Teaching Stress of African American Faculty at Historically White Institutions: The Narrative Experiences of African American Faculty

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Historical and contemporary literature continues to debate the role of religion in the formation of racial and ethnic prejudice. Researchers have investigated a variety of mainstream Christian groups, coming to somewhat of a consensus that for religion to increase the level of prejudice, racial antipathy must be incorporated into the doctrine. For years The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) upheld a discriminatory policy of withholding priesthood rites from African American males and excluding African American females from full participation. Primarily resting upon a doctrine in which African Americans were assigned deservency as a cursed lineage that were spiritually and physically unworthy to participate fully. In 1978 LDS church officials rescinded this policy allowing "All worthy males" to participate in the priesthood and granting all black full participation. This research seeks to investigate the influence of religion, given the historic policy, on the subversive racial attitudes of White students at Brigham Young University, the LDS flagship university. Through a series of qualitative interviews and quantitative measures White students were asked series of questions about how they came to know and understand modern racial relations.