About the Author: I’m a freshman at U of I. My intended major is Human Development and Family Studies. As a researcher I wanted to randomly answer a question that I never seen no one research before. So I decided to survey nine (8 females and 1 male) and interview 2 (2females) black Christian college students. The surveys intention was to get a large group people to answer some question because I didn’t want to interview each one of them on the same questions.

Keywords: Religion, Black Christians, Race, Nigeria

Abstract: My preliminary research is about how family cultural background affects the way black students practice and act upon Christianity on campus. I compared and contrasted two black Christian college students’ tradition issues with the practice they affiliate with on campus. It helps me to identify the different ways Black Christians socialize and interact within the campus community and how they live out their academic lives.

Initial Exercises:

Question: The subject topic for our class considered us to talk about Race and the University. My mindset of a topic in general was about Black Churches vs. White churches. I wanted to know the separation between denomination and non-denomination churches. However, the surveys and interviews results made another standpoint. It became narrow down to just Black Christians and their values on campus within the Black religion their were issues not balancing
with the community. Which came about the question, How Does Family Cultural Background affects the way black students practice and act upon Christianity on campus? Why do students move away from their church home? Do students chose their religious values over culture values? Why students judge other Christians?

**Plan:**
This ethnography research is an exploratory inquisition on white perception of black organization and/or events. The writer want to raise the following question about white relationship within the Black community: Why aren’t more whites a part of black organizations? What are white perceptions of blacks—why are blacks strange to them? Why are blacks’ hesitant to invite whites to their organizations? How does someone’s background and/or hometown relate to their ability to connect to people in different racial groups? What models people cross racial boundaries? However, I want to research this in a feeling of confidential.

The two methods the writer will provide are interviews and surveys. The writer wants to interview blacks and whites in black organization and those that are not. Interviews are with age group between 18-35 and both sex (female and male). The writer wants to survey random people, younger and older. The idea of the interviews and surveys is to compare and contrast the black and white response. Also, I want to observe a black organization and the people involved. However, the writer wants to bring to articles from ideals. The writer focus is to bring you into a community of black culture.

**Data:** 
Observation I

I enter FAR getting ready to observe the Impact Movement bible
study. As I was walking into

FAR I see some of my buddies who are also in Impact going
towards the basement. So I took

the stairs down to the basement to the second door to the left that says, “Room 5”. People

were already situated in the room. I arrive a little late. The
atmosphere is very positive because

I see black people smiling at me. I took my seat I notice that the
room that we were in looked

like a classroom because it had a chalkboard with an agenda
located on the board. The room

has white walls, with cemented colored carpet, big bright lights
that looks like hospital surgery

lights, and corridors. The members’ must have pushed the 12
tables back against the walls so

that we can have room to put the chairs in a big circle. I notice
things in bible study that I

haven’t noticed before.

Today Samentera was leading Bible study. Last week Shanerita

and Tedarius led bible study

and a different format because the men were lead by Torrance and
the women were lead by

Shhanerita. It seems like it was two seminars leading up to the
same topic but in different

perspective. As I was talking earlier Sam lead this time, after
everyone was settled in Sam

began to pray before she got into the lesson. It was only 13 people
in today’s bible study last

we had about 30 people. Sam started the lesson by asking
everyone to say their name, major, year, and name something or someone who influence your life and that’s why you are that person today. I guess this was the way to interact with the people. Most of our answers were related to each other.

Sam started to get in her lesson from the Bible trying to relate the question to the Bible. As I looked around people started to lose focus. I see a boy spinning his Bible as Sam talk. Some people had a bible and some people didn’t, so that led them to distraction. Someone next to me is drinking PowerAde making cup sounds. A girl is listening but paying attention to her phone and water bottle. People are looking around not even paying attention to the leader. Sam finally brings herself from the Bible back into the world and listeners are getting back focus. Sam told us about the experience with her little sister and how whatever God put in your life is meaningful. After that she went back in the Bible again, people are relaxed and got their hands folded and legs crossed. Wait, wait, people are in casual clothes, I see no one dressed in interview clothes. Shanerita is taking notes as Sam talk everyone is distracted by someone or something. I am getting sleepy because I didn’t eat anything before Bible study I wonder if
someone else feels the same way.

It’s close to end of the lesson people are looking very active now. Sam says a poem to

interlock with the lesson of today. Everyone thought the poem was good, so they common of

what they though the poem was about. If we play our role to influence others that God sent.

Now people can talk about their prayer request and praise report. The praise report is a joy

that God did for you. The prayer request is things you want God to do for you. Our prayer

request was the same which were school work, patience, and health. After we pray out, most

people go to PAR late night to do some fellowship with our colleagues.

Survey

My research project is about Christian life as a Black student on campus. I knew that I couldn’t get a collective interview with Black students I intended to interview. So, I wrote up a survey. I wanted to survey Black students on campus that I knew already. I noticed, if I surveyed Black students and faculty my project will come out more effectively. I chose the Black students, Christians, from the Black House and Impact Movement community because I thought it was mostly relevant to them and that they would answer the questions to their best knowledge. I targeted Black students
between the ages 18–30 and both sex. Also I wanted to target students from Africans because I believe that they have different values as Christians.

The results from the surveys didn’t perceive me as I thought it would. For some odd reason I thought the Black students would’ve categorize themselves as Christians. Nevertheless, the surveys identified that the students put their denomination. Denomination is the affiliation that churches categorize themselves specifically, but they’re still considered Christians. I found out that the Black students heard about Christianity as a child. I can believe that in the Black community; we hear about Christianity around the community and school. The surprising part about the survey is that the students chose to identify with Christianity from sermons, church, choirs, and faith. Only a few chose to identify with the religion from family members. To me it was hard to understand because I and my siblings chose Christianity because it was part of my culture values. Students rated their activeness in Christianity with high numbers. I thought they was going to put less activeness because I see them doing things I think is ungodly in society. But I guess students interpret situation and values different. However, I felt like the descriptions of Christian values from the students were
like regular non-Christians values. My Christian values are to worship God, love, and walk like Jesus. Also I assumed they were going to put it in more details, but they didn’t. The culture background seems not to relate to Christians because most students answered “it doesn’t.” If you think about slavery in Africa, they prayed to God and their ancestors for help. I just think I questioned the problem in the wrong context.

I learned that every Christian isn’t the same. I need to start opening up to other Christians and stop judging their thoughts. I want to argue, why Black Christians act different, if we all suppose to go to heaven? Why is our attitude different towards each other? I think since we was all raised in a different area away from campus leads us into interacting to each other, will always going to percept thoughts. The way people act around you isn’t always the same behind doors. I want to know, why Black Christians are sometimes semi-Christians. I noticed you can’t assume what people think inside. In my larger project I think this is useful because I could understand unique things about Black Christians on campus and why Black students don’t want to be Black Christians.
Survey Questions

1. What is your race?

2. Circle one: Male or Female

3. What religion do you practice or identify with?

4. When did you first hear about that religion?

5. How did you choose to identify with this religion?

6. How will you rate your activeness in your religion (1−10)?

7. How would you describe the values of your religion? How about as a person?

8. In what ways (activities, groups, churches etc), do you practice your religion?

9. How does your cultural background relate to your religion?

Discuss:


Heath’s article explains the word “story” and how it is used in the Roadville’s community. She expresses that “good stories” can only be told if the person is present to here it. She develops and defines the word “story” to the communities that rarely knows how to approach the word within language. She shows the equivalent of Christians that respect each other values and privacy. Until the conclusion, she argues that Roadville and Trackton
community wouldn’t understand each others storyline because what they believe isn’t what others believe also. I found Heath’s explanation to be helpful because words in the community I’m analyzing can be different to another community to understand. Language can be unacceptable to others that aren’t exposed to it “down the years.”


http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/3724

In Kim’s project, she was exploring and researching about how Asian Americans interact within church domination. Her issue was, why Asian American goes to Asian American church domination than white domination? If all worshipping the same God. She developed that Asians get involved in their culture language to understand their language. So in order to do that, majority Asians Americans joined Church Covenant Fellowship Church here on campus because they understood the language. She aroused another problem by demanding freshman orientation to acknowledge Asians descent registered student organizations (RSOs) instead of getting it around by a word of mouth. I find Kim’s EUI research to be helpful because my project is similar to Kim’s project. It helped me to understand that I have understood the background of why African Americans choose the churches that they want to identify with.

Suh explores and researches about how Asians American and others come about to choose their religion. Suh believed that students were brought up in their religion. He came to discover that some college students converted to religion because of the influence by other students. Suh studied a religion called Hindu to feel why students pick this religion other than Christianity. He noticed the values and beliefs of this practical religion were sometimes strong and sometimes doubtful for students. I find this useful to my project because I want to know why African American comes to choose their religion. Also why some students become atheist or convert after they had been brought up in Christian churches and homes.


In Abar, Carter, and Kermit, and Winsler’s journal, African American college students do better in academic than not religious students. They believe that the maternal parental values and beliefs help the child in socioeconomic life, self-regulation, and risk behavior because it will keep them on them right track. If the parents don’t the child will take advantage their control and choose another path. I find it to be useful because now I understand why African American chooses other religions and/or atheist because become strict
and it doesn’t allow them to feel the outside world where there are obstacles.


http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/8726

The unknown author, EUI researcher, argued that religion doesn’t always follow college students while in school. He explored that students don’t have strong feeling about church as they parents force them into it. He explains that people shouldn’t judge each other values as a believer. He identified himself as a Christian. I find this EUI research to be useful because I agree with his theory about Christianity and Catholicism to be the same. It will help me to further my research about my religion and facts behind Catholic Church and African American Church.