CHILDREN ADOPTION.
PSYCHOSOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

PhD THESIS ABSTRACT

Scientific Coordinator,
Prof. Maria Roth, PhD.

PhD. Candidate,
Anca Mioara Geleriu

Cluj-Napoca
2010
CONTENTS OF PhD THESIS

Introduction

Part I. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Chapter 1. Adoption of children throughout history
  1.1 Evolution of the adoption practice at international level from ancient times to the present
  1.2 Evolution of the adoption forms at international level in the socio-political context of the 20th century
  1.3 Child adoption in Romania. Legislative and methodological evolution

Chapter 2. Success factors in child adoption
  2.1 Analysis of the success ratio of child adoption
  2.2 Particularities of the adopter parents
  2.3 Particularities of the adopted children
  2.4 The success in the particular forms of adoption
     2.4.1 Closed adoption versus open adoption
     2.4.2 Trans-ethnical/Trans-racist adoption
  2.5 The pre and post resources of adoption appropriate for the adopter families, as a success factor

Chapter 3. The process of adoption from the perspective of explanatory theories
  3.1 The theory of the social role
  3.2 The theory of stress and copying
  3.3 The theory of family development. Specific requests of the adoptive family
  3.4 Biological perspective. Risks in the development of adopted
  3.5 The theory of attachment

Chapter 4. Adoptive parents and adopted children
  4.1 General objective
  4.2 Definition of variables
  4.3 Methodological aspects
  4.4 The profile of adoptive parents
  4.5 The profile of adopted children in Romania
  4.6 Motivation of adoption
  4.7 Preferred children for adoption
  4.8 The adoption of difficult to be adopted children
Chapter 5. Transition to adoptive parenting and family adjustment

5.1 Theoretical Approaches
   5.1.1 Definition of concepts
   5.1.2 Research hypotheses

5.2 Research design
   5.2.1 Methods and tools
   5.2.2 Sample construction and data collection process

5.3 Characteristics of adopted children in the perception of adoptive parents
   5.3.1 Psycho-physical health status of adopted children
   5.3.2 The conduct of adopted children
   5.3.3 Conclusions and practical implications

5.5 Characteristics of adopted children, resources and parents expectations

5.6 Adaptive conduct of adoptive mothers

5.7 Conclusions

Chapter 6. Stress, coping and adaptation strategies. Qualitative study

6.1 Theoretical aspects
6.2 Research design
6.3 Research results
   6.3.1 Factors of stress, coping mechanisms and resources in pre-adoptive phase
   6.3.2 Factors of stress, coping mechanisms and resources during accommodation
   6.3.3 Factors of stress, coping mechanisms and resources in the post-adoption – Adaptation

6.4 Conclusions

Chapter 7. Attitudes towards adoption of children

7.1 Theoretical aspects
   7.1.1 Conceptual delimitation
   7.1.2 The attribute / attributes that stigmatizes adoptive parents
   7.1.3 The attitude towards adoption
   7.1.4 Experiencing stigma

7.2 Research design
7.3 Research results
   7.3.1. Attitude toward parents and children
   7.3.2 Attitude towards child adoption
   7.3.3 Treatment of adoptive parents
   7.3.4 Treatment of adopted children
7.4 Conclusions

Summary of conclusions

Bibliography

Annex I – Chart analysis of social documents
Annex II – The questionnaire addressed to adoptive parents
Annex III – Interview guide
Annex IV – The questionnaire of attitude
Anexa V – Association Coefficients

KEY WORDS

adoption, adopted child, adoptive parent, stress, copying, resilience, social perception

THE SYNTHESIS OF THE PAPER

This paper aims to approach a long-debated subject in the political and media area after 1989, but very little treated in the specialized national studies, namely the adoption of children at national level. At the time of the onset of this study, more precisely in 2006, I could find a very reduced number of studies and research concerning the adoption of children, which were carried out on particular categories of adoptive families that adopted by means of private organizations (Groza, 1999; Mărginean, Cojocaru, Furman, Preopteasa, 2006). At an statistical level, related to the same period, the only available information indicated the number of adopted children in Romania. Since 2006, the Romanian Adoption Office was continuously concerned about broadening the available scope of statistical information and research in the children adoption from Romania (see www.adoptiromania.ro). Anyway, it is consedered necessary to conduct specialized studies, theoretically fundamented, which can create an objective image on the particularities of the adoptive family from Romania and on the adaptation of the family members to this process.

Under these circumstances, this paper has the initial aim two research objectives creation of profiles for the adopted children and adoptive parents and the analysis of their association. It has also been planned to bring forth an extra bit of information concerning the stress factors the adoptive family is facing from the perspective of the adoptive parents, the copying strategies they approach for adapting after the adoption and the protection factors that lead to the resilience of the adoptive family. Another objective, which was added in the meantime rising from desire to get an
answer to a series of questions during the initial study, is to analyse the social perception of the adoption process on the adoptive parents and the adopted children.

By means of its objectives it is considered that this work can contribute to: (1) influencing the policies and strategies in the field so as to expand the categories of families and children to enter the adoption equation (2) providing development directions of the services and programs the adoptive parents and adopted children need for a successful adaptation after the adoption (3) correct information and preventing unrealistic expectations of the potential adopters and of those who have already adopted a child on the experience of other adoptive families.

The paper is structured in two parts, one theoretical and one of the research. Theoretical discourse is organized in three chapters. **Chapter 1** deals with the development of practices and forms of adoption of children. The first two chapters outline the development perspective of international adoption of children, and the last chapter gives an overview on the progress in Romania, with a more detailed overview of the current situation.

**Chapter 2** presents a summary of researchs in the field of child adoption in an attempt to portray the adoptive parents and adopted children. In our descriptive approach, those factors were highlighted which, according to the literature had a significant influence on the success / failure to adopt children.

**Chapter 3** is devoted to explanatory theories and brings into question the biological perspective, theories of psychological perspective, the sociological perspective theories that attempt to explain the adaptation process of both adoptive parents and adoptive children.

The second part of this paper is devoted to research and comprises three chapters. For each general objective it was dedicated a special research chapter with a methodological approach, results and specific conclusions.

**Chapter 4. Adoptive parents and adopted children** aims to answer to four research questions: Which is the profile of the adopted children and of the adoptive parents in Romania?, Which are the main categories of adopters and what are the motivations claimed for adoption?, What children are preferred for adoption and what children do the infertile couples adopt?, Who adopts special needs children in Romania?. The statement of these questions was based on observations from the specific literature, which shows that, depending on socio-demographic and psycho-medical particularities, the adopted children can be grouped in two main categories: children preferred for adoption: young children, without psycho-socio-medical problems, who belong to the ethnical/racial majority, and children not preferred for adoption who belong to minority groups (ethnical/racial), children who have several brothers and they must be adopted together, children with a history of severe abuse/neglect. For the two categories of children, two different portraits of adoptive parents have been outlined: the children from the first category are mainly adopted by infertile couples, which,
from educational and economical point of view, belong to the middle or upper class; the children from the second category are mainly adopted by fertile couples, single persons or elder couples, who try to express social, political and/or religious ideologies by means of adoption (Groza and Rosenberg, 1998; Barth and Berry, 1988; Glidden, 2000; Mullin and Johnson, 1999; Rosenthal and Groze, 1994; Tessier, 2005; Westhues and Cohen, 1990).

The study is based on information collected by means of analysis of written social documents, identified in the adoptive parents and adoptive children’ folders found in the archives of 6 DGASPCs from the counties: Sibiu, Brașov, Argeș, Bihor, Covasna and Harghita. 121 cases of adoption declared final and irreversible have been analyzed; they dated between January 2005 and July 2008 and were closed under the law 273/2004. Techniques of quantitative and qualitative analysis have been combined.

From a quantitative point of view, descriptive and association techniques have been used. Qualitative analyze has been mostly used for the identification of motivation invoked for adoption. In this case, the declaration concerning the reason for adoption represented the main analysis objective.

*What is the profile of the adopted children?* The average age of the child when adopted for the children adopted in the 6 counties is 41.7 months. The majority are clinically healthy (91%), the majority have a recognized maternity (86%), but there are very few who have a recognized paternity (16%). More that half of the children (53%) have brothers, either from both parents or from one of them, but very few of them have been adopted together with their (5.1%). Most of the children benefitted from special protection (94%), and the most frequent protection measures were the following: *placement* to a family / person (46%), placement to a professional maternal assistant (37%), placement in an orphanage or in a family center (25%).

*What is the profile of the adoptive parents?* The average age of the adoptive mothers is 37.8, while the average age of the adoptive fathers is 40.5. It can be noticed that the average age of the adoptive parents is much higher than the one of the biological parents at the first child birth. The majority of adopters is married (94.3%) and has a long lasting marital experience (in average 13.5 years). It is also noticed that, from an educational and economical point of view they lay over the average level of population in Romania. 74% of the adoptive mothers and 67% of the adoptive fathers have at least high school education. The economical level has been calculated by the average of total income of the household in comparison to the average of annual income of the Romanian population, respectively the average number of rooms in the adoptive families’ households in comparison to the average number of families in general. Both figures show an economical level of the adopters above average.
What are the main categories of adopters and what is the motivation to adopt. In order to identify the main categories of adopters a series of variables have been taken into consideration: marital status, biological children existence, possibility of the adopters to procreate, existence of family relationships (blood or legal) between the adopter and the adopted, the adopted child benefited from a special protection measure in the adoptive family. At the junction of these variables there resulted seven categories of adopters: 1. adopters who suffer of primary infertility, 2. adopters who suffer of secondary infertility / diseases that lead to the contraindication to procreate, 3. single adopters, 4. adopters – step parents of the adopted child, 5. family relatives until the IV degree with the adopted child, 6. adopters who were maternal assistants of the child before adoption and they do fit to any of the above mentioned categories, 7. adopters who do not fit to any of the conditions mentioned before. Within each of these seven categories, specific reasons for the adoption can be identified. For the infertile couples, who represent 69.7%, the need to have a child is felt and defined differently depending on the way infertility is sensed. Most frequently, infertility is conceptualized in terms that indicate feelings of loss and, associated to them, of pain. In these cases, losing the capacity to procreate, losing a drafted/imagined being or even losing a real being (for those who lose one or more pregnancies or lose a child after birth) is felt as a chronic factor of stress. In these cases, the adopted child has to perform as a curative factor, basically. There are other persons who conceptualize infertility in comparison to the self image. Infertility is seen as a “fault” that is contrary to the ideal image and that leads to autostigmatization expressed in feelings as lack of self value, uselessness, guilt. In other examples, infertility is conceptualized in terms of an obstacle for family development. Child presence is an absolutely necessary condition for the definition of family. The child has the role to assure the transformation of the “couple” into a “family”.

There is another category of adopters who have given birth to a biological child with physical and/or mental health problems and want a healthy child.

There have also been identified families who, although they have a healthy biological child, adopt in order to offer him/her a brother/sister.

Taking into consideration the continuously growing incidence of the remarriage ratio, and the birth of an increasing number of children of unmarried parents, adoption became beneficial and more and more requested in order to build or re-build the family union. In this respect it has been identified a ratio of 3.3% adopters who adopt the child/children of marital partner.

---

1INS data show a slight but continuous growth of the remarriage ratio of the divorced or widow persons from the total of registered marriages: from 11.4% in case of men and 10.69 in case of women, in 1990, to 15.7% in case of men and 14.97% in case of women, in 2006.

2The available information from Eurostat show a continuous growth of the children born from unmarried parents, from 18.3% in 1994, to 29.3% in 2004, when it started to slightly decrease, so that it 2008 27.4% was registered.
Another significantly growing phenomenon is the unmarried teenage girls who give birth to children. In most of these cases, the ones who assume responsibility for raising the children are the grandparents, who sometimes make the choice of adopting them. All in all, they represented 2.5%.

Another reason leading to the adoption of a child by the ones who are supposed to be his grandparents is the marital instability of the biological parents or children who are born as a result of extra-conjugal relationships.

Single persons represent approximately 5.7% of adopters. It is interesting to highlight the fact that, in these cases, the altruistic reasons oriented towards the child needs are more frequently found and more obvious and they are in conjunction with reasons expressing personal needs, such as the need to have somebody nearby and to get rid of loneliness.

Maternal assistants who adopt the children they have in placement represent approximately 3.3% of the total adopters. They invoke most frequently the creation of an attachment relationship with the child and the will of not to lose this relationship.

The last category of adopters is related to the ones who do not correspond to any of the other six categories in what concerns profile and motivation. This category comprises a percentage of 6.5% of the adopters. Their declarations are placed in the area of social responsibility and altruism.

What children are preferred for adoption and what children do the infertile couples adopt? The association of the variables show the fact that it is much more probable that the infertile couples to express preference to adopt children under 1 than children from any other category, clinically healthy and Romanian. When analyzing the portrait of children they manage to adopt, it can be stated that the criterion of age and ethnicity do not meet their expectations. They would rather adopt children between 1-3 age category without any association related to ethnicity. From the health point of view they would adopt more healthy children. It can also be added that it is mostly probable that they would adopt children from family placement and it is very little probable that they would adopt children from placement centers.

Who adopts difficult to be adopted children in Romania? It can be stated that, in concordance with the literature in the domain, it is more probable that, in general, difficult to be adopted children are adopted by persons with a low educational level (vocational school or even less), who do not have health problems that might prevent procreation if they want it, married with children, with a marital experience of over 20. The existing results are similar to the ones obtained in international studies (Egbert and Lamont, 2004; Glidden, 2000, Rosenthal, 1993; McRoy, 1991; Rosenthal and Groze, 1990 etc.)

The majority of adopters do not have their own children, therefore they adopt in order to have a child to replace the lack of the biological child. Under these circumstances it is considered natural their will to adopt young children, without any particular health problems.
Still, there is also a particular adopters category who want to adopt "difficult to be adopted" children. It is considered that more detailed studies are necessary which can offer a representative image on this issue and on the correction of promotion strategies in the adoption of "difficult to be adopted" children and on the recruitment of the possible adopters.

The existing results are similar to the ones obtained in international studies (Egbert and Lamont, 2004; Glidden, 2000, Rosenthal, 1993; McRoy, 1991; Rosenthal and Groze, 1990; etc.).

Chapter 5 and chapter 6 are mainly written from the perspective of family and adaptation stress, which will give a general framework in the presentation of information.

In 1949, Reuben Hill founded the "family stress" model, known as ABC-X model. The name of the model comes from the four factors in interaction: A – the stressing factor/event that interacts with B – resources available for the family, respectively with C – perception on the stressing factor. These three factors can lead to family adaptation or, on the contrary, to a crisis situation (X).

The chapter aims to analyze the adaptation of adoptive mother after the process of adoption (measured by the quality of interaction of the mother with the adopted child) depending on the stress factors (in our case the features of the adopted child), the perception of these factors and the social, informational and funds resources available for the adoptive family. The research approach is a quantitative one.

McCubbin and Patterson (1982) defined the stressing factor as a life event that produces or can produce changes in the family social system. The adoption of a child affects multiple family life dimensions: it creates new connections nad affects some others, it changes interaction patterns, scopes and values. Just like giving birth, the adoption of the child can be considered as a normative factor of stress because adoption is firstly wanted, prepared and expected. Still, in comparison to giving birth, the moment when the child enters the family is difficult to be estimated, the real match can be less successful than the theoretical one, the parents’ and child's expectations can be false, the relationship can set slower and more difficult that expected, the child might not be as healthy as it has been declared in the medical records from the adoption files, etc. We will concentrate in our analysis on some features of the child that cause stress in the adoptive family, in reference to the literature in the domain, described in chapter 2: age and gender of the child, the placement history, the physical health condition, emotional-behavioral manifestation and conduct in relation with the adoptive parents.

The resources are defined by McCubbin and Patterson (1985) as a set of characteristics, features and individual, family or community abilities which can ce accessed in order to answer to the requests determined by the stressing factor/event. The informational resources gained before the adoption proved to be extremely important for the adoptive parents (described in chapter 2.5); these will also be taken into consideration in this study. This category of resources gives a feeling
preparation and it removes the risk of wrong expectations. Their absence leads to frustration and the feeling of overwhelm about the adoption experience; these feelings are consequential to the relationship within the adoptive family. Another category of resources are the social formal and social informal and the specialized services (medical, psychological, social assistance). Moreover, we also take into consideration the economic resources and the socio-demographic characteristics of the adoptive parents.

*The perception or the evaluation of the stressing factor, can be defined as the family members’ expectations in relation to the stressing factor/event* (Littleton and Engebretson, 2002). The perception of parents on the health status (physical and psychological) of the child related to the adopters’ expectations is also taken into consideration.

Adaptation was defined by McCubbin and Patterson (1982) as process of stimuli reglation, of control on the environment and of balancing in order to reach a certain functionality level, which carries family unity and improves family system and contributes to the development of every member. Barth and Berry (1988), by adopting the same model for studying adaptation when adopting a child over 3, considered that the main adaptation indicators are the integration of the child in the family and the maintenance of its unity. A number of other authors who preferred instead the term adaptation, the term success call on the following indicators: interruption or cancellation of adoption (Triseliotis, 2002; Berry, 1997; Rosenthal, 1993; Barth and Miller, 2000; Fitzgerald, 1985; Festinger, 1986; Barth and Berry, 1988; Partridge, Hornby and McDonald, 1986; Goerge et al., 1997), subjective evaluation of the adoption impact on family (Rosenthal and Groze, 1990; Rosenthal, Groze and Aguilar, 1991; Groze, 1999), positive results in terms of child development (Rosenthal, Groze and Aguilar, 1991; Rosenthal, 1993; Glidden, 2000; Gibson et. al, 2005), the quality of the relationship parent-child (Rosenthal, Groze and Aguilar, 1991; Gibson et. al, 2005), marital satisfaction and individual welfare of the mother after the adoption (Glidden, 2000), general satisfaction in relation with adoption (Smith-McKeever, 2006; Gillum and O’Brien, 2010). In our study we will firstly consider the quality of the interaction of the adoptive mother with the adopted child.

**Methods and used instruments.** The study is based on questionnaire investigation. The questionnaire was auto-operated, filled in mainly by the adopted mothers; the questionnaires filled in by the adopted fathers have been eliminated from the analysis. It was made up of five sections: *information about the process of adoption; despre procesul de adopţie; general information about the adopted child; information about the relationship parent(s)-adopted child; post-adoption social changes; general information about the adoptive parent.* The questionnaire was elaborated starting from the international literature in the domain which was presented in the previous chapters.
Sampling and collection of information. The adoptive families built after 2005 from counties Covasna, Harghita, Alba, Cluj, Mureș, Sibiu și Pitești, Brașov și Bihor took part in this study. In the first five counties mentioned previously, the contact with the adoptive families was made by post, with the support of the Romanian Adoption Office. Questionnaires were sent to all the adoptive families who adopted under the Law 273 from 2004, between 2005-2008. Their total number was 124. From the 124 questionnaires 29 were given back filled in 4 months. In Sibiu, Brașov, Bihor and Argeș counties, the questionnaires were distributed with the support of General Directions of Social Assistance and Child Protection, being sent back by the parents via post office. In these counties 74 questionnaires have been distributed and 20 were received back. All in all, the number of filled in and received back questionnaires was 49 and 45 of them were analyzed. The four questionnaires which were removed were filled in by adoptive fathers.

The quantitative analysis of the information obtained by means of the investigation based on questionnaire implied four stages: in a first stage descriptive techniques have been used for the analysis of the simple variables; in the second stage a correlational study was realized between the independent variables, respectively between the independent variables and the dependent variable; in the third stage the regression analysis was used in order to test the general hypothesis.

Taking into consideration the low number of cases in the regression model, the independent variables have been strictly introduced, which correlate with the independent variable.

The results of the regression analysis show the following:

- The most powerful factor influencing acceptance and interaction of mother with the adopted child is related to the presence of affective disorders and behavior ($\beta = -0.349$) followed by the wrong expectations of the adoptive parents in relation with the health and behavior of the child ($\beta = -0.353$).
- A positive influence is given by the child’s behavior in relation to the mother, i.e. affection, respect, trust and willingness to communicate with the mother ($\beta = 0.281$).
- Delays in cognitive and language development has a low negative influence in the final model ($\beta = -0.111$).
- The child’s age and placement history, although it has an important influence in the initial model, it shows low values in the final model ($\beta = 0.045 \beta = -0.066$ respectively), indicating an indirect influence on the dependent variable.

---

3The realisation of this study would not have been possible without the valuable support offered by the Romanian Adoption Office and General Directions of Social Assistance and Child Protection from Argeș, Bihor, Brașov, Covasna, Harghita and Pitești whom I thank.
Final regression equation explains 57.7% of the total variance of the dependent variable. The values of VIF (Variance Inflation Factor) are below 4, and statistics of tolerance is over 3, so we can be sure that there is a collinearity problem among the information used. However, consideration of this information should be made taking into account the limit imposed by the small number of subjects. Another important limit comes from the fact that the obtained information strictly express the perspective of the adoptive mothers.

Quantitative research results are largely consistent with the results of the international studies. The negative impact certain features of the child produce and the false expectations suggest the need for a better preparation of parents when adopting.

Furthermore, the frequency analysis indicates that one third of the adoptive parents are strictly informed about the adopted child and about the adoption methodology they have to go through, and three quarters only inform themselves from the GDSCPs specialists.

Resursele părinților adoptatori (sociale și informaționale) nu s-au dovedit a corela semnificativ cu calitatea relației mamei cu copilul adoptat, motiv pentru care variabilele acestei dimensiuni nu au fost introduse în modelul de regresie. Analiza corelațiilor bivariate indică însă importanța resurselor informaționale în formarea expectanțelor părinților adoptatori. De asemenea nevoia de servicii, dar și accesibilitatea serviciilor sunt semnificativ diferit evaluate în funcție de caracteristicile socio-demografice și psihomedicale ale copilului adoptat.

Adoptive parents’ resources (social and informational) proved not to significantly correlate with the quality of the relationship between mother and adopted child, which is why the variables of this dimension were not entered in the regression model. However, the bi-varied correlation analysis indicates the importance of informational resources in creation of the adoptive parents’ expectations. The need for services and accessibility of services are significantly differently evaluated in terms of socio-demographic characteristics and psychological health of the adopted child.

Chapter 7 Attitudes towards adoption of children. Between April and July 2008, we realized an exploring study on a snowball type sample, consisting of 147 persons, aged between 20 and 57, 49.8% unmarried, widow or divorced, 34.2% married with children, and 16% married without children. In terms of education 36.7% attended 12 years at school or less.

This study tried to identify the point of view of the respondents towards adoption and the potential social stigmatization of the adopted and of the adopters. We felt stigmatization as a source of social constraints that could negatively affect the formation of new families.

The method used was based on questionnaire investigation. The used instrument was a questionnaire consisting of 28 closed questions, grouped into four categories: about parents and children, about adoption, in general, about the adoptive parents and about the adopted children.
Adoption from the perspective of the child in difficulty, whom is given the chance to grow and be cared for in a family, it is seen as a positive, favorable measure. From the perspective of adopters, however, adoption is regarded as an acceptable solution only in circumstances where other methods have no result. Being recognized the importance given to child for the family happiness, adoption is permitted as a positive process when the couple failed to have a biological child even through artificial procreation methods were used. We identify a value of biological relationship, the blood relation inside and importance of the family's genetic background for further development of the child, especially socially. The same point emerges from the perception of dissatisfaction of adopted children in relation with their adoptive family, although the expression of adoptive parenting is perceived as similar to the expression of biological parenting.

The paper ends with general conclusions and implications for practice.

Bibliography:


and Psychiatry, Vol. 40, Nr. 8, pp. 1239–1248;
ComplexTrauma_All.pdf, accesat în 12.04.2007;


Fernyhough, L., Audet, K. și Le Mare, L. (2002). Attachment in Romanian Orphans 10 Years After Adoption to Canada. Poster Presented at the International Society of Social and Behavioral Development, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 2-5, 2002;


Ge, Xiaojia; Natsuaki, Misaki N.; Martin, David M.; Leve, Leslie D.; Neiderhiser, Jenae M.; Shaw, Daniel S.; Villareal, Georgette; Scaramella, Laura; Reid, John B.; Reiss, David (2008). Bridging the divide: Openness in adoption and postadoption psychosocial adjustment among birth and adoptive parents. Journal of Family Psychology, Vol. 22, No. 4, pp. 529-540;


Greenwell, K. Fern (2003). The effects of child welfare reform on levels of child abandonment and deinstitutionalization in Romania, 1987-2000. The University of Texas at Austin;


Halifax, Juliette și Villeneuve-Gokalp, Catherine (2005). Adoption in France: who are the adopted children and who are the adopters. În Population & Societies, Nr. 417;
Hall, Elaine J. și Stolley, Kathy Shepherd (1997). A Historical Analysis of the Presentation of Abortion and Adoption in Marriage and Family. Family Relations, Vol. 46, Nr. 1, pp. 73-82;
Press of Glencoe;


fostering in middle childhood, Chichester: John Wiley & Sons; 


Selwin şi Sturgess (2001). International Overview of Adoption: Policy and Practice. Glasgow, Bell and Bain Ltd;


Sturgess, W. și Selwyn, J. (2001). International overview of adoption: Policy și Practice, University of Bristol, School for Policy Studies;
Trasler, G (1960). In place of parents; a study of foster care. London, Routledge & Kegan Paul;


***Adoption. In Encyclopædia Britannica;


***Convenţia ONU cu privire la drepturile copilului Publicat în Monitorul Oficial, Partea I nr. 109 din 28 septembrie 1990;

***Convenţia Europena pentru apararea drepturilor omului si a libertatilor fundamentale Publicata in Monitorul Oficial, Partea I nr. 135 din 31/05/1994.

www.dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/forms/served/de9079.pdf, accesat în 10.04.2007


***http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/613/greenwellkf039.pdf?sequence=2;


***Legea nr. 4/1953 Codul familiei, publicată în B.Of. nr. 1/4 ian. 1954;
Legea nr.3 din 26 martie 1970 privind regimul ocrotirii unor categorii de minori, publicată în B.Of. nr. 28/28 mar. 1970;