

UO Folklore Program Presents

Patricia Sawin

“Stories of Adoptive Family Formation—Essential and Contested”

Patricia Sawin is Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of American Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Brown Bag Luncheon and Presentation
Tuesday, April 12 at noon
Graduate Student Center, Susan Campbell Hall

Members of families formed through international and/or transracial adoption face regular explicit and implicit challenges to their identity as a family—“How much did you pay for the baby? or Why didn’t your real mother want you?” Adoptive mothers especially assume the discursive work of defending their relationships, defining their family as “real,” and stabilizing their children’s sense of security. Mothers’ stories about the exceptional and unlikely circumstances through which a child became part of the family invoke a mysterious rightness to their belonging together that trumps divisive human definitions through blood or appearance.



Sponsored by the University of Oregon Folklore Program and the Oregon Folklife Network

For more information on the UO Folklore Program:

Undergraduate Studies — Contact John Baumann at jbaumann@uoregon.edu

Graduate Studies — Contact Lisa Gilman at imgilman@uoregon.edu