisiting adoption (5 mins)
5. Case Example: Zoom breakout roleplay (30 mins)

Research/Works Cited

- Auslander, W., Edmond, T., Foster, A. Smith, P., McGinnis, H., Gerke, D., Tlappek, S., Threlfall, J., Voth Schrag, R., Dunn, J., Jonson-Reid, M. (2020). Cognitive behavioral intervention for trauma in adolescent girls in child welfare: A randomized controlled trial. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 119, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2020.105602>
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- McGinnis, H.A. (2021). Mental health and well-being of Korean adoptees over the life course. In Anderson Yoon, Sung Seek Mon, & Haein Son (Eds.) *Understanding Korean Americans' Mental Health: A Guide to Culturally Competent Practices, Program Developments, and Policies*. Roman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.
- McGinnis, H.A., Farina, A., Baden, A.L., Kremer, K., O'Leary Wiley, M. (2021, Campbell title registration). The state of knowledge on adult transracial and intercountry adoptees: An evidence and gap map, *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 17, 1. DOI:10.1002/cl2.1145