

Friday

Updated on: 07/12/24

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| Room | Time | Event |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| Lobby | 3:00-5:00pm | Early Check-in |
| Ballroom | 4:00-5:00pm | Opening Welcome |
| Portland | 5:00-7:00pm | Dinner On Your Own |
| 1st floor | 7:00-10:00pm | Parkway North Mixer: Poetry & Performances w/Ryan Jafar Artes |

Saturday

| | | |
|----------|---------------|---|
| Lobby | 8:00-10:00am | Check-in |
| Ballroom | 9:00-9:45am | Opening Ceremony |
| Ballroom | 9:45-10:15am | Keynote: Until We All Are Free: Personal & Collective Liberation - Tori DiMartile |
| Ballroom | 10:30-11:30am | Genealogy of Adoption + Why Shared Histories Matter - Kit Myers + JaeRan Kim |
| 294 | 10:30-11:30am | Adoptees 4 Justice: Citizenship Policy in the US & Activism - Alisha Bennett |
| 296-298 | 10:30-11:30am | Nature, Nurture, or a Third Thing? - Frankie Forrester |
| 333 | 10:30-11:30am | Support Group: BIPOC Adoptee Parents - Nari Baker |
| Portland | 11:30-12:45pm | Lunch On Your Own |
| Ballroom | 1:00-2:00pm | Unlocking Our Community Experiences: Exploring Intention - Cam Lee Small |
| 294 | 1:00-2:00pm | Same-Race Adoption for Black Adoptees and Beyond - Dr. Alexándrea Oneal |
| 296-298 | 1:00-2:00pm | Disability Justice - Madelaine Reis |
| 333 | 1:00-2:00pm | Support Group: Sexual Violence & Abuse Survivors - Alisha Bennett + Marta Isabella Sierra Cifuentes |
| Ballroom | 2:15-3:15pm | The Native Adoptee Journey of Reclamation & Reconnection - Molly Washington |
| 294 | 2:15-3:15pm | Critical Empathy to Racial Healing: Intersectional Antioppression - Shanta Loecker |
| 296-298 | 2:15-3:15pm | Zine Workshop - Cam McCafferty |
| 333 | 2:15-3:15pm | Support Group: Adoptee Men - Isaac Etter |
| Ballroom | 3:30-4:30pm | Somatic Healing through Breathwork and Movement - Tenley Spencer |
| 294 | 3:30-4:30pm | Power Mapping Kinship Policing and Separation- Benjamin Lundberg Torrez Sánchez |
| 296-298 | 3:30-4:30pm | Navigating Medical Care + Rare Diseases - Dr. Alexándrea Oneal + Daniel Price |
| 333 | 3:30-4:30pm | Support Group: Domestic Adoptees - Melanie Bonner |
| Ballroom | 4:45-5:15pm | Saturday Wrap Up |
| Portland | 5:15pm-on | Dinner On Your Own + Evening Karaoke at 8pm @ Ambassador |

Sunday

| | | |
|----------|----------------|--|
| Lobby | 9:00-10:00am | Check-in |
| Ballroom | 10:00-10:30am | Sunday Welcome |
| Ballroom | 10:30-11:00am | Keynote: Living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - Steve Kalb |
| Ballroom | 11:15-12:15am | VOICES Storytelling: Relationships - Mai Li O'Keefe + VOICES Community |
| 294 | 11:15-12:15am | Descendants of Adoptees - Tanya Martineau + Jacque Fitzgerald |
| 296-298 | 11:15-12:15am | Poetry as Spellcasting: Alchemizing Abolition through Poetry - Katelyn Rivas |
| 333 | 11:15-12:15am | Support Group: Substance Abuse, Recovery, and Addiction - ML |
| Ballroom | 12:30-1:00pm | Closing Ceremony |
| Basement | All day: 9-1pm | The Viking Gameroom: bowling, pool, video games, etc. |

**Room 323 is a safe space/deactivation room. Open to all and available on Saturday and Sunday.*

Friday At-a-Glance Schedule

BIPOC Adoptees
VOICES, a BIPOC Adoptee Community

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Sunday At-a-Glance Schedule

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| Basement | All day: 9-1pm | The Viking Gameroom: bowling, pool, video games, etc. |

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The 1st Annual BIPOC Adoptees VOICES Conference - 2024

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Friday

| Room | Time | Event |
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| Lobby | 3:00-4:00pm | Early Check-in Please check in at the tables in the lobby off the east side of the building on Broadway street. You will receive your name tag and important materials and information. After 4:00, go to the Ballroom. |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | 4:00-5:00pm | Opening Welcome The VOICES team is excited to welcome you to our first annual conference, by BIPOC adoptees and for BIPOC adoptees. We'll share information, create our Container of Care, and build community! |
| Portland | 5:00-7:00pm | Dinner On Your Own There are a variety of restaurants near PSU such as Thai, Chinese, Belizean, Italian, pub food, Chipotle, food carts, and more. Campus is also close to other downtown restaurants that are a short walk, bus ride, or ride-hailing distance. Dinner is pay your own way. |
| Parkway North (First floor of Smith Memorial) | 7:00-10:00pm | The Adoptee Open Mic - Poetry & Performances MC-ed by the amazing Ryan Jafar Artes, host of Adoptee Open Mic, this event is a social mixer rooted in BIPOC adoptee creativity. Ryan will help us set the stage, literally and figuratively, for a series of poetry readings, musical performances, and more. There will be limited complimentary snacks and non-alcoholic beverages available. |

The following performers and creatives:

- Katelyn Rivas
- César Augusto
- Veana
- Shanta Loecker
- Trishna Malick
- Jill Mann + Jacque Fitzgerald
- Erin Rachel

*The performers are not placed in any particular order.

There will be a little time for community members to participate in the Open Mic, so bring something to read, perform, or share!

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Saturday

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| Lobby | 8:00-9:00am | Check-in Please check in at the tables in the lobby off the east side of the building on Broadway street. You will receive your name tag and important materials and information. After 9:00, go to the Ballroom. |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | 9:00-9:45am | Opening Ceremony The VOICES team is excited to welcome you to our first annual conference, by BIPOC adoptees and for BIPOC adoptees. We'll share information, create our container of care, and build some community! |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | 9:45-10:15am | Keynote Presentation "Until We All Are Free: BIPOC Adoptees and Personal and Collective Liberation" with Tori DiMartile (she/her) Our personal stories of relinquishment, displacement, and loss are deeply connected to historical and contemporary struggles of the global majority. BIPOC adoptees are creating a movement of mutual care, systems change, and empowerment. Whether you're just starting to tell your own story or you're collaborating with others to make a difference, you have a role to play. We each bring our experiences, our differences, and our talents to the common goal of centering, supporting, and healing one another. We get free together; but what does freedom look like, how are we achieving it, and how is our freedom as BIPOC adoptees linked to and contingent upon freedom for other oppressed groups? Victoria (Torie) (she/her) is a speaker, consultant, and cultural anthropologist. As a biracial Black transracial adoptee, she was raised in KY in a white Italian American family. She is the founder of Wreckage and Wonder LLC, a small business that educates prospective white adoptive and foster parents and provides webinars and trainings to adoption and child welfare organizations. Torie has been featured on podcasts, participated on panels and given presentations at conferences. Torie is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at Indiana University working towards a dissertation titled "Transracial Adoption in the Age of #GeorgeFloyd: Race and Kinship in U.S. Adoption." Torie's personal life and academic pursuits have made her passionate about addressing racism within the domestic and international adoption industries and advocating for family preservation and reproductive justice. |
| PSU | 10:15-10:30am | Break until next session |

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Saturday (10:30 - 11:30 AM)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Room | Session 1: A Brief Genealogy of Adoption and Why Our Shared Histories Matter |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | <p>Understanding the history of adoption laws and practice is an important part of contextualizing our experiences as BIPOC adoptees. In this presentation we highlight past adoption laws and practices that greatly impacted communities of color and Indigenous communities. We also discuss how understanding our past helps us think about our future legacy.</p> <p>Facilitators: Dr. JaeRan Kim (she/her) + Dr. Kit Myers (he/him)</p> <hr/> |
| Room | Session 2: Adoptees 4 Justice & Adoptees United - Empowering Adoptees Through Justice, Activism, and Advocacy |
| 294 | <p>Thousands of intercountry adoptees in the US live without citizenship, preventing them from accessing basic public benefits, securing loans, obtaining passports, or voting. Some face deportation to countries where they have no known family, and do not know the language or culture, making survival difficult. This session, led by Adoptees For Justice and Adoptees United, will focus on educating, empowering, and organizing adoptee communities around critical issues such as adoption practices, immigration, and justice. Participants will gain insights into US policies, and learn about activism for BIPOC adoptees without citizenship.</p> <p>Facilitator: Alisha Bennett (she/her) + CS Wright (they/them)</p> <hr/> |
| Room | Session 3: Nature, Nurture, Or A Third Thing? |
| 296-298 | <p>The debate of nature vs. nurture has been a hot topic debate in explaining development and identity. To the transracial adoptee navigating many complex layers of identity construction, it can be difficult to pick an 'either or' choice when it comes to pinpointing what makes one themselves. Using my own adoption story, experiences of grief and loss, and lessons learned in my profession as a therapist, I propose and explore the idea of there being a third option for the identity exploring transracial adoptee: nourish.</p> <p>Facilitator: Frankie Forrester (they/them)</p> <hr/> |
| Room | Support Group: BIPOC Adoptee Parents |
| 333 | <p>A connecting conversation centering the experiences of parenting as BIPOC adoptees. Possible themes covered: navigating retriggered trauma, internalized racial oppression, the challenges of passing on birth history and culture, and deep personal healing and love. BIPOC adoptees who are expecting/considering parenthood, LGBTQIA2S+ parents, and BIPOC adoptees who are also adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to join this inclusive space.</p> <p>Facilitator: Nari Baker (she/her)</p> <hr/> |

11:30am - 12:45 pm - Lunch On Your Own (campus restaurants, food carts, Saturday market, etc)

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Saturday (1:00 - 2:00 PM)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Room 3rd Floor Ballroom | Session 4: Unlocking Our Community Experiences: Exploring Intention When We Gather Together As much as we wish it could be, gathering together as an adoptee community isn't an automatically reparative experience. But that shouldn't stop us from working together toward such a possibility. This session is designed to provide a supportive space for folks to share, be witnessed without judgment, and encourage self reflection to feel empowered as we're all in the process of homing in on our own voices while we protect and elevate those around us. You will leave this interactive dialogue with ideas and tools to help you engage adoptee spaces this weekend and far beyond. Facilitator: Cam Lee Small (he/him) |
| Room 294 | Session 5: Exploring Same-Race Adoption: Insights and Considerations for Black Adoptees and Beyond Join Dr. A for an informative presentation on same-race adoption placement. She'll share compelling data findings concerning Black adoptees in perceived same-race households. Her discussion will spotlight the unique experiences of interviewed adoptees and emphasize the importance of further research based on firsthand accounts. The conversation will address the necessity of including other overlooked groups within the adoption community, such as kinship households. Facilitator: Dr. Alexándrea Oneal (she/her) |
| Room 296-298 | Session 6: Disability Justice: A Comprehensive Audit and Intersectional Approach This session will guide participants through a disability justice audit created by Sins Invalid. We will explore the evolution from disability rights to disability justice, emphasizing the importance of intersectionality in addressing ableism. Participants will gain insights into increasing equitable access to resources and centering the voices of historically marginalized groups. The session will conclude with a discussion on the adoptee movements and its parallels to disability justice. Facilitator: Madelaine Reis (she/her) |
| Room 333 | Support Group: Adoptee Survivors (Sexual Violence and Abuse Survivors) In this support group, we will gather in community around a shared wound. You will hear from your group leaders about what they have each learned about survivors, their struggles and their healing. You will also have an opportunity to connect with each other around the impact this trauma has had on your lives. We wish for you to leave, knowing in your bones, that you are not alone. Facilitator: Alisha Bennett (she/her) + Marta Isabella Sierra Cifuentes (she/her) |

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Saturday (2:15 - 3:15 PM)

Room 3rd Floor Ballroom

Session 7: Split Feathers and Lost Birds: ICWA and the Native Adoptee Journey of Reclamation and Reconnection

This panel, hosted by Molly Washington, J.D. and Oregon State Representative Tawna Sanchez, will explore the impacts of the Indian Child Welfare Act on Native adoptees and how policies that center the importance of cultural connection can address some of the traumas caused by relinquishment and adoption. Themes: personal experiences as a transracial Native adoptee, a Native child within the white dominant foster care system, the ongoing work to support Native adoptees and foster youths undertaken by the community-based organization Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). Tools to support connection to heritage, reclamation of culture and identity, and reconnection to community are offered.

Facilitator: Molly Washington, J.D. (she/her) + Tawna Sanchez (she/her)

Room 294

Session 8: From Critical Empathy to Racial Healing: Reinventing Spaces Through an Intersectional Anti-oppression Lens

In this collaboration designed for People of the Global Majority, we will establish a culturally-responsive shared space, model care strategies, and reflect on our collective values and realities through an intersectional anti-oppression lens. We'll answer questions together, including: 'Can you have too much empathy?' 'Is BIPOC a universal term?' and 'What does racial healing mean to you?' We'll work together to challenge oppressive norms and redefine phrases like "White privilege" and "race," in ways that intentionally center our lived experiences.

Facilitator: Shanta Loecker (she/they)

Room 296-298

Session 9: Zine Workshop

Zines are a creative, accessible medium that have allowed marginalized people to express and share their experiences, passions, and perspectives since the dawn of modernized printing. Come to this workshop to get savvy on Zines 101, browse a large zine collection, and learn how to fold a 1-page zine. You will also get access to a directory of local resources to create and distribute your zines.

Facilitator: Cam McCafferty (he/they)

Room 333

Support Group: Adoptee Men

This will be a safe space to talk about how adoption has impacted our view of self and self-value.

Facilitator: Isaac Etter (he/him)

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Saturday (3:30 - 4:30 PM)

| | |
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| Room | Session 10: Somatic Healing through Breathwork and Movement |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | We'll begin by learning three layers of somatic meditation, to help you feel how visualization and physical technique combine to open your awareness to the "soma". We'll talk about what the soma is in Eastern philosophy, and where there is cross over in modern science. After we feel comfortable in our breathing bodies, we will gently awaken to movement with slow, intentional explorations. Progress into movements that shake, stir, and stretch your entire body, releasing trapped physical and emotional tension. This practice fosters connection with your body's internal landscape, helping you identify holding patterns that hinder the expression of your joyous potential. Facilitator: Tenley Spencer (she/her) |
| Room | Session 11: Power Mapping Kinship Policing and Separation |
| 294 | Power is the ability to make something happen! Power Mapping Kinship Policing and Separation is a practical, hands-on workshop, where we will collectively map key people, groups, and institutions that have the power to make decisions about and influence how kinship is forged, policed, regulated. We will challenge our ideas about who holds power, and to what power we appeal in the pursuit of adoption and foster care abolition. All are welcome! Please note that we will not be discussing or debating the merits of abolitionist perspectives or frameworks in this session. Facilitator: Benjamin Lundberg Torrez Sánchez (they/them/elle) |
| Room | Session 12: Navigating Medical Care: Perspectives from Adoptees and Rare Disease Advocacy |
| 296-298 | This presentation explores the unique challenges and perspectives of adoptees and rare disease advocates when navigating the healthcare system. Through personal experiences and advocacy efforts, attendees will gain insights into the complexities of seeking medical care, including issues of identity, access, and support. By highlighting shared experiences and discussing strategies for improved healthcare outcomes, this session aims to foster greater understanding and collaboration in addressing the needs of adoptees and individuals affected by rare diseases. Facilitators: Dr. Alexándrea Evans Oneal (she/her) + Daniel Price (he/him) |
| Room | Support Group: Domestic Adoptees |
| 333 | This session provides a nurturing environment where domestic adoptees can share their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs with others who understand their journey. Facilitator: Melanie Bonner (she/her) |

Join us in the 3rd floor ballroom from 4:45pm - 5:15 pm to end the day together!
Dinner on your own (campus restaurants, food carts, Saturday market, etc.)

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| Lobby | 9:00-10:00am | Check-in Please check in at the tables in the lobby off the east side of the building on Broadway street. You will receive your name tag and important materials and information. After 10:00, go to the Ballroom. |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | 10:00-10:30am | Welcome Back! Let's touch base as a whole community before we dive into the activities of this last day together. |
| 3rd Floor Ballroom | 10:30-11:30am | Keynote Presentation "Living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Escaping the savior narrative" with Steve Kalb (he/him) Being "saved" is an undeniable facet of Adoptee identity. What do we owe adoption? This presentation will discuss a brief history of the savior narrative and reflect on the impact it has on our lives. Through photo analysis, stories of lived experience, and adoption industry insider perspective, we'll explore the insidiousness of this narrative, how to recognize its effects, and how we can set records straight. Steve grew up on a small farm in the Midwest. In 2005, he and his wife moved to Eugene where he would serve the international adoption community for over 17 years. Steve led thousands of Adoptees, adoptive parents, and child welfare professionals around the world through social, educational, and community-building programs. He is an international presenter and trainer advocating for an elevated voice of the unheard. He received his MSW in 2009 from Portland State University and later worked as adjunct faculty teaching advanced community-based social work. Steve strongly believes in the value of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and uses those principles to build safe and secure spaces where people can discover the best versions of themselves. In his free time, Steve enjoys family life with his wife, daughter, two cats, and a dog. He loves consumer electronics, international travel, and subjecting his family to new (sometimes terrible tasting) recipes. |

The Viking Gameroom is reserved from 9am-1pm to our community!

**Located in the basement, this venue has bowling lanes, pool tables, video games, and more!
Games are FREE for our community. Unlimited popcorn and soda are available.**

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Sunday (11:15 AM - 12:15 PM)

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| Room 3rd Floor Ballroom | Session 13: VOICES Storytelling - Relationships BIPOC Adoptee community members will share stories about seeking, being a part of, and learning from relationships. Our audience will get a window into five BIPOC adoptees' experiences around a relationship that has been or is currently prominent in their respective lives. Our storytellers hold different intersections of adoption background, race, gender, sexuality, and age among other identities. This session intends to create a space where community members feel safe, seen, and heard. Facilitator: Mai Li O'Keefe (they/them) + VOICES Community |
| Room 294 | Session 14: Theme - Inherited Legacies: Exploring the Second Generation Adoptee Experience What does it mean to be a child of an adoptee? And how might we nurture this emerging space for the second generation experience? This session will offer space for exploring the complexity of being the adult child of an adoptee. We'll center storytelling, witnessing, and belonging for an hour of connection and discovery with one another. Facilitators: Jacque Fitzgerald (she/her) + Tanya Martineau (she/her) |
| Room 296-298 | Session 15: Poetry as Spellcasting: Alchemizing Abolition through Poetry Let's practice worldbuilding toward abolition through a generative poetry workshop. Together we will examine speculative writing and art that imagines possibilities for a new world that deepens our capacity to move through grief and experience joy. Then we will draft and/or finish at least one poem that speaks to the spells we are casting in order to experience individual and collective liberation Facilitator: Katelyn Rivas (she/her) |
| Room 333 | Support Group: Substance Abuse, Recovery, and Addiction This support group will learn how substance abuse and recovery is treated through the lens of trauma. The support group will be an open space to share your journey and to receive support from fellow adoptees. Facilitator: ML (she/her) |

Join us in the ballroom from 12:30pm - 1:00 pm to end the conference together!

Thank you so much for coming! Let's do it again next year!

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