



Connecting Bridges and Borders Program

Entrepreneurship and Innovation NJCU—Jersey City Connect Project

Gabrielle Glaser and *American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption*

Jersey City, March 29, 2021—"Adoption doesn't guarantee a better life. It only offers a different life."

New York Times bestselling author Gabrielle Glaser connected with NJCU students at the IDR last week to discuss her new book, *American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption*, groundbreaking depiction of the dark side of adoption agencies told through the lens of a mother and son's tumultuous journey to meeting one another for the very first time, 52 years after her they were separated, only for her son to die mere months after their reunion. This shocking account of the American adoption system is not to be missed; heartbreak and betrayal leave children victims of this "predatory adoption system that operated as a business" as Glaser summarized.

Ms. Glaser, who originally planned to pursue a PhD in Brazilian history but ultimately fell in love with journalism while working for the New York Times, was outraged when the late David Rosenberg shared his story. Like any strong journalist, Ms. Glaser channeled her frustration with the injustice of adoption agencies and investigated further, which has led her to write about the horrors of post-WWII adoption practices which included traumatic pseudoscientific methods and the neglect of babies who did not meet certain standards.

She coins the term "adoption industrial complex," or the commodification of children's bodies in hopes of making a profit when discussing the process that gripped humanity after the second World War. As the idea of the American nuclear family spread West, so did the demand for "perfect" babies. Children were evaluated on their intelligence and personality from within the first few minutes of life, the details of some of these practices are almost too extreme to convey. Ms. Glaser exposes Professor Weiss and his students to an exclusive view inside a world that is painful and persists to this day.

The IDR team is thrilled to have embarked on this new approach to connecting voices from the student community with perspectives from around the globe and within their own local ecosystems. With this student engagement, the IDR is elevating the voices of our next generation and developing their understanding of the world we live in today.

Watch/Listen to This Month's Episodes

Gabrielle Glaser

Youtube - <https://youtu.be/NAItQrPIke8>

Spotify -

<https://open.spotify.com/show/7wWqHTZ4Qm8V4tZy7UAycx?si=bMMuIXXeQu6utfs6GLNMNg>

Gubernatorial candidate Jack Ciattarelli interview, March 10 episode

Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC7o1RqljBI>

Spotify -

https://open.spotify.com/episode/2uvzH7hTpbCnL3g0W2r6XW?si=8z0XF8QRbK9VE1_SrImRO

About Us

The Institute for Dispute Resolution at NJCU is a platform at the School of Business that seeks to promote student connectivity to real-world issues.

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<https://www.njcu.edu/academics/schools-colleges/school-business/institute-dispute-resolution-idr>