

I am Joyce Chen, an Associate Professor in the department of Communication Studies at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). I have been studying on the cross-cultural adaptation of internationally adopted children and adoptive family for several years. In order to further understand the communication process involved in the cross-cultural adaptation and the growing up of those adopted children, I encourage you (if you are 18 or older) to participate in an online survey that consists of open-ended questions regarding your experiences of international adoption and raising your child/children adopted internationally. Completing the survey will take 20 minutes or longer, depending on how much you write.

Based on the integrative theory of Cross-Cultural Adaptation (Kim 2001), I have been working on a model (Chen, 2009) for the study on the Cross-Cultural Adaptation Process of Internationally Adopted Children, which indicated the integrative relationships between preparedness for adoption, during adoption, after adoption, the interactions of adoptive family and adopted child with the large society and his/her birth country, and identity formation of those adoptees. By a qualitative study on the experiences of internationally adoptees, this model was tested and supported. The results also show that adoptive parents have played a key role in the process of identity formation and cross-cultural adaptation of those international adoptees. Therefore, the present study examines international adoptees' cross-cultural adaptation from parental perspectives through the online interview.

The online data collection will keep individual participants anonymous because all their personal identity would be removed by the UNI secure network server before I receive the data. However, *"no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties."* It is important that the participation is voluntary, and please feel free to withdraw whenever you do not want to continue the process.

The risk for participation would be minimal because the online survey is anonymous. Yet, answering those questions may recall your feelings toward your child's experiences of abandonment by birth parents and the society's challenge to his/her birth cultural background. However, the results from the study would benefit not only international adoptees and adoptive parents for better understanding the process of cross-cultural adaptation and identity formation but also the larger society for gaining more knowledge about international adoption and adapting to multiculturalism. You may reach me by email ([checn@uni.edu](mailto:checn@uni.edu)) or Skype (joyce.chen1), or calling the department office 319-273-2217. For answers to questions about research participants' rights, please contact Anita Gordon, UNI IRB Administrator, 319-273-6148, [anita.gordon@uni.edu](mailto:anita.gordon@uni.edu).