Introduction and Literature Review

In the field of adoptee research, birth fathers (BF) are a significantly understudied population, and information is both limited and dated (Farrer & O’Reilly, 2015).

This current project seeks to understand how related aspects of the birth father relationship (or lack thereof) impact the adoptee—a perspective that is important to adoptee research because the degree of diversity and disruption experienced in adoptive relationships is an aspect of adoptive identity. (Keller et al., 2002)

Adoptees’ perceptions of their birth father relationship can influence the adoptee’s overall satisfaction and their degree of openness to build positive relationships with birth fathers (BF), which is an aspect of adoptee identity (Keller et al., 2002).

Where birth fathers are concerned, a relationship can be described as the degree of devotion of psychic and emotional energy to adoption as an aspect of identity, Kohler et al., 2002).

Informants included a total of 192 adoptees across 27 states (28.71 ± 10.85, M = 28.71, n = 270). Participants were recruited from internet advertisement or snowball sampling.

In addition to coding, quantitative data was collected from demographic questionnaires, the Adoption Dynamics Questionnaire, and previously-coded interviews with birth fathers.

**Methods**

Participants selected from larger longitudinal study of adoptees (N=189), McIntosh, et al., 2015 (McIntosh, et al., 2015). 167 adoptees adopted through private domestic adoption. Participants were asked to fill out a demographic questionnaire, an adoption history questionnaire, and a preoccupation with adoption index.

Methods

**Participants**

- Participants included from larger longitudinal study of adoptees (N=189), McIntosh, et al., 2015 (McIntosh, et al., 2015).
- 167 adoptees adopted through private domestic adoption.
- Participants were asked to fill out a demographic questionnaire, an adoption history questionnaire, and a preoccupation with adoption index.

**Data Analysis**

- The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.
- Significant gender differences in satisfaction were identified.
- No significant differences were identified between adoptees with contact and contact. In both cases, the relationship was significant.
- The data was analyzed using independent sample t-tests, and significant differences were identified in satisfaction levels between the groups.

**Results**

- There was a significant relationship between satisfaction and preoccupation with adoption.
- The relationship was significant at the p<.01 level.

**Discussion**

- Gender differences in satisfaction were identified, with females reporting higher levels of satisfaction than males.
- A significant relationship between satisfaction and preoccupation with adoption was identified, with higher preoccupation scores associated with lower satisfaction levels.

**References**