Race and Bicultural Socialization Practices in the Netherlands, Norway, and the United States with Children Adopted from Asia*

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1. INTRODUCTION

- **Purpose:** Study of country-specific race and bicultural socialization (BCS) practices among white transracial, intercountry-adoptive (T-IACA) parents and their Indian children (N = 62) living in the Netherlands (n = 609), Norway (n = 146), and The United States (US) (n = 67).
- **Gaps:** Ethno-racial demography was found to influence BCS practices of T-IACA parents with Chinese daughters (Thomas & Tessler, 2007). Gaps existed as to whether results generalized to other U.S.-T-IACA family populations and how American BCS practices compared cross-nationally to White, Dutch, and Norwegian families with children from India.
- **Why countries?** Contrast with single-country interpretations; examine "country-of-residence" as contextual factor in BCS practices (i.e., Degrees of minority [US-Netherlands > Norway > Indian populations]).
- **Across these three countries:**
  - **RQ1:** How did T-IACA families differ in their BCS practices?
  - **RQ2:** How did parental reports of children's negative experiences with others about adoption, birth country, skin color, racial/positive discrimination, and parental worry differ in T-IACA families?

2. METHODS

- **Research Design/Sample:** Cross-sectional survey design; mailed surveys; Indian adoptees 4-6 years
- **Measures:** Cultural identity/discrimination survey items previously tested (Juffer & Tieman, 2009; Tesdler, Gamanche, & Liu, 1999); psychometric properties for face validity only.
  - Importance of Bicultural Socialization Experiences (BISE-P); Adoptees' Participation in Bicultural Socialization (APBS); Parent's Number of Adult, Indian friends; adoptees' negative experiences with others about adoption, birth country, skin color; racial/positive discrimination; parental worry; with whom adoptees had negative experiences.
- **Procedure:** Human Subjects Approval; pilot; mailed surveys / follow-up 30-day
- **Statistical Analysis:** Factor analysis (oblimin rotation) for BISE-P/APBS scale formation; bivariate analysis of categorical data Pearson’s χ² analyses/Bonferroni correction (Table 1); interlevel data (t-tests of independent samples); ¹-way ANOVA/Tukey post hoc (Table 2-3).

3. RESULTS

- **Table 1:** Family Descriptive Statistics Comparing Countries' Samples

- **Table 2:** Analysis of Variance of Scores on the BISE-P, the APBS, Parent's Number of Adult, Indian friends, Adoptees' Experiences of Negative Reactions from Others (about Adoption, Country of Origin, and Skin Color), Parental Report of Adoptees' Experiences with Racial Discrimination, and Parental Worry about Others’ Negative Reactions and Positive Discrimination by Country

- **Table 3:** Percentages (indicating yes) and Chi-Square Analyses of Adoptees Experiences of Negative Reactions, Racial Discrimination, and Positive Discrimination from Classmates, Neighborhood Peers, and Unknown People

4. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Norwegian families fell between USA/Dutch samples for BCS • Norwegian/US samples most similar (79%) despite ethno-racial contrast; Dutch/US most different (81%) except for racial discrimination
2. Dutch found in least important to expose children to BCS; children subsequently had less BCS activities. Validated link between parental BCS attitudes predicting activities (i.e., Lee, 2003; Thomas & Tesdler, 2007)
3. Dutch parents may worry about Norwegian/US parents about negative experiences due to cultural/political contextual factors:
   - Long-standing reputation of Dutch for liberal/tolerant views (Zick, Pettigrew, & Wagner, 2008)
   - Adoptees resemble highly integrated Dutch Caribbean immigrants, the Surinamese (educated; professional)(Michon & Vermeulen, 2013)
4. Shift in Dutch immigration practices/policies. Biculturalism seen as inhibiting integration into larger Dutch culture/economic success
5. US - negative adoption experiences with classmates than Norwegian/Dutch

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