

Research Title : A Narrative Study about Adoption Support

Research Questions :

- 1) How have prospective adopters' biographies informed their decision to want to adopt a child or sibling group, and how does this shape / influence their support needs ?
- 2) How might adoption agency processes of assessing, understanding and responding to the support needs of adopters be improved ?

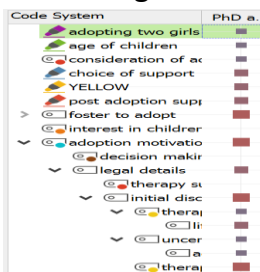
Methodology : qualitative research - mixed methodology : 8 biographical narrative type interviews with adoptive parents, agency document analysis & 4 semi-structured interviews with adoption social workers. **Sampling** : 2 adoption agencies in North West England.

Theoretical Framework : informed by psychoanalytic & social network theory. For this study I adapted the psychoanalytic principle of 'free association' which assumes that unconscious connections will be made during narrative interviews. Also interested in the types of support networks that adoptive parents create.

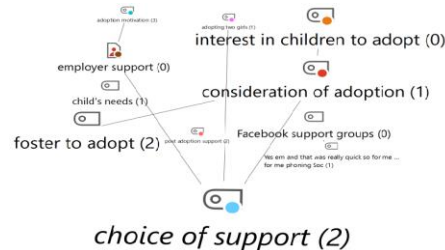
Analysis & Findings : Interview transcripts & agency assessment documents were coded using MAXQDA (2018) & at a data analysis panel. Other significant factors for adopters include : existing informal support networks, emotional resilience, vulnerability, loss (infertility), relationship-status, social networks, Facebook / social media 'friends' & household finances.

There are particular details from adopters biographical narratives which are significant. Social Workers need to understand & capture these in their assessment reports to inform future support.

Coding interview transcripts



Code theory model



Word cloud

Interview transcript

looking after children from being really little and then sort of, when I was a student, did lots of nannying and play schemes and that sort of thing and always thought you know definitely want to be a parent, that's definitely what I want to do. Then I had all sorts of health issues which meant that having my own children easily was not an option, if I wanted to have my own children I'd have to have infertility treatment blah de blah, and I remember just thinking, fairly quickly thinking 'actually giving birth to my own children isn't kind of an issue, I want to be a parent but that doesn't need to be by having my own children'. So my husband and I at the time thought, oh we thought about adoption probably in my mid sort of 20's but kind of .. we were both working full time in jobs we really enjoyed and actually thought 'oh maybe we'd prefer sort of fostering to adoption in a way that we could maybe just do that respite at week-ends and we could carry on working.' So that's kind of how I got into it really, started off being a respite foster carer then realised that I wanted to be a sort of ... a full time foster carer so then I was just a full time foster carer for maybe about ten years, really enjoyed fostering

References : Hollway, W & Jefferson, T. (2000) Doing Qualitative Research Differently : free association, narrative and the interview method. London: SAGE

Wengraf, T. (2009) Qualitative Research Interviewing : Biographic Narrative & Semi-Structured. London: SAGE

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