

New Global Families: Celebrity Adopters to 'Ordinary' Australian Adoptive Parents"

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Contemporary transnational adoption almost always involves a West/rest dynamic due to the overwhelming disparity between the countries that send children for placement, and those that receive them. The recent wave of White celebrities adopting children from overseas has drawn considerable public attention to this intentionally intimate yet publicly visible and global practice. Within and beyond the spotlight, however, most analyses to date have failed to explore how adoptive parents themselves represent the circumstances forming their post-traditional families.

This paper aims to foreground major competing discourses and processes that complicate and contradict notions of love and openness in such families, while considering competing and reinforcing issues boundary management. Emerging literature on the prevailing cultural dynamics in transnational adoption and some of the incoming data from a current qualitative study of white adoptive parents in Australia are featured for discussion. In summary, the findings assist us to have a deeper understanding into how adoptive parents shape and reconstruct their own roles as parents whose sense of identity and belonging must necessarily develop across various lines of difference.