



# KAAN 2021 Call for Proposals (CFP)

*From Dialogue to Action: Identity and Intersections in Our Community*  
Denver, CO | June 25-27, 2021\*\*

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**UPDATE:** We are announcing that the KAA21 Conference: *From Dialogue to Action: Identity and Intersections in Our Community* will be virtual. As time has progressed and COVID-19 rates have increased, we have decided to move the annual conference to an online format anticipated to take place the week of June 20-26, 2021.

As a result of this decision, the deadline for submitting a proposal for the conference has been extended to December 1, 2020. All conference and session guidelines noted with an \*\* will be modified to reflect a virtual event. For all accepted proposals, KAA will work with speakers to make any adjustments to their proposal to fit a virtual program. Please stay tuned for more details as we finalize the details of the virtual conference.

## Key Dates and Deadlines

Deadline to Submit Proposals: Dec 1, 2020

Notification of Proposal Acceptance/Decline: Jan 15, 2021

Deadline to Accept: Jan 30, 2021

## Theme, Preferred Areas of Focus, and Session Info

In our theme, *From Dialogue to Action: Identity and Intersections in Our Community*, #KAAN2021 seeks proposals that address the many parts of our community's identity. For members of the transracial adoption community, how do our multiple and overlapping identities, including age, gender, ability, nationality, race, class, and sexuality (in addition to being an adoptee and/or adoptive family member) influence how we see ourselves? How are these intersections fluid and shift throughout our lifetime? KAA also invites proposals that address the transracial adoption experience within the current social and political landscape of Black Lives Matter, citizenship, COVID-19, immigration, and communities of color. In addition to proposals which acknowledge and recognize different parts of our identities, more importantly, KAA invites proposals which promote action and resources for improving the lives of our community's intersections.

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

- **INTERSECTIONAL ADOPTEE IDENTITIES:** What happens when an intersectional lens is used to examine how sexuality, ability, nationality, gender identity, among other categories impact 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?

- **CURRENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT:** What is the relevancy of Black Lives Matter, citizenship, COVID-19, immigration, and experiences of communities of color to members of the transracial adoption community? What is the opportunity for adoptive parents, family members of adoptees, partners/spouses of adoptees, and adoption practitioners to support adoptees?
- **EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN:** How do our experiences as adoptees and/or adoptive family members change and evolve based on our age and life experiences? For example: building a sense of identity in young children, navigating young adulthood, raising a family or choosing not to, death and loss of a parent, and other major life milestones. How do our identities of child, sibling, parent, co-worker, and partner/spouse define the relationships in our lives?
- **MEMBERS OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION:** KAAAN seeks 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? KAAAN seeks proposals that support partners/spouses who are both new to the conference and to those 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, KAAAN 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, KAAAN 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:** KAAN 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\*\*:** KAAN offers a small onsite bookstore to sell books, DVDs, and other materials created by our speakers. This is organized by KAAN 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 and not all submissions will be accepted.
- 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 KAAN 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 the speakers involved in the 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, if applicable. KAAN will communicate directly with the Session Lead about any questions and send a letter of acceptance/decline to that person by January 15.
3. Complete Part 1: Session Proposal Form. The Session Lead will be responsible for submitting information about the session.
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. Complete Part II: Individual Speaker Application. Each person involved with the proposal must complete the Individual Speaker Application by the December 1 deadline. Incomplete proposals may not be reviewed.
6. Links for online CFP submission at [www.wearekaan.org](http://www.wearekaan.org):
  - Part I—Session Proposal Form (one per SESSION): <https://forms.gle/QKFWJXBMRQoczaAW8>
  - Part II—Individual Speaker application (one per SPEAKER):  
<https://forms.gle/2T5N8f2Q7Jw41rZt7>
7. 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\*\*. For an in-person conference, 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. Financial assistance should not be anticipated to cover all speaker conference and travel-related expenses.
8. If you need financial assistance, please communicate this on each Individual Speaker Application. 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 [2021 Speaker Guidelines and Agreement](#) outlines further expectations of speakers at time of proposal acceptance.

## Contact

Questions? Contact: [info@wearekaan.org](mailto:info@wearekaan.org)