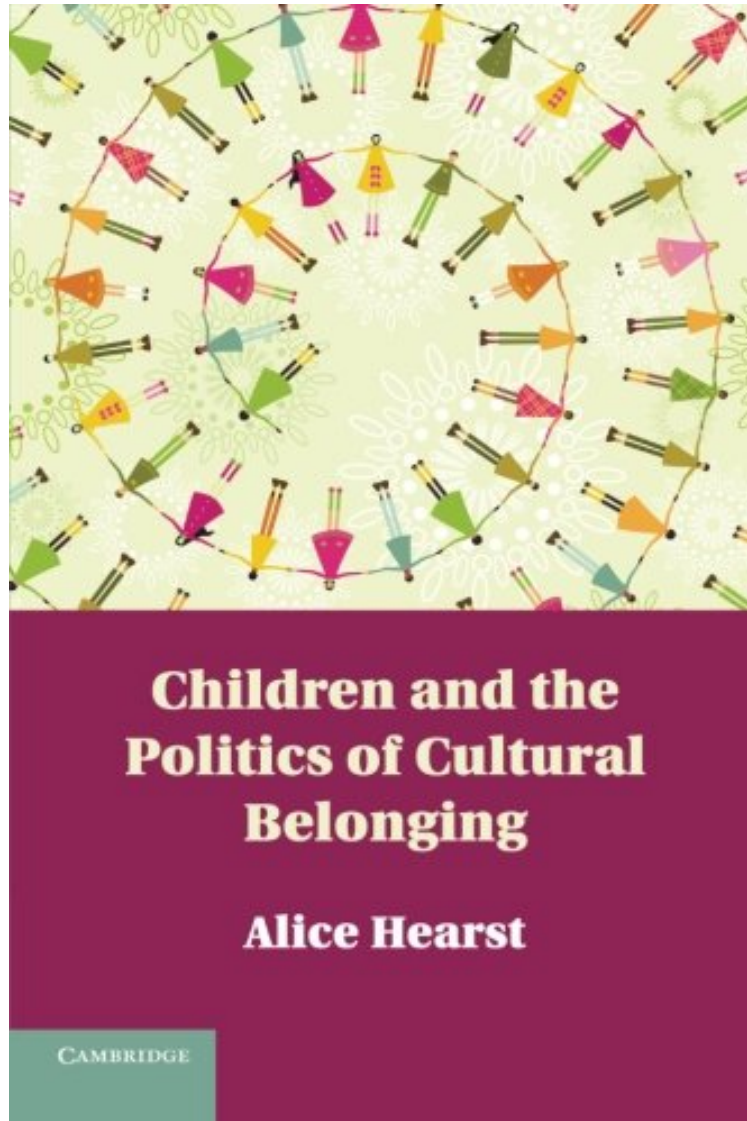


# Children and the Politics of Cultural Belonging

Alice Hearst

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**Alice Hearst : Children and the Politics of Cultural Belonging** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Children and the Politics of Cultural Belonging:

Conversations about multiculturalism rarely consider the position of children, who are presumptively nested in

families and communities. Yet providing care for children who are unanchored from their birth families raises questions central to multicultural concerns, as they frequently find themselves moved from communities of origin through adoption or foster care, which deeply affects marginalized communities. This book explores the debate over communal and cultural belonging in three distinct contexts: domestic transracial adoptions of non-American Indian children, the scope of tribal authority over American Indian children, and cultural and communal belonging for transnationally adopted children. Understanding how children "belong" to families and communities requires hard thinking about the extent to which cultural or communal belonging matters for children and communities, who should have authority to inculcate racial and cultural awareness and under what terms, and, finally, the degree to which children should be expected to adopt and carry forward racial or cultural identities.

About the Author Dr Alice Hearst is an Associate Professor at the Smith College Department of Government. In addition to teaching public law at Smith College, she has been a visiting or adjunct professor at Cornell University Law School and the University of Utah Law School. Her research interests focus on state regulation of the family. She has published essays in the *Law and Society* and the *Journal for the History of Childhood and Youth* (for which she is the contemporary issues editor).