Culture Keeping or Cultural Tourism? - Cultural Socialization in Transracial Adoptive Families

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BACKGROUND
- Cultural socialization (CS): teach racial or ethnic heritage and history; promote cultural customs and traditions; promote cultural, racial, and ethnic pride (Hughes et al., 2006)
- In transracial adoptive (TRA) families, parents provide CS hoping to make a cultural connection to adopted children’s birth country.
- But what and how to provide CS is not clear.

Frameworks
- Quiroz (2012): culture keeping vs. cultural tourism
  - Culture keeping (CK): genuine, authentic connection to a culture (e.g., learning about a culture in a diverse neighborhood; cross-cultural friendship)
  - Cultural tourism (CT): superficial, consumerist connection to a culture (e.g., buying cultural artifacts; celebrating ethnic holidays)
- Pinderhughes (2010): multiple facets and complexities in socialization
  - Modality (e.g., are parents involved?); structure of activities; location of activities/events
  - Parent role (e.g., how parents think of racial and cultural differences; parents’ racial and ethnic identity; proactive/reactive approach to socialization)
  - Contextual considerations
  - Developmental considerations
  - Child engagement

Research Questions
1. What and how do adoptive parents provide cultural socialization for their children from China?
2. What are the respective characteristics of culture keeping and cultural tourism in cultural socialization activities?

METHOD
- Procedure: Qualitative analysis of parent interviews. Parent interviews are semi-structured interviews consisting questions regarding parents’ reflection on race, ethnicity and culture, and experiences of adoption.
  - Sample: 17 families. Mean parent age = 50 years; mean child age = 7.3 years.

RESULTS
1. What and how do parents provide cultural socialization?

How to Measure CK and CT
- Four indicators: CS activities; approach; motivation; and attitudes toward cultural differences

Coding Scale (part)
Each indicator coded in a 5-point Likert scale.

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Overall CS Activities Score
- Overall activity scores were all CT

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DISCUSSION
1. Cross-cultural contact might be an important discriminating factor between CK and CT
- Content (what) of Cross-cultural Contact
  - The Big Sister and that’s just been great. I think for her just to have this, kind of, great, cool role model who she does cool stuff with and that she’s more alike. And that, you know, like when we went to her Big Sister’s graduation last year and,..., and she was just so proud. I think like she knew someone who was graduating... and she must have felt cool about that, so I think the Big Sister has been a good part for her, too.

REFERENCES

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