

The Family Journal

Call for Papers

Family and couple counseling with adult adoptees: Culturally affirming approaches and practices

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Submission Due: September 13, 2024

The Family Journal is the peer-reviewed journal for the [International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors](#), a division of the American Counseling Association. *The Family Journal* advances the theory, research, and practice of counseling with couples and families from a family systems perspective.

Adoption related discourse has shifted from an adoption is a win-win narrative (Baden, 2016) to widely accepted acknowledgement that adoption related consequences to the adopted person, first parents, and others in the adoption kinship network (Grotevant et al., 2005) are lifelong. Adoption related couple and family counseling practice and research has predominantly focused on children and adolescents; yet professional counselors must be informed on how to best collaborate with adult adopted clients. Hence, we are seeking a wide array of scholarly works that offer strengths-based, culturally affirming, and adoption-informed couple and family counseling practices for adults with adoption histories and their families. Manuscripts may be empirical, theoretical, or conceptual, to include case conceptualizations*.

We also welcome adult adoptee focused work related to incorporating adoption-informed teaching strategies in counselor education couple and family counseling courses, innovative clinical practice briefs, and reviews of adoption informed books, documentaries, television/streaming series, podcasts, or movies as they apply to potential counseling interventions (i.e. cinetherapy, bibliotherapy).

TFJ is family and couple counselor focused, and we welcome submissions from other mental health providers.

Potential couple and family counseling topics may address:

- Transracial adult adoptees
- Transnational/international adult adoptees
- Late discovery adult adoptees
- Parenting as an adult adoptee
- Young/emergent adult adoptees
- Middle aged adoptees
- Adoptee elders
- Kinship adult adoptees
- Adult adoptee estrangement
- Same race adoptees of Color
- Foster to adoptee adult diaspora

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- Intersecting and adoptee identities (ie. LGBTQIA +, spiritual, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc.)
- Birth/first family reunion
- Ethics in adoption-informed counseling practices
- Advocacy actions for adoption-informed counselors
- Adaptations of evidenced based practices for adult adoptees

Authors should follow *The Family Journal Author Guidelines* and submit their manuscript to sbranco@paloalto.edu for initial desk review. Selected works will move forward to a full peer-review process.

Teaching strategies, practice briefs, and reviews should be 5 to 10 pages and follow APA 7 guidelines. Teaching strategies and practice briefs should include the following information:

1. Name of strategy or practice intervention.
2. Brief literature review on the foundations of the strategy or intervention (if applicable)
3. Instructions on how to implement the teaching strategy or practice intervention.
4. Information on evaluation and or assessment of the strategy or intervention.
5. References

Book, documentaries, television/streaming series, podcasts, or movie reviews as they apply to potential counseling interventions (i.e. cinetherapy, bibliotherapy) should include the following:

1. Name of reviewed book, movie, podcast, etc.
2. Summary of the reviewed material.
3. Adoption-related themes.
4. Instructions on how to utilize in couple or family counseling for adult adoptees.
5. References

*Case conceptualizations must adhere to American Counseling Association and International Association of Marriage and Couple Counseling ethical guidelines for using client case studies.

References

- Baden, A. L. (2016). "Do you know your *real* parents?" and other adoption microaggression. *Adoption Quarterly*, 19,(1), 1-25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10926755.2015.1026012>
- Grotevant, H. D., Perry, Y. V., & McRoy, R. G. (2005). Openness in Adoption: Outcomes for Adolescents within Their Adoptive Kinship Networks. In D. M. Brodzinsky & J. Palacios (Eds.), *Psychological issues in adoption: Research and practice* (pp. 167–186). Praeger Publishers/Greenwood Publishing Group.