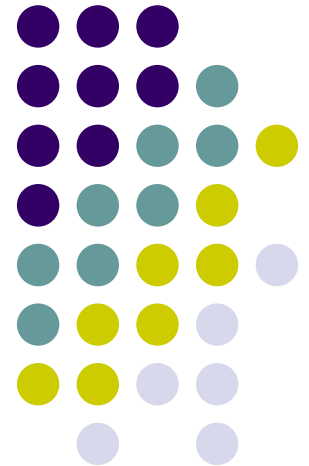


Minor's adoption in Russia: international adoption or children transaction?



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Introduction

- Study in process
- In this paper– exclusively Russian context (“giving country”)
- Qualitative media analysis (articles, news, projects).
- My objective is to see how a child is seen in “transaction” between countries, in this paper- how a child is seen in discourses about international adoptions in Russia?

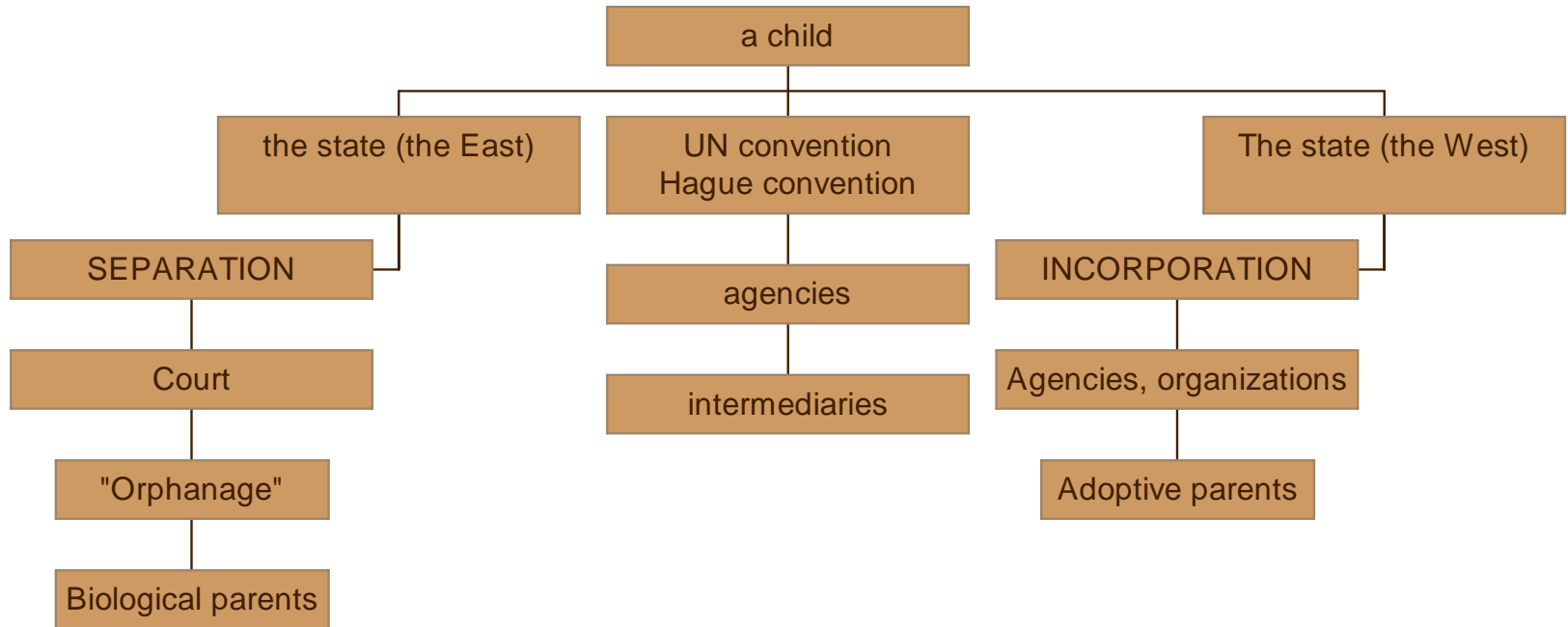
Between Catalonia and Russia



- High rate of international adoptions in Catalonia
- Russia is a second “giving country”
- Unknown Russian context (more known Chinese context)
- Russian adopted children are invisible (race, identity)
- Actual debate in Russia, and connection with the policies.
- History of circulation of children between Russia and Spain (“niños de la guerra”)
- The photo is taken from *KP*, 2006



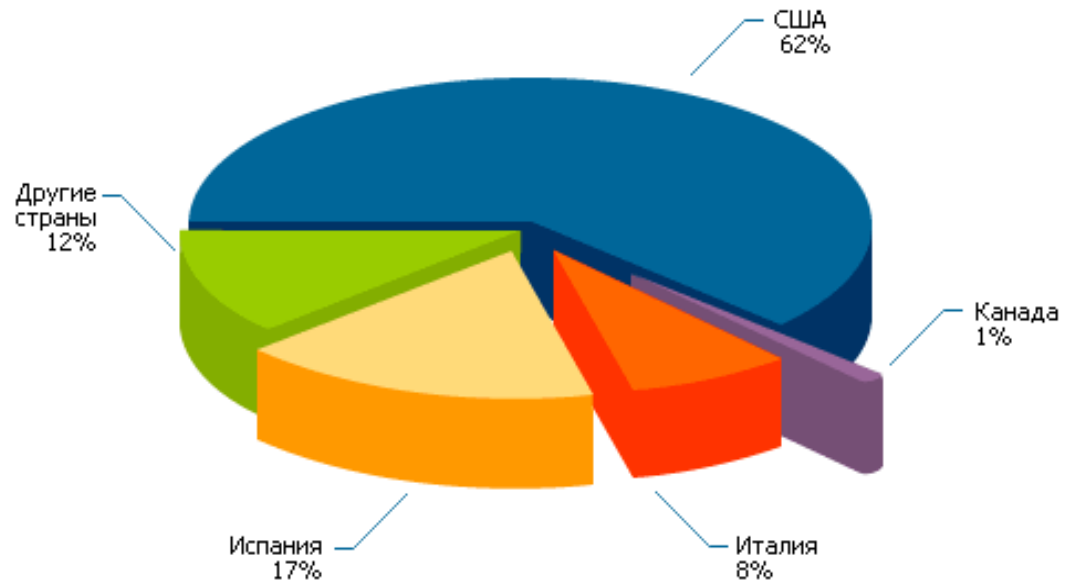
Child circulation



Statistics of international adoptions in Russia

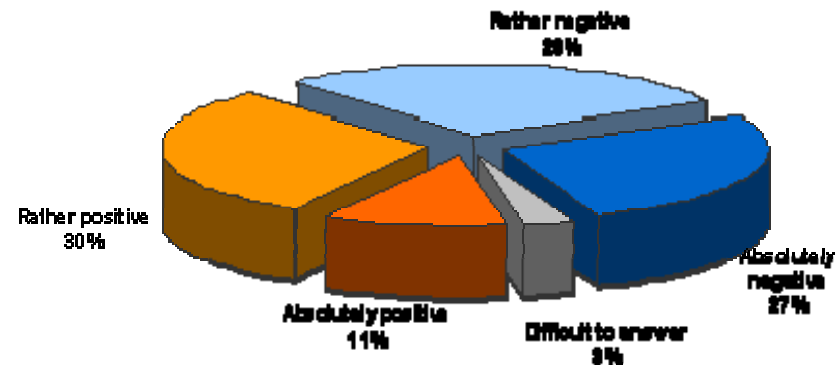


- EE.UU.-62%(blue)
- Spain-17% (yellow)
- Italy-8%(red)
- Other countries (12%)(green)
- Canada-1% (purple)



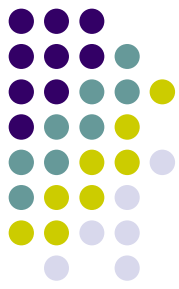
Ministry of Education and Science
of Russian Federation, 2004

Attitudes toward international adoptions



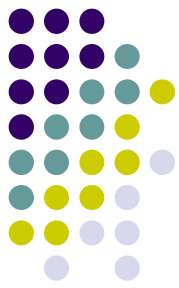
- 56% have negative view of international adoptions
- Russians don't want to adopt themselves (72%)
- The obstacles for it: law income (29%), age (17%), impossibility of bringing up "alien" children (6%), hostility toward "not own children" (6%) and "bad inheritance"-5% (VCIOM, 2005)
- Graph from ROMIR monitoring Poll, 2006

Image of international adoptions in Russia

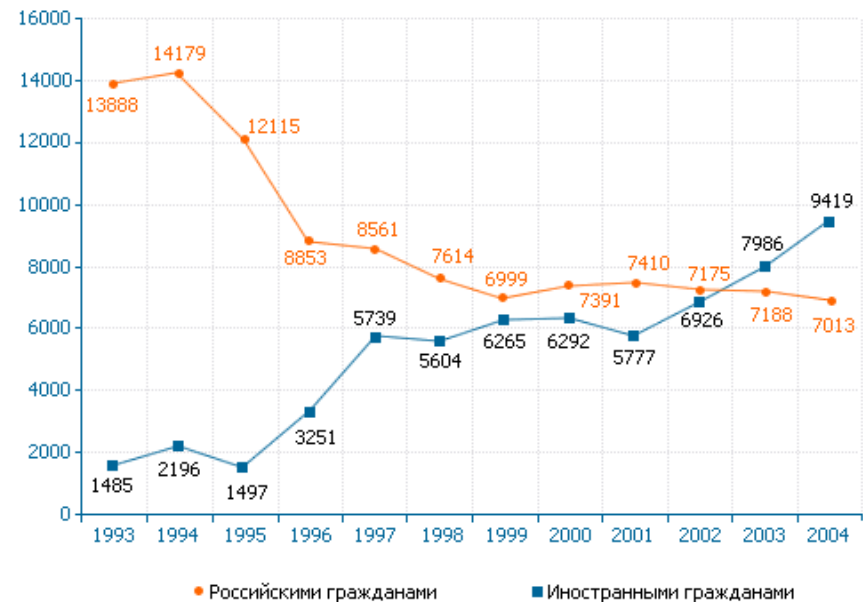


- Negative image
- More international adoptions than national
- “Children are killed”: legal cases of child “murders” (13), abuse, trafficking, forgery
- “Children are bought”- commodification of children
- Positive aspect: “they take “sick” children”

National adoptions versus international



- More international adoptions than national (2004-Russians-7013 (41%), Foreign-9419,59%)
- In 2005-Russians-7,5thousand, Foreign-6,9thousand. Russian-increase 7%, Foreign-decrease 26%(Tokareva, 2006)
- Graph from Ministry of Education and Science official website, 2004



Consequences



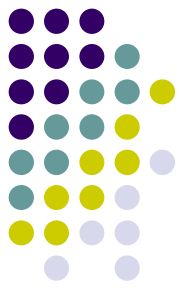
DOMESTIC

- Promotion of national adoptions and foster care
- National projects
- New policies

INTERNATIONAL

- Restricting international adoptions
- Negative attitudes
- National versus international

New policy of Putin (2006)



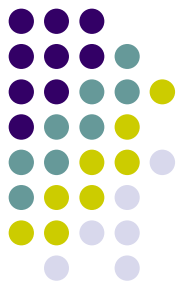
- Demography preoccupation
- «Second child» policy
- More money allowance will be paid for the first child, but especially for the second child, it will depend on salary.
- Also allowance for non-working women
- Special maternal certificate about 10000\$ for education, apartment, or pension (after 3years)

Discourses of international adoptions in Russia



CRIMINALIZATION

- International adoption is a “criminal” activity
- “Americans kill Russian children”
- “Violations of Russian law”
- “Infant for spare parts”



Commodification

- Children are more commodified in international adoption (little reciprocity)
- “Market” terminology is resisted, “imposed” from the West
- Price is introduced in international adoption (“contested commodity”)
- The ultimate commodification- “an infant for spare parts”
- “Selling national treasures” versus “loosing genofund”.

International adoption or child trafficking?



- Fratti case (2001)
- Around 500 children adopted
- Italian adoption agency “Arcobaleno”-legal or illegal
- Traffickers or “saviours” of children?
- Money- bribes and child’s price –” glory” is gone
- “Unknown fates”- fantasies
- Taking “sick children” is under suspicion



“Infants for spare parts”

- Ultimate commodification
- N.Scheper-Hughes (2000) “organ-stealing rumor”
- Adopted children for “transplants”
- “Unknown fates”-lack of information
- Fantasies about adopted children (Fratti) abroad

Genetification

- “Interests of children” - live in their Motherland
- “Loosing genofund”
- “Alien genes”
- “Bad genes” versus “good genes”
- This photo is taken from *Tatar Gazette*, 2004



Final remarks



- “Italian”(2006)-
Russian film about international adoption
- Vanya Solncev, 6 year old, is looking for his “origins”
- What is better for Vanya Solncev?

Thank you for attention !

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