Representation & Visibility

KAAN 2024

CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)

Key Dates and Deadlines

Deadline to Submit Proposals: **November 7, 2023**
Notification of Proposal Acceptance/Decline: **December 5, 2023**
Deadline to Accept: **December 31, 2023**

Theme, Preferred Areas of Focus, and Session Info

Representation and Visibility: With mainstream media featuring adoptee characters and adoption storylines in recent years, it is important to examine with a critical lens how those representations are informed and internalized by adoptees and non-adoptees alike. This type of representation of adoptees has the potential to transform or reinforce the dominant adoption narrative. Representation and Visibility is more than elevating our stories as Asian Americans and having ethnic mirrors. It is elevating, correcting, and centering the stories of adoptees and what adoption is and is not.

KAAN 2024 seeks session proposals that explore the ways in which adoptees are represented and visible in all areas of life, including, but not limited to, research, media, art, books, politics, etc. The theme calls for sessions that explore what it means to be "represented" and what it means to be "visible" in daily life at the personal and societal level. Session proposals can also explore the ways that our stories as adoptees and people of color are weaved together as one identity or addressed separately as standalone identities and how that relates to what it means to be represented in one sense, but not the other. Sessions related to how we represent ourselves versus how others represent us can also be explored through addressing questions of who can tell our stories, what happens when others tell our stories, and how our stories have evolved over time.

In addition, KAAN seeks sessions that range from academic research to grassroots activities and established efforts and organizations. Of particular interest are proposals that address the following

topics that are examined through the lens of representation and/or visibility as specified by the conferences theme:

- **ADOPTEE SOLIDARITY:** Proposals should address how adoptees work in coalition with one another, particularly in terms of representation and visibility. This could include how adoptees have (or have not) advanced a politics of adoptee representation and possible ways adoptees of all ethnicities, nationalities, and citizenship status could work together. What are the policies or practices that adoptees could advance if we worked together?
- **INTERSECTIONAL ADOPTEE IDENTITIES:** What happens when an intersectional lens is used to examine how race and ethnicity, sexuality, ability, nationality, gender identity, among other categories impact members of the adoptee community? Examples of questions to explore are, but not limited to: 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? And, how are adoptee spaces inclusive of Deaf culture, disability culture and those from other underrepresented groups within the adoptee community?
- **CURRENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT:** What is the relevancy of women's reproductive rights, anti-Asian hate, 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?
- **MEMBERS OF THE ADOPTION CONSTELLATION:** KAAN 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? KAAN seeks proposals that support partners/spouses who are both new to the conference and 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.
- **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?

In addition, KAAN encourages proposals to consider the following:

- **Intended Audience:** Sessions may range from those that are entry points for attendees who are just beginning to be involved in formalized conversations around adoption to those that provide fresh material for attendees who have been actively engaged in transracial and/or transnational adoption learning via adoptee conferences and other structured settings. Proposals should identify whether their session is "adoptee-only" or "general" (open to all attendees), as well as if the session is appropriate for newcomers or those with advanced understanding of issues concerning adoption and race. "Fishbowl" sessions that center adoptee voices and experiences, but also allow for non-adoptee observation are also encouraged and welcomed.

- **Session Format:** 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. It is a standard requirement that sessions have ASL access through ASL interpretation, which KAAN will provide, and that all media have closed captioning and/or transcription.

- **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 positive changes in their communities.

- **Session Length/Type (60-75 minutes, geared for adults 18 and up)**:** Sessions are assigned to a timeslot on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, or Sunday morning of the conference. The final schedule of the conference sessions is determined at a later date.

- **Speaker Limit/Maximum:** KAAN will be able to provide financial assistance for sessions with up to **three speakers**. Proposals with panels exceeding three speaker applicants will be reviewed, however, please note that financial assistance will only be available for up to 3 speakers per session.

- **Accessibility**:** KAAN provides ASL access at the conference for those who use ASL as their primary language. We cannot guarantee ASL access in specific workshops without ASL users, unless requested in your proposal and approved by KAAN. It is a standard requirement that all video will have accurate closed captioning and audio must have accurate transcription. Any other multimedia should also have appropriate accessibility. For all in-person sessions, all speakers and attendees are expected to use the microphone(s) provided in their sessions to make sure all are able to hear. This includes not only our interpreters but also attendees who do not disclose they are hard of hearing. Our hotels are ADA compliant and meet the needs for those with mobility disabilities. Other accessibility needs will be handled on a case by case basis and we expect that presenters will be willing to work with us in order to make sure all members of our community are welcomed.

- **Audiovisual (AV) and Technology:**
  - KAAN is an in-person event, and we do not support virtual presentations or virtual presenters, recording, or live streaming of any kind unless the request is made during the Call for Proposals.
  - **KAAN does not provide laptops or presentation devices for sessions.** Please plan to bring the following as well as download offline versions of your presentation and all videos, audio, and music that you plan to use in case you have issues with the hotel's wifi. Back up your presentation on a USB stick or to the cloud (preferably both) before traveling.
    - Your device
    - Dongle adapter(s) to connect to the projector
    - Slide advancer
    - Copies of any session handouts or other materials. Session handouts and materials may also be uploaded to the conference app.
  - Each session room will be equipped with one microphone and chairs in rows (lecture-style). **Requests for anything other than that must be included in your session proposal.**
    - Specific room configuration requests, such as chairs in a round or the need for tables
    - The need for a projector and screen
    - The need for a flipchart
    - The need for more than one microphone.
  - KAAN Tech will reach out to all accepted proposal teams to learn more about their specific tech needs before KAAN. If KAAN Tech does not receive a response, KAAN cannot guarantee the proper AV and technology will be provided.

- **Conference Store**:** KAAN will work to secure an independent bookstore to sell books, publications, artwork, and other materials created by our speakers onsite. This is dependent on securing a bookstore to provide this service and is not guaranteed. 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 be part of a maximum of 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:
  - Do the session title, description, and goals align with the conference theme?

- ○ Does the session's topic effectively demonstrate 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 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. Complete Part 1: Session Proposal Form (one per all)
   a. 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.

2. Complete Part II: Individual Speaker Application (one per speaker)
   a. Each person involved with the proposal must complete the Individual Speaker Application by the November 7 deadline.
   b. In a commitment to keep attendance affordable for speakers, as well as recognize the contributions of the speakers to the conference, KAAN provides some optional financial assistance to speakers. For an in-person conference, KAAN offers the following optional support: registration waiver (includes four conference meals), and partial hotel overnight assistance per speaker. Financial assistance is not anticipated to cover all speaker conference and travel-related expenses. For speakers to request financial assistance, please communicate this on each Individual Speaker Application.
   c. A draft copy of KAAN's 2024 Speaker Guidelines and Agreement outlines further expectations of speakers at the time of proposal acceptance.

Contact

For more information about the call for proposals, visit www.wearekaan.org.
Questions? Contact: info@wearekaan.org