Project Title: A genealogical study of Indigenous Adoption in Canada: A multi-faceted examination of events in the removal of Indigenous children with a concentration on child welfare policy shifts between 1950 and 1985

Term: Winter

Supervisor: Dr. Dale Spencer  
Unit: Law and Legal Studies

Description of project: This study consists of two subprojects, archival/document research and a qualitative matrix, designed to unearth the architecture of the Indigenous child welfare era (1950-1985) and reveal the nature of how obscure, and perhaps questionable, policies were reified and subsequently inscribed into the culture and practice of Indigenous child welfare, and how these policies led to mass removals. Students will contribute both to the archival subproject through collating and analyzing archival materials and to the transcription and analysis of the interviews with adoptees derived through the qualitative matrix.

Number of students required: 3

Research duties:

- Qualitative Interview Transcription (12 hours)
- Workshop participation (3 workshops X 1 hour each)
- Literature Reviews (15 hours)
- QSR Nvivo Qualitative Data Analysis (10 hours)
- SPSS Data Entry and Analysis (5 hours)

Learning and reflection activities:

QSR Nvivo Workshops: Through a series of three 1-hour workshops in the first half of the semester, students will learn how to use QSR Nvivo qualitative data analysis software. Students will learn how to interpret and code rich text-based interview and focus group files.
**QSR Nvivo Qualitative Data Analysis Assignments:** In the first assignment, after gaining familiarity with lay out of QSR Nvivo through workshops, students will be required to set up a project, importing transcripts into Nvivo, begin coding interview and focus group transcripts into descriptive nodes. In the second assignment, students will be required to display material under nodes, manage nodes (parent-child relationships between nodes), create memos, attach memos to nodes, and export nodes from Nvivo. Students will also have to create their own thematic maps to make sense of the data. Along with other research team members, data will be entered into SPSS for further data analysis.

**Literature Review Assignment:** This assignment will involve a review of the literature directly related to the Indigenous child removal system. The student will identify “gaps” in previous research on the topic. The purpose of the literature review is for the student to know what other scholars have discussed in relation to Indigenous child removal and to ground the study in a particular context. The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate the student’s abilities to research a topic of study so they can learn to: (1) identify and formulate an inquiry question that defines what you’d like to learn, (2) know how to search and locate literature (eg. Journal articles) using library and Internet resources; (3) analyze information found in academic journal articles, and (4) synthesize new knowledge into a written literature review and (5) establish context for your inquiries. Each student will be assigned one of the following three broad subareas to conduct a literature review: 1) Contemporary Social Policy and Indigenous Child Welfare 2) Social and Legal History of Indigenous Child Removal 3) Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Child Removal.

**Critical Reflections Report:** The critical reflection report offers students the opportunity to reflect on how the findings from the project and qualitative data analysis speak to the existing literature on Indigenous child removal. Students will be encouraged to explore their own ideas about the data, to express their views on the findings. This critical reflection assignment will improve student’s analytical skills because will require students to express what they think, and more significantly, how and why they think that way.

**Learning outcomes:**

- Learn how to analyze qualitative data
- Learn how to use QSR Nvivo Qualitative Research Software
- Gain experience working on a research team
- Learn how to conduct literature reviews

**Evaluation Criteria:**

**QSR Nvivo Workshop Attendance – 20% - (Continuous)**

QSR Nvivo Qualitative Data Analysis Assignments – 15% X 2 =30%
Due: February 28\(^{th}\) & March 28\(^{th}\)

**Literature review Assignment – 25%**
Due: April 6\(^{th}\)

**Critical Reflections Report – 25%**
Due: April 13\(^{th}\)
Skills or knowledge required: Excellent writing and analytical skills

Any required health and safety training: NA

Other considerations: In working with confidential interview and focus group data, students will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Application instructions:
Participants are selected on the basis of merit and fit with the research project. Please submit a CV, transcript, and cover letter indicating why you are interested in and qualified for this research experience to the undergraduate administrator of the unit listed above. The application deadline is normally April 30th (for IPAF 4900 opportunities in the summer or fall term), August 15th (for fall and winter term opportunities) and November 15th (to take IPAF 4900 in the winter or summer term). Only students with a GPA of 9.5 or higher and at least third year honours standing will be considered.

To find out more about IPAF 4900, please visit: http://carleton.ca/fpa/ipaf-main/