Changes in the adoption field in the Netherlands

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The Netherlands

- Population 17 million
- 41,000 quadrate kilometers
Adoption in the Netherlands

- 1956, first adoption law
- Ratification Hague convention, Netherlands, 1998 (USA, 2008; India, 2003)

- No adoption from foster care system, Dutch biological parents have to abandon their child, and they don’t
- Maximum age foreign adoption: five years
- Only recognized adoption agencies: 7
Adoptions from India to USA and the Netherlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Netherlands</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Netherl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>466</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>59</td>
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</table>
### Fremdländische Adoptivkinder
#### USA, 8 europ. Länder, 1980-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>7,761</td>
<td>15,774</td>
<td>22,884</td>
<td>17,438</td>
<td>9,320</td>
<td>8,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanien</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>5,541</td>
<td>3,156</td>
<td>2,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deutschl.</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>1,819</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>525</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niederl.</td>
<td>1,153</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>1,307</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>488</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Italien</td>
<td>1,117</td>
<td>2,374</td>
<td>3,402</td>
<td>3,977</td>
<td>4,022</td>
<td>3,106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frankr.</td>
<td>1,850</td>
<td>3,769</td>
<td>4,079</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>1,995</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Skandin.</td>
<td>2,625</td>
<td>2,195</td>
<td>2,343</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Insges(23)</td>
<td>15,547</td>
<td>28,243</td>
<td>45,299</td>
<td>34,785</td>
<td>23,609</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insgesamt bedeutet für 23 Länder.
### Anzahl Adoptionen aus Asien, 1980-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>4,621</td>
<td>14,496</td>
<td>5,972</td>
<td>4,405</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>6,123</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>2,121</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>1,739</td>
<td>704</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip.</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

80-89 durchschnittlich pro Jahr

Anzahl Adoptionen aus Süd/Mittel Amerika, 1980-2011

- Guatem. 224 1,087 3,872 4,186 40
- Colomb. 1,484 1,023 1,466 1,617 1,577
- Haiti 153 238 958 1,368 195
- Brazil 753 325 473 485 348

80-89 durchschnittlich pro Jahr
## Total Statistics Intern.adoptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Netherl.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Netherl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>15.719</td>
<td>993</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>19.613</td>
<td>782</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>19.647</td>
<td>1.122</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>12.753</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>22.884</td>
<td>1.307</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,668</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>22.739</td>
<td>1.185</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>20.679</td>
<td>816</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Domestic adoption

• Since 1974 more foreign than domestic adoptions (graph 1)
• Since 1990 yearly 30 to 50 domestic adoptions (per 17 million inhabitants)
• In USA in 2007 and 2008: 61.5 per 100,000 inhabitants. Yearly more than 50,000 domestic adoptions
Number of Dutch and foreign adoptions
Netherl. 1957-2012
Number of adoption requests and withdrawals 1970-2012

Number of adoption requests and withdrawals 1970-2012
Foreign adoptions

- In the Netherlands: varying numbers of foreign adoptions
  1980: 1,594
  1985: 1,297
  1990: 830
  1995: 661
  2000: 1,193
  2006: 816
  2011: 529
  2012: 488

Several reasons for these changes; see: generations of adoptive parents

- In the USA: 2004: almost 23,000 foreign adoptions, then each year less. In 2011: 9,319; in 2012: 8,668 adoptions
Main sending countries

• In 2011: 488 foreign adoptions to the Netherlands:
  1 – from China (192)
  2 - from USA (48)
  3 - from several African countries (144)

• Important countries in former years
  - Colombia: 5,451
  - South Korea: 4,147
  - Sri Lanka: 3,412
  - India: 3,058
  - Indonesia: 3,041
  - Brazil: 1,393
  - African countries 2,060 (Ethiopia till 2012: 1,112)
Fünf Adoptiveltern-Generationen

- Die Traditionelle, verschlossene Adoptiveltern-Generation (1956-1970)
- Die Generation sich bewusst von Widersprüchlichkeiten, (2005-heute)
Traditional-closed generation
1950-1970

- 95% involuntarily childlessness
- Conventional values: sexual behavior, marriage, family life, authority
- Kirk’s Rejection-of-difference attitude and often closed adoption
- Taboo character of adoption
- Unmarried firstmothers were advised to relinquish their child; promise of secrecy
- No knowledge about main adoption issues, no literature
- Domestic or European born children
Open-idealistic generation 1970-1980

- Acceptance-of-difference attitude
- Adoption much less taboo character
- 40% adoptive parents with bio-children
- Decrease domestic adoptions and increase of intercountry, start of interracial adoptions
- Effect cultural revolution of the sixties
- Open, romantic and idealistic
- Negative advices for relinquishing a child
- Positive expectations for adoption
- Hardly any preparation or knowledge about adoption
- Some literature, start of scientific research
Materialistic-realistic generation
1980-1991

• Less idealism than second generation
• Less adoptive parents with bio-children
• More aware of the increase of costs
• Adoption scandals (e.g. Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Brazil)
• More realism about problem behavior of adoptive children
• More acceptance of the need of preparation and professional help
• More difficult to place older children (3 and older)
• More knowledge and scientific research
Optimistic-demanding generation
1991-2005

• Obligatory preparation course
• Increasing adoptions from China and Taiwan: very young children
• Optimistic about educational possibilities of young adoptive children
• More internally demanding oriented and less fixated on best interests of the child
• Older children hard to place
Faced with contradictions generation 2005 - ….

- 70% children with special needs, medical
- Increase of domestic adoptions in sending countries
- More hesitations about the justification of intercountry adoption
- Adoption scandals: e.g. China, Ethiopia
- Adoptees speak out more clearly
First generation adoptees (…. – 1990): The silent generation

- Between 1957 and 1965 about 3,300 adoptees born in Holland or another European country
- Since 1980 these adoptees become adults
- Unlike adoptees in USA, they did not speak out or organised themselves
Second generation adoptees
1990 - ....

- Many thousands of foreign adoptees: adults now
- They organised themselves in many countries, mostly per country of origin
- In Holland two umbrella organisations:
  1. United adoptees international (UAI 2008)
     - Looks more critical at the foreign adoption
  2. Cooperation International Adoptees (SIG 2007)
     - More acceptance of adoption in general
       - For both organisations: roots and identity are important issues
Influencing factors

- Negatively influencing factors for an optimal development?

- Studies of adoptees will help us to find answers

- Studies with adoptees born in Romania:
  - Done by: Michael Rutter a.o. in U.K.
  - Done by René Hoksbergen, Kathinka Rijk, Sandra Knuiman in the Netherlands
Table 1, IQ: comparison biological-adoptive parents

- Adoptive child’s IQ correlations with parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bio Father</th>
<th>Bio Mother</th>
<th>Adopt.father</th>
<th>Mother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Mean age children 8
B Mean age children 7
### TABLE 2 Adopted child adoptive parents correlations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adoptive father</th>
<th>Adoptive mother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.02 (follow up 10 years later)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.09 (new sample of youths)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean age children 18


Authors critique parent-child correlations in adoption studies on methodological grounds.
Romanian adoptees

- Longitudinal Study: 1998-2006
  Stage 1: 1998 – 1999: Semi structured questionnaire: 74 families with 83 Romanian adoptees (response 86%).
  Stage 2: 2000 – 2002: Semi structured questionnaire and 6 other instruments: 72 families with 80 Romanian adoptees 44 boys (55%), 36 girls (45%) (Response 83%).
  Stage 3: 2003 – 2006: Child Behavior Checklist all children, extensive interview with two groups (15 & 18) selected based on earlier results.
Instruments

- Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL)
- Trauma Questionnaire
  To determine Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- The ADHD Questionnaire
  To determine Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Auti-R scale
  To determine the presence of Autistic Behavior
- The Nijmegen Child Rearing Questionnaire
  To determine the Burden of upbringing for parents
- The Adoption Satisfaction Questionnaire

(Internal consistency of all six instruments was high)
Internalizing symptoms

- Schizoid (in direction of schizophrenic?)
- Depressed
- Uncommunicative
- Obsessive-compulsive
- Somatic complaints
- Immature
- Social withdrawal
- Anxious obsessive
Externalizing symptoms

- Hyperactive
- Aggressive
- Delinquent
- Sex problems
- Cruel
Comparison Rom. ad. with children adopted before age 6 months

Rom. Boys (44) girls (36) **higher** scores than boys (73), girls (86) < 6 months at placement, on:
- Attention Problems
- Social Problems
- Cognitive problems

However, **lower** scores on:
- Physical Complaints
- Internalizing

Externalizing problem behavior apparently increased the chance of survival.
While Internalizing behavior (Keeping problems inside of you, Anxious / Depressed behavior) did not.
Comp. to adoptees at arrival 2 years and older, average age 4;2; more than 10 countries; n=1085

Scores in clinical range of Total Problems:
Av. age 4;2 Romanian adoptees 2;10
Boys 22%, 39%
Girls 15% 33%

Romanian group signif. high risks for problem behavior due to neglect and abuse before placement for adoption
Behavioral Problems

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
  (16 children, 9 boys & 7 girls)

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
  (12 children, 11 boys & 1 girl)

- Post Institutionalized Autism
  (13 children, 8 boys & 5 girls)

Comorbidity was seen in several children.
Behavioral Problems

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
  (16 children, 9 boys & 7 girls)

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
  (12 children, 11 boys & 1 girl)

- Post Institutionalized Autism
  (13 children, 8 boys & 5 girls)

Comorbidity was seen in several children.
Burden of upbringing

- Adop. parents of 80 Rom. adopt. higher parental stress, than non-adoptive parents.
- Higher scores on “Child as a burden”, “Task difficulty” and “Expectation of help”.
- Adopt. mothers more child-rearing problems, need more assistance, want it more strongly, expect to receive it from partner and others.
- Gender of the child not related to burden of upbringing.
- Adopt. parents less family stress and judge child-rearing less probl. than non-adopt. parents who need professional assistance.
- Only on the scale “Child as a burden” adoptive parents are similar to non-adoptive parents.
- Adoptive parents cope more appropriate with raising problems.
Medische Aufmerksamkeiten Amerikanische Untersuchung

- Intestinale parasiten 25%
- Tuberculosis 15% (latent)
- Hepatitis B 3-5%
- Hepatitis A < 1%
- Hepatitis C < 1%
- HIV < 1%
- Syphilis < 1%

- Immer eine gewogene medische Untersuchung sofort nach dem Ankommen des Adoptivkindes einstellen.
- Sehr kritisch die medische und andere Daten aus dem Herkunftsland betrachten.