

## **INTERNACIONAL ADOPTION: LAW, COSTUMES AND KINSHIP**

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### **Abstract**

I will provide a theoretical framework for considering the impact of international adoption on conceptions of parenthood, family, and kinship. I will examine processes of accommodation and compromise, as the institutions and accompanying meanings accorded to "transferring children" intersect and impinge upon one another. The argument will be both historical and comparative, moving from colonialism and its impact on forms of "having children" to the contemporary situation of global movements of adults and children, as well as of ideologies of parenthood and kinship. I will compare the complexities that arise as law meets custom, global meets local, in different regions. Finally, inasmuch as the transfer of children, under whatever rubrics, transforms notions of parenthood and family, I will conclude by suggesting the ways in which international adoption may radically revise cultural interpretations of kinship and identity.