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 child’s birth country.
- But what and how to provide CS is not clear.

Frameworks
- Quiros (2012): culture keeping vs. cultural tourism
  - Culture Keeping (CK): genuine, authentic connection to a culture (e.g., belonging to a diverse neighborhood; cross-cultural friendship)
  - Cultural Tourism (CT): superficial, consumerist connection to a culture (e.g., renting a child, 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?

| Overall CS Activities Score | Overall activity scores were all CT
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- Most activities were provided at culture tourism level.
- There is variation within activities.

DISCUSSION
1. Cross-cultural contact might be an important discriminating factor between CK and CT

Content (what) of Cross-cultural Contact
- "Natural" contact (Chinese New Year organized by Chinese people) vs. "artificial" contact (Chinese New Year organized by agents)
- "My concern with that was a lot of pressure. It’s like: your parents... they think they can control your..." (agent)

Content (how) of Cross-cultural Contact
- "We were always afraid of the situation..." (agent)
- "In my opinion, it would be better..." (agent)

REFERENCES
- "My concern with that was a lot of pressure. It’s like: your parents... they think they can control your..." (agent)

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