



KAAN 2020 Call for Proposals (CFP)

Examining Our Legacy: Diversity and Inclusion in Adoption

Denver, CO | June 26-June 28, 2020

[Key Dates and Deadlines](#) | [Theme, Preferred Areas of Focus, and Session Info](#)

[Selection Process and Criteria](#) | [How to Apply](#) | [Contact](#)

Key Dates and Deadlines

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Nov. 1, 2019

Notification of Proposal Acceptance/Decline: Dec. 15, 2019

Deadline to Accept: Dec. 30, 2019

Theme, Preferred Areas of Focus, and Session Info

For our theme, *Examining Our Legacy: Diversity and Inclusion in Adoption*, #KAAN2020 seeks proposals that address the diverse communities within adoption. This includes centering the voices of mixed-race Korean adoptees, who were the first Korean adoptees sent abroad in the initial waves of adoption and whose voices have been overshadowed by their monoracial Korean adoptee counterparts in popular understandings of Korean adoption. We are also interested in proposals that demonstrate the breadth of experiences thinking about how the intersectional lenses of sexuality, disability, nationality, gender, among other identities shapes the adoptee community. This includes considering how the Korean adoptee experience is similar or different from those experiences of other individuals adopted transnationally and/or transracially. At the same time, #KAAN2020 seeks proposals that reflect the current social and political landscape concerning issues of citizenship, the Korean diaspora, and immigration as well as proposals that explore the various ways adoptive parents, family members, and allies can support adoptees around these issues.

While KAAAN seeks sessions ranging from personal stories and academic research to grassroots activities and established efforts and organizations, of particular interest are proposals that address:

- **MIXED RACE VOICES:** What happens when the perspectives and experiences of mixed race Korean adoptees are centered as cornerstones of the Korean adoption experience? How are their stories similar or different from their mixed race, domestic, transracial adoptee counterparts? Why is it important to center these voices within broader narratives of Korean adoption that privilege discussions of racial, ethnic, and cultural identities by monoracial Korean adoptees?
- **INTERSECTIONAL ADOPTEE IDENTITIES:** Why is locating the voices of underrepresented adoptee voices vital to understanding the dynamism of the adoptee community? What happens when an intersectional lens is used to examine how sexuality, ability, nationality, gender identity, among other categories impacts members of the adoptee community? How do we understand masculinity and femininity in relation to the experiences of non-white adoptees and outside of a model that's focused

on traditional gender roles? How are adoptees inclusive of Deaf culture and those from other underrepresented groups within the adoptee community?

- **COALITION BUILDING AND SOLIDARITY:** Why are coalitions between transracial adoptees and communities of color important? Why is it important for adoptive parents, family members of adoptees, partners/spouses of adoptees, and adoption practitioners to work in solidarity with adoptees? How can narratives transform when adoptees operate in solidarity with birth parents? What can adoptees and allies do to support various calls to action?
- **LOOKING AHEAD:** Korean adoption continues into the third decade of the twenty-first century. What has changed (or hasn't changed) in how Korean adoption is discussed by adoptees, adoptive parents, and adoption practitioners? What advice do you have for this next generation of Korean adoptees and adoptive families as well as other families formed by transnational, transracial adoption? How does this affect the experiences of children of adoptees as the largest cohort of adoptees (those adopted in the 1970s and 1980s) enters middle age?
- **MEMBERS OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION:** Many KAAN conference sessions directly meet the needs of adoptees and adoptive parents, especially those with children who are young or young adult adoptees. Therefore, we also seek proposals that address the perspective and needs of the following groups:
 - Partners and Spouses of Adoptees: How does adoption impact adoptees' and their partners/spouses? What is the impact of race and racism and interracial relationships? We're interested in proposals across the spectrum of conference attendees from those partners/spouses who are both new to the conference and to individuals interested in deeper conversations about what it means to be a supportive partner to their loved ones who are adopted.
 - Parents of Adult Adoptees: How do adoptive parents' relationships with their children shift as adoptees become adults and enter new phases in their lives? What are adoptive parents' roles (do they have one?) when adoptees search and/or reunite with their birth parents? We're interested in proposals exploring what it means to be a grandparent in a transracial, adoptive family and conversations concerning how to support adult adoptees as allies.

In addition, KAAN encourages proposals to consider the following:

- **Intended Audience:** Sessions that are entry points for those just beginning to be involved in formalized conversations around adoption as well as sessions with fresh material for those who have been actively engaged in public transracial adoption discourse over many conferences and structured settings. Proposals should identify whether their session is "adoptee-only" or "general"; as well as if the session is aimed at newcomers or those with advanced understanding of issues concerning adoption and race.
- **Session Format:** In order to address all learning styles, KAAN encourages sessions that provide hands-on activities, experiential learning, movement, audience participation/interaction, usage of multimedia, and concrete tools and/or techniques that attendees can use beyond the conference.
- **Content and Intended Goals of the Session:** Successful proposals create an environment where eyes are opened to new ways of thinking and provide tools that attendees can use to make changes and improvements in their communities.

Session Length/Type (60-75 minutes, geared for adults 18 and up): Sessions are assigned to a major time slot on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning/afternoon, and Sunday morning of the conference. Each of these blocks includes at least one adoptee-only session. The final schedule of the conference sessions are determined at a later date.

Speaker Limit/Maximum: KAAAN will accept sessions with up to three speakers. Proposals with panels exceeding three speaker applicants will not be reviewed.

Accessibility: All presenters are expected to use microphone(s) provided in their session rooms and ensure attendees use the microphones during any Q&A. Speakers using any media must make sure a transcript or accurate captioning is provided. Copies of any session handouts or other materials must be arranged at the speaker's own expense. Anticipated number of session attendees is up to 45. Sharing electronic copies of materials or powerpoint presentations via the conference app is highly encouraged.

Conference Store: KAAAN offers a small onsite bookstore to sell books, DVDs, and other materials created by our speakers. This is organized by KAAAN volunteers, free of charge. If you would like to take advantage of this, please check the appropriate box on the individual form and our Store Coordinator will follow-up closer to the conference. Shipping costs to the conference and the pick up of unsold items at the end of the conference are the responsibility of each individual.

Selection Process and Criteria

The session selection process is highly competitive. Last year, KAAAN received 19 proposals for 10 adoptee-only sessions and 43 proposals for 22 general sessions.

Individuals may only be attached to two proposals. Incomplete submissions or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

All proposals are reviewed by a team of KAAAN volunteers. When reviewing completed proposals, the Proposal Review Team will consider the following specific points during the review process:

- Does the session title, description, and goals align with the conference theme?
- Does the session's topic effectively demonstrate a relevancy and appeal to current issues and perspectives of conference participants?
- Will the speakers provide new information, knowledge, skills, or resources to participants?
- How likely will the session format and delivery will allow participants to achieve the stated session goals?
- Did the Session Lead complete Part I of the Call for Proposal application?
- Did all speakers attached to a session complete Part II of the Call for Proposal application?

How to Apply

1. Determine a topic and any other speakers involved with the proposal.
2. Select a Session Lead, who will submit the final proposal form by the November 1 deadline. KAAAN will communicate directly with the Session Lead about any questions and send a letter of acceptance/decline to that person by December 15.

3. Choose a title (six words or less), list three goals, and provide a session description (100 words or less).
4. Identify any needed audio-visual items. Please be accurate but not excessive. We base our AV contract and schedule on coordinating these needs. (*Hotels charge per session room per day for all items, from flip charts to projectors.*) KAAN encourages speakers to bring your own laptop which helps KAAN manage costs. Additional AV requests made after proposal acceptances are not guaranteed.
5. Each person involved with the proposal must complete the Individual Speaker application by the November 1 deadline. Incomplete proposals may not be reviewed.
6. Links for online CFP submission at www.wearekaan.org (*both parts required by November 1 deadline*):
 - Part I—Session Proposal Form: <https://tinyurl.com/KAAN2020Part1>
 - Part II—Individual Speaker application (*one per speaker*): <https://tinyurl.com/KAAN2020Part2>

In a commitment to keep attendance affordable for speakers, as well as recognize the contributions of the speakers to the conference, KAAN reserves funds to offset partial financial costs for speakers. KAAN offers the following support: registration waiver (includes four conference meals), partial hotel overnight assistance, and up to \$175/person for travel reimbursement (airfare, railfare, or mileage) per speaker. Baggage/cab fees, shuttle, tolls, parking, and other expenses are not eligible. If speakers are traveling with other speakers, only one mileage reimbursement is possible. Financial support is non-transferable to other speakers or conference attendees. Please note: this financial assistance should not be anticipated to cover all speaker conference and travel-related expenses.

If you need financial assistance, please communicate this on your individual form. If you can afford to cover some or all of your conference fees, please indicate that. Budgeted monies are divided among sessions at time of acceptance. Changes made to requests after acceptance may not be able to be granted.

A draft copy of KAAN's Speaker Guidelines and Agreement may be found [online](#), which outlines further expectations of speakers at time of proposal acceptance.

Contact

Questions? Contact info@KAANet.org