

Overview

- Adoption in the Public Square
- What's Driving The Negativity
- Impact on Public Policy
- What We Can Do About It

A | HOME *The Atlantic* SIGN IN SUBSCRIBE

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What Adoption ‘Salvation’ Narratives Get Wrong

“The implication, whether people realized it or not, was that I was worth ‘saving,’ but my birth family wasn’t.”

By Nicole Chung

NOVEMBER 07, 2022 SHARE

City Journal
<https://www.city-journal.org/anti-adoption-drumbeat>

The Anti-Adoption Drumbeat | City Journal
 The Anti-Adoption Drumbeat. Media and policymakers put “social justice” above child welfare. Naomi Schaefer Riley. November 14, 2022. The Social Order.
 Missing: sentiment | Must include: sentiment

Reddit
https://www.reddit.com/comments/x0ee48/whats_u...

What’s up with an anti adoption movement on tiktok? - Reddit
 Sep 14, 2022 — Adoption wasn’t an option for me in either situation because the feeling of not being wanted exists. My parents want me more than their need to ...

The Pain of White Privilege and Racism in Transracial Adoption

1. Stereotypes of black womanhood run deep. · 2. My kids will not learn about **institutional racism** by watching how people treat me. · 3. The black community is ...

SAMANTHA H. SHAPIRO BACKCHANNEL MAR 4, 2021 7:00 AM

Adoption Moved to Facebook and a War Began

As the adoption industry migrates to social media, regretful adoptees and birth mothers are confronting prospective parents with their personal pain—and anger.

◀ Gmail

Post

joonae.hk

Adoption is, in and of itself, a violence based in inequality. It is candy-coated, marketed, and packaged to seemingly concern families and children, but it is an economically and politically incentivized crime. It stems culturally and historically from the “peculiar institution” of Anglo-Saxon indentured servitude and not family creation...It is a reductive inversion of informal kinship practices. It is a negation of families and an annihilation of communities not imbued with any notion of humanity due to the adoptive cultures’ inscribed biases concerning race, class, and human relevancy.

From "Adoptee as Citizen, Denizen, Alien"
 by Daniel Drennan Elawar

*I learned about this quote and TRA thinker, author, and artist from Matthew Charles' excellent abolitionist podcast "little did u know." I highly recommend it (episodes 4 & 5).

@joonae.hk

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544 likes

Three Key Assumptions within Narrative

Precipitating Event

Ideological Current

Adoption Destroys Cultural Heritage

- Endemic demonstrations of white saviorism and colonialism leading to cultural genocide in the culture at large.
- Increase in Transracial Adoptions ¹
- Hegemonic Power: Broadens oppression beyond overt acts of injustice to include the ways dominant social groups impose their values, traditions, norms, and ways of being and doing on society such that they are accepted as natural, normal, or even God-ordained. View oppression as structural, manifested in social institutions and systems. ²

Adoptions Don't Last

- Number of failed adoptions provide little hope that adoption as a permanency outcome is worth it.
- Example: USA Today Report: 66,000 broken adoptions from 2008-2020.³
- Lived Experience places prioritization over evidence. ²

1. Kalisher et al (2021). The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) Analysis and Trends after 25 Years. National Council for Adoption. Adoption Advocate No. 162 Retrieved from <https://adoptioncouncil.org/publications/the-multiethnic-placement-act-mepa-analysis-and-trends-after-25-years/>

2. Shenvi, Neil and Sawyer, Pat. Critical Dilemma: The Rise of Critical Theories and Social Justice Ideology...Harvest House Publishers, 2023

3. USA Today (2022). Adoption failures: 66,000 adoptees end up in the foster care system. Retrieved from <https://www.usatoday.com/restricted/?return=https%3A%2F%2Ftangent.usatoday.com%2Fin-depth%2Fnews%2Finvestigations%2F2022%2F05%2F19%2Ffailed-adoptions-america-foster-care-troubles%2F9258846002%2F>

Adoption Destroys Cultural Heritage

	Percent of Transracial Adoptions 2005-2007	Percent of Transracial Adoptions 2017-2019
Adoptions of Black Children	21%	33%
Adoptions of Hispanic Children	49%	46%
Adoptions of White Children	4%	6%

Kalisher et al (2021). The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) Analysis and Trends after 25 Years. National Council for Adoption. Adoption Advocate No. 162. Retrieved from <https://adoptioncouncil.org/publications/the-multiethnic-placement-act-mepa-analysis-and-trends-after-25-years/>

4. Rolock, N., White, K. (2016). Post-permanency discontinuity: A longitudinal examination of outcomes for foster youth after adoption or guardianship. *Children and Youth Services Review* Volume 70, November 2016, Pages 419-427. Retrieved from https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0190740916303486?casa_token=CwqQinDhZNUAAAAA:p406soqHFHbh5KPpPnc3hUVMdpqiVJkNh_dBa3jhwLmeb4Mbw_mcN7yUo7v66jSekLrM4nZEg

5. Sattler, K. M. P., & Font, S. A. (2021). Predictors of Adoption and Guardianship Dissolution: The Role of Race, Age, and Gender Among Children in Foster Care. *Child Maltreatment*, 26(2), 216-227.

Adoptions Don't Last

In one recent study of over 51,000 adoption or legal guardianships for 10 years or until the age of majority, found 87% did not experience post permanency discontinuity.⁴

Study investigating rates of guardianship and adoption dissolution using a complete entry cohort from a large state foster care system found: over 2% of adoptions and over 7% of guardianships dissolved.⁵

Tennessee Mother Ships Adopted Son Back to Moscow Alone

Russian President Medvedev calls boy's return a "monstrous deed."

By ABC News
April 9, 2010, 12:18 PM



Policy Implications

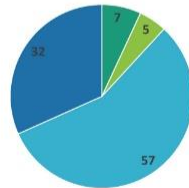
Adoption Destroys Cultural Heritage

- Minnesota African American Preservation Act
- Repeal or Amend of Multi-Ethnic Placement Act?
- Move to abolish Adoptions Safe Families Act

Adoptions Don't Last

- Preserving Family Bonds (NY)
- HB 1747 Keeping Families Together Act (WA)

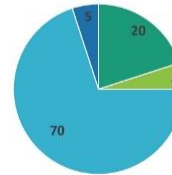
All cases that exited the court in 2020



■ Guardianship 7% ■ Aged Out Youth 5%
■ Reunification 57% ■ Adoption 32%

Where we want to be

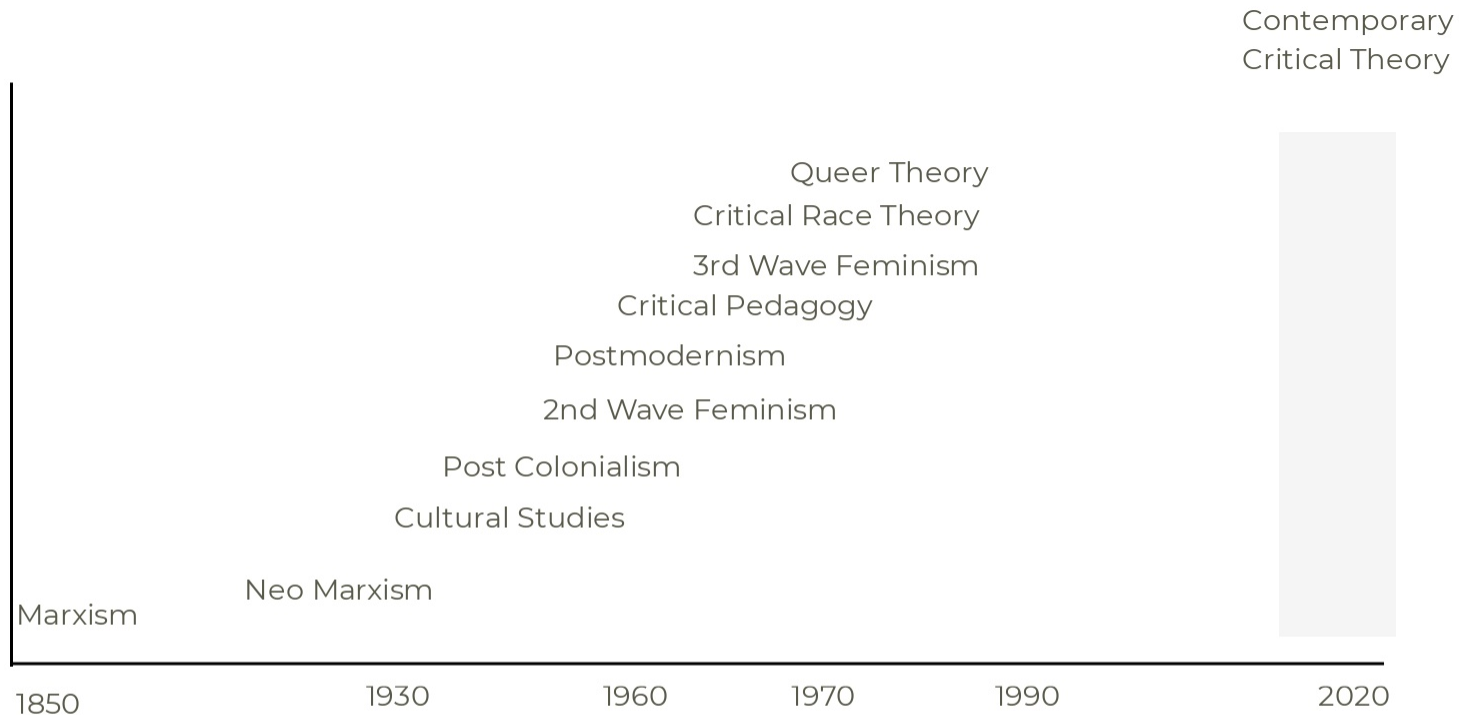
Future vision of cases exiting the court



■ Guardianship 20% ■ Aged Out Youth 5%
■ Reunification 70% ■ Adoption 5%

Finding Common Ground

- Finding Common Ground: Let's not lose sight of the estimated 30,000 youth in care who have become legal orphans. Regardless of ideological viewpoints, what can we do to ensure these children have an opportunity to belong in family?
 - Consider developing ways to define this specific set of children in the state's data.
- Develop methods to track the cohort of children who have a goal of adoption and no family identified to adopt them. Set adoption goals for this population of children.
- Ensure trainings for adoptive parents help develop cultural competencies.
- Consider increasing post placement support for adoptive families.
- Data and lived experience don't have to be pitted against each other. Both bring value. Set a large table to capture many perspectives.



Ideological Current: Contemporary Critical Theory to include the social binary, hegemonic power, lived experience, and social justice