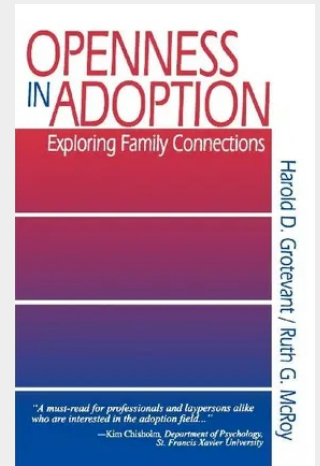


Openness in Adoption

Exploring Family Connections

Since the mid-1970s, adoption practices in the United States have changed dramatically, and the confidentiality maintained in the past is no longer the norm. The trend is toward openness in adoption in which either mediated (through an adoption agency) or direct contact occurs between the adoptive family and birth parent(s). Some adoption professionals argue that openness is harmful and experimental while others argue that the secrecy of confidential adoptions has been harmful to all parties involved. Who's right? In *Openness in Adoption*, this question is addressed via a nationwide study of 720 individuals (190 adoptive fathers, 190 adoptive mothers, 171 adopted children, and 169 birthmothers) that was conducted over a five-year period. The book begins by presenting the issues and debates surrounding open adoptions and then examines them from the perspective of the adopted children, adoptive parents, and birth mothers. The volume concludes with implications for adoption practice, public policy, and future research. A groundbreaking volume, *Openness in Adoption* provides a wealth of information to professionals and practitioners in the fields of family studies, sociology, developmental psychology, social work, clinical psychology, and social psychology.

Harold Grotevant and Ruth McRoy provide a thorough review of the issues involved in openness in adoption and a clear description of the methods and results of the landmark research project they led. They provide rich data from an exceptional sample of adoptees, their adoptive parents and their birth mothers, and provide a perspective of their experiences as 'triangular families' which openness generates. The last chapter reaches some general conclusions and discusses implications for future adoption practice.


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