

The Intersection of been 'Both a Sending and Receiving Country in Intercountry Adoption : A Case Study exploring USA and Ireland Historical and Current Practices.

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This paper is based on a case study which examines Irish and USA practices of intercountry adoption and in particular explores the intersection of been both a sending and a receiving country of children from overseas. Few people in Ireland currently adopting have a full appreciation of the historical practices where an unknown number of children, but thought to be approx 3000 were sent to the USA between 1930's and early 1970's (Milotte 2012; O'Brien 2010). Similarly few people currently in the USA have a full awareness of the practice whereby USA, by far the while the largest recipient of children involved in intercountry adoption, is currently sending children out of USA to be adopted.

This paper is drawn from a larger project aimed at examining the past practices of sending Irish children to the USA and exploring how these practices can help shape both current search and reunion and intercountry adoption practices which is been carried out by the authors.

The methodology for the case study is based on a literature review, a secondary analysis of existing data sets relevant to adoption trends in both countries, and a number of 'expert interviews' with key stakeholders. The interviews were aimed at obtaining an understanding and to assist the analysis of the processes involved .

In this paper an Analysis is offered that gives :

- An overview of the practices and the contexts which has given rise to the practices
- A n exploration of been simultaneously both a sending and a receiving country
- A critique of the Hague Convention and the extent to which it is robust enough to deal with the current challenges
- A questioning of the extent to how the practices can potentially shape current and future practices
- An appreciation of the extent to which the experiences of people sent overseas and now searching can be utilised to inform current and future practices