

**Session 9.3 Adoption and Race in American Literature**

CL 352

Chair: Carol Singley  
English, Rutgers University-Camden

Cynthia Callahan  
English, Ohio State University at Mansfield  
"Slavery's Tangled Genealogies: Adoption and Racial Purity in Charles W. Chesnut's Fiction"

Lori Askeland  
English, Wittenberg University  
"The Shock of Recognition: Kinship Care Across the Color Line in U. S. Literature and Culture"

Martha Satz  
English, Southern Methodist University  
"Adopting America: Adoption as an Entree to the Immigrant Experience in Anne Tyler's Digging to America and Gish Jen's Love Wife"

Coffee Break

CL 501

10:30-11:00

11:00-12:15

CL 332

Introduction: Jean Ferguson Carr  
English and Women's Studies, University of Pittsburgh

Keynote: Susan Bordo  
English and Women's Studies, University of Kentucky  
"Will the 'Real' Parent (s) (s) Please Step Forward: Beyond Our Fantasies and Fears about Open Adoption"

Box Lunch

CL 501

12: 15- 1:30

CL 352

**Session 11.1 Adoption Novels: British, American, and Transnational**

Chair: Marah Gubar  
English and Children's Literature, University of Pittsburgh

Sue Howard  
English, Duquesne University  
"Transracial Adoption in the Eighteenth Century Transatlantic Novel: Questioning National Identities in Charlotte Lennox's Euphemia"

Margaret Homans  
English and Women's Studies, Yale University  
"Adoption and the Circulation of Money in Silas Marner and What Maisie Knew"

Carol Singley  
English and Women's Studies, Rutgers-Camden,  
"Sacrificing Sentiment in Edith Wharton's Adoption Novel, Summer"

**Session 11.2 Adoptive and First Mothers Blog Their Way through New Family Structures**

CL 349

Chair: Shannon LC Cate  
English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Editor, LiteraryMama.Com e-zine

Shannon LC Cate, "Challenging Adoption Blogs"

Dawn Friedman, Op-Ed Editor, Literary Mama.Com,  
"Someone Else's Shoes: How Dialogue On-Blog Impacted a Real Adoption"

Susan Marie Harrington  
English and Women's Studies, Indiana University  
Purdue University Indianapolis

"Adoption Online: The Creation of Narrative Spaces and Identity"

Jenna Hatfield,  
AdoptionBlogs.com  
"First Mothers Find a Voice"

**Session 11.3 "What Stories are Adoption Stories: Historians Talk about Memories, Bureaucracies, Narratives, and Numbers"**

CL 363

Chair: E. Wayne Carp  
History, Pacific Lutheran University

Ellen Herman  
History, University of Oregon  
"Of Numbers and Narratives"

**Session 7.2** Opening Birth Records: Film and Memoir FFA 125

Chair: Jill Deans  
Office of National Scholarships,  
University of Connecticut

Jean Strauss  
Film-maker, showing and discussing her film "Vital Records"

Ruth Nemzoff  
International Studies, Bentley College,  
Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University  
"How Feminism Changed the Adoption System"

**Session 7.3** Robert McCall and Christina Groark WWPH  
showing and discussing their video, 5130  
"Faces of Promise and Hope,"  
(continuation of presentation in 6.2)

Dinner (on your own)

**Session 8** Evening of Adoption Memoir, Poetry, Film FFA 125

M. C. Emily Hipchen  
English, University of West Georgia

Nancy McCabe  
English, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Jennifer Kwon Dobbs  
English, University of Southern California

Jeanne Marie Laskas  
English, University of Pittsburgh

Jean Strauss  
Filmmaker, The Triumvirate

Sheila Ganz, from  
"Handbook on Healing for Birthmothers"

Jan Beatty  
Creative Writing, Carlow University

Mary Anne Cohen  
Editor, Origins: A Birthmothers' Newsletter

**Session 12.3** Internationally Adoptive Parents CL 349

Chair: Nancy McCabe  
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford, English

Kristine Freeark  
Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan,  
"Make Room for Daddy: The Impact of Father Involvement on the  
Adoption Dialogue in Transnationally Adoptive Families"  
(written with Katherine Rosenblum)

Mitch Levenberg  
English, St. Francis College and New York University  
Excerpts from a memoir about adopting in China

Chris Winston  
Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network  
"Adoptive Parents, Race, and Children's Ethnic Communities"

Indigo Williams Willing  
Social Science, University of Queensland,  
"New Global Families: Celebrity Adopters to 'Ordinary'  
Australian Adoptive Parents"

5:00-6:00 **Session 13.** Business meeting of ASAIK

Dining  
Room A,  
WPU

6:10 p.m. **Conference Dinner (Reservations Required)**

WPU  
Lower  
Lounge

8:00 pm. **Session 14** Phil Bertelsen, Realization Pictures  
showing and discussing his film:  
Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America

FFA 125

Sally Haslanger  
Philosophy and Women's Studies, MIT  
"Family, Ancestry, and Self: What is the Moral  
Significance of Biological Ties?"

12:30  
Box Lunch (to be provided)

FFA  
Cloister

1:45-3:00

FFA 125

Introduction: David Herring,  
Law, University of Pittsburgh

Keynote: Dorothy Roberts  
Law / Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research,  
Northwestern University  
"Adoption and Culture: The Difference Politics Makes"

3:00-3:15

FFA  
Cloister

3:15-4:45

FFA 202

Session 6.1 Men Write Adoption Memoirs

Chair: Faith Adiele  
English, University of Pittsburgh

Ralph Savarese  
English, Grinnell College  
from Reasonable People: A Memoir of Autism and Adoption

Peter McCullough  
English Renaissance Literature, Lincoln College,  
Oxford University  
"Opening Adoption Closets: Sexuality, Class, and Place"

Ned Balbo  
Writing, Loyola College of Maryland  
from poetry and prose

Craig Hickman  
from Fumbling Toward Divinity: The Adoption Scriptures

Session 6.2 Adoption in Russia

Chair: Irina Livezeanu  
History, University of Pittsburgh

WWPH  
5130

Heather Jacobson  
Sociology, University of Texas at Arlington  
"A Leap of Faith: Managing Health Uncertainty in International Adoption"

Jessica Leinaweaver  
Anthropology, University of Manitoba  
"Discourses of Health in Peruvian Adoption"

Sonya Mardín  
Medicine, New York University  
"Biomedical Representations of Prospective Children at the International  
Adoption Clinic"

Coffee Break  
CL 501

Session 16.1 Adoption, History, and Politics  
CL 349

Chair, Ellen Herman, History, University of Oregon

Steven Andrews, English, Grinnell College  
"Abducted by Puritans: Adoption, Race, and the Politics of the New Frontier"

Allison Varzally, History, California State University at Fullerton  
"Asian Adoptees and the Politics of Interracial American Families"

Marian Quardly, History, Monash University (Australia)  
"Political Representations of Adoption in Australia, 1977-2007"

Session 16.2 International Adoptees' Identity Formation  
363 CL

Chair: Mark Jerng, English, University of California, Davis

Lori Delale-O'Connor  
Sociology, Northwestern University  
"Learning to Be Me: The Role of Adoptee Culture Camps in teaching  
Adopted Children Their Birth Culture"

Janet Eldred, English, University of Kentucky, "Diasporic Orphans"

Jayashree Mohanty, Social Work, University of Pittsburgh,  
"Ethnic Socialization and Identity Development Among International Adoptees"

Jeff Leinaweaver, Human Development and Organizational Systems,  
Fielding Graduate Institute,  
"The International Adoptee as Public Intellectual"

Good-byes. We will go to Foster's or another restaurant for lunch.

12:30

**Thursday, October 11, 2007**

2:00-8:00 p.m	<b>Registration:</b> English Department	CL 501 Lobby
3:45-5:15	<b>Session 1</b> Adoption Memoirs, Classic and New  Chair: Marianne Noy, English and Women's Studies, University of Pittsburgh  Jean Strauss from Beneath a Tall Tree  Lorraine Dusky from Birthmark  Carol Schaefer from The Other Mother  Emily Hipchen English, University of West Georgia from Coming Apart Together: Fragments from an Adoption  Get Acquainted Reception (Light Refreshments)  Dinner (on your own)	CL 501
8:00	<b>Session 2</b>  Welcome: Nicole Constable, Anthropology and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh  Introduction: Frayda Cohen Anthropology and Women's Studies, University of Pittsburgh  Keynote: Emily Prager "Adoption—A Two-Way Street"  Response: Toby Alice Volkman, editor, Cultures of Transnational Adoption	CL 501

**Conference Sponsors**

**At University of Pittsburgh:**

School of Arts and Sciences  
Department of English  
Literature and Writing Programs  
Women's Studies Program  
Office of the Provost  
School of Law  
Cultural Studies Program  
Film Studies Program  
School of Social Work  
Center for Latin American Studies  
Asian Studies Center  
European Union/European Studies Center  
Center for Bioethics and Health Law  
Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies  
Center on Race and Social Problems  
Department of Anthropology  
Department of History  
Department of Sociology  
Lynn Emanuel

**Elsewhere:**

Barcelona Institute for Childhood and the Urban World  
University of Alberta Faculty of Arts  
Rutgers University-Camden, College of Arts and Sciences  
Carnegie Mellon University, Departments of English and History  
Duke University, Department of English and Women's and Gender Studies Program  
Carlow University, Women's Studies Program  
Chatham University

**Alliance for the Study of Adoption, Identity, and Kinship**

ASAIK seeks to promote understanding of the experience and institution of adoption in relation to literature, history, philosophy, anthropology, law, political theory, psychology, sociology, cultural studies and other humanistic disciplines; and to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of artistic creation dealing with adoption and related issues, in poetry, fiction, memoir, song, drama, film, and other visual arts.

We began with college literature teachers who met at the Modern Language Association annual convention and adopted a constitution in 1998; we have sponsored many events at the MLA and other conferences. We publish an annual newsletter. Our first conference was held at the University of Tampa in November 2005.

**2007 Executive Committee**

Emily Hipchen (University of West Georgia), co-chair; Marianne Noy (University of Pittsburgh), co-chair and current newsletter editor; Ellen Herman (University of Oregon); Margaret Homans (Yale University); Mark Jerng (University of California, Davis); Carol J. Singley (Rutgers University, Camden)