

The Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture (ASAC) Presents

in cooperation with Adoption Initiative

ASAC 2018 Oakland | *Formations: Thinking Kinship Through Adoption*

Three Days of Community Events · October 18 – 20, 2018 · All Events Free and Open to the Public

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

Thoughts from a Birth/First Mother on the Intersections of Culture, Class, and Profession · Welcome & Keynote Address

7:00 P.M., Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

Dr. Julie Pelletier is Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of Winnipeg and recently published the co-edited collection, *Gambling on Authenticity: Gaming, the Noble Savage, and the Not-So-New Indian* (2017). A cultural anthropologist specializing in Indigenous cultures and Indigenizing the academy, Professor Pelletier is also a first mother who relinquished her child for adoption and maintains a meaningful relationship with her daughter. Her lecture touches on the trauma of government and missionary removal of Indigenous children from their families. Her reflections on being an Indigenous first parent are informed by her scholarship but also her social activism.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

New Opportunities for Publishing Adoption Scholarship · Keynote Roundtable

10:15 A.M., Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

This round-table will celebrate the newly established relationship between ASAC and The Ohio State University Press (OSUP) and outline the opportunities it has enabled for publishing the latest high-quality interdisciplinary work in adoption studies. We will consider the development of ASAC's journal *Adoption & Culture* and explore the prospects for placing essays, proposing ideas for special issues, etc. We will also discuss OSUP's new book series, "Formations: Adoption, Kinship and Culture," as a means of supporting and disseminating conference participants' current research.

Coercion and Freedom in Light of New Family Values · Keynote Address

5:15 P.M., Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

Dr. Judith Butler is Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a foundational figure in what has become contemporary queer and gender studies, defining the field in monographs such as *Gender Trouble* (1990), *Antigone's Claim: Kinship Between Life and Death* (2000), and many other books and essays. Her research probes the relationships among gender, sexuality, and kinship constructions. In recognition of her transformative thinking, Professor Butler has received numerous grants and awards, including an Andrew Mellon Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement in the Humanities (2009-13) and a Guggenheim fellowship (1999).

Voices of Adoption: Creative Writing Reading

8:00 P.M., Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

This event features authors from various perspectives whose writings illustrate the diverse and innovative ways that adoption can be represented in literary arts. Our program highlights the complexities of adoption and the voices of emerging as well as established artists. This event is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Adoption Museum Project · Keynote Presentation

10:00 AM, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

Adoption Museum Project uses cultural experiences to reimagine adoption. Through exhibitions, public programs and other projects, we invite the public to consider the whole story of adoption -- so we can create a radically different practice based on justice and dignity. We look at how adoption has the potential to both help and harm, and how individuals are part of history and systems. Our current work is focused on creating a new history of adoption told through a lens of social justice. Adoption Museum Project is a values-driven organization led by people who are impacted by adoption. Learn more: www.adoptionmuseumproject.org.

Reclaiming the Narrative: Filmmaking as Archival, Creative, and Emancipatory Work · Closing Keynote Address

7:30 P.M., Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th Street, Auditorium

Documentary filmmakers Amandine Gay and Deann Borshay Liem discuss their films, their approaches to filmmaking, and their activism. Deann Borshay Liem's films - *First Person Plural* (2000), *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee* (2010), and *Geographies of Kinship -The Korean Adoption Story* (in progress) - probe the history and personal cost of Korean adoption. She is a recipient of a Rockefeller Film/Video Fellowship and a former director of the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM). Currently, she is the head of Mu Films, a non-profit documentary production company that focuses on representing untold stories from underrepresented communities in the interest of social justice and deeper cultural understanding. Amandine Gay is the filmmaker behind *Ouvrir la Voix (Speak Up/Make Your Way in English, 2016)*, a documentary that gives voice to twenty-four French women with African origins in order to reflect on European Black women's experiences of identity. She is also the co-author of "Diasporic Conversations: Anglophone and Francophone Adoptees of the African Diaspora Encounter Each Other" (*Adoption Today*, 2016). As an artist and a social activist, Gay uses her personal adoption story and scholarly background to increase public interest in the politics of adoption. She is currently working on her second documentary film, about transnational and transracial adoptions in francophone countries.

ABOUT ASAC

These events are held in conjunction with ASAC 2018, the seventh biennial conference of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture. ASAC is an interdisciplinary organization that seeks to promote understanding of the experience and institution of adoption and to provide a forum for the scholarly presentation and discussion of adoption and related issues.

ASAC publishes the journal *Adoption & Culture*. The association's website is www.adoptionandculture.org.