

Circulating Children: Lessons from Hawaii for International Adoption.

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My paper will draw on my fieldwork in Hawaii to examine policies and practices of international adoption. Changes in Hawaiian adoption custom (hanai) under the impact of over two centuries of Americanization illuminate the problems that may result from imposing international regulations on the circulation of children from one nation to another. I examine the tensions between customary interpretations of child exchange and contemporary views of the rights of children.
