# Omega Graduate School

# Dissertation Research Prospectus (Pre-Proposal)

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# Problem Statement

The problem is a lack of cultural metriopathy between White European Americans and Black African American Descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California (Robert P. Jones).

# Purpose Statement

The purpose of this study is to examine differences between racial groups using a novel measure called cultural metriopathy and its potential to contribute to racial reconciliation between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

# Background of the Problem (1-2 pages)

The problem of white supremacy negatively impacts the implications of cultural metriopathy between both White and Black Christians in Orange County, CA to obtain equity for racial reconciliation. The goal of this project is to further dismantle the practice of white supremacy through the practice of cultural metriopathy between these two cultural groups.

The history of white supremacy that produced the practice of chattel slavery is known today as systemic racism after its abolishment in all areas of institutions (Battalora). The institution that has served as a main culprit in American history to advance white supremacy has been most identified to come from the American Christian Church (Raboteau).

The theology of the American Christian Church historically has been rooted in an evangelical expression that professes to be welcoming of all persons, yet in most mainline protestant denominations remains limited or absent engaging the disparities that exist involving racism (Robert P. Jones). The collective conscious of mainline protestant denominations that professes evangelical Christianity have both served in aiding and abolishing racists practices within the American Christian Church and society-at-large.

Historically, the separation of these two cultural groups worshiping in separate spaces were highlighted in the antebellum South, where the majority of white American Christians insist to worship separately from enslaved Black Americans Christians (Raboteau). During the initial stages of chattel slavery, enslaved Black Americans were sequestered by white European American Christians to balconies and often the rear section of the worship spaces within churches (Raboteau). If the church did not have a balcony and white, American Christians did not want enslaved Black Americans to be present including in the rear section of the church, enslaved Black Americans were forced back into the fields and/or slave quarters to gather for worship. Historian, Albert Raboteau called this the inception of the Invisible Institution.

The creation of the Invisible Institution also known as “the Black Church”, and the continuation of the separated, white Church exacerbated the pathology of whiteness as being the supreme standard of existence (Battalora). This separation defined and concretized the concept of white supremacy that established a collective, cultural cognitive dissonance creating a wedge for most practitioners within the Christian faith to separate and justify abusive actions away from espoused beliefs of empathy, equity, and an egalitarian society.

The goal of this research is to introduce the novel concept of cultural metriopathy as another means to close the gaps of disparity between black, African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery and white, European Americans. As earlier mentioned, for the American Christian Church having served as the main culprit of these disparities; identified Baptists churches throughout the region of Orange County, California will be targeted initiating this study. The Baptist heritage has served as one of the largest and oldest denominations in and throughout the history of American Christianity. Both Black and White Baptist in Orange County, California has had a shared evangelical theological heritage, yet remain separate in practices of empathy, equity, and an egalitarian society that moves toward racial reconciliation.

This absence of cultural metriopathy from the American Christian Church begs the question to what capacity of empathy inspires practitioners of the American Christian Church to influence material, fundamental, and policy change to eradicate white supremacy in society?

For purposes of this study, the operational definition of cultural metriopathy is empathy focused on self-restraint, sacrifice, and renegotiating a new normal (cite).

Self-restraint is defined as enacting silence for listening against collective and/or self-cognitive dissonance.

Sacrifice is defined as calculating boundaries to surrender privileges within systems that perpetuate abuse, negligence, or apathy.

Renegotiating a new normal is intervening empathetic strategies, practices, and policies for the improvement of systemic change.

# Significance

This study will contribute to the gap in research of…by identifying…

The significance of this research will identify if equity is attainable from the practice of cultural metriopathy between these historically at odds cultural groups that share the same faith tradition located within a society.

# Research Questions

RQ1: What differences in cultural metriopathy exist between White European-Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California?

# Research Methodology

This study will utilize quantitative methodology because hypotheses derived from research questions will be tested using statistical analysis.

# Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

This study is framed by both the Christian canonical New Testament text from Hebrews 5:2 and Aristotle’s Ethics theory because both white supremacy and post traumatic slave syndrome negatively affect American society (DeGruy). Cultural metriopathy expands the conceptual framework of identifying social empathy groups (Segal).

# Instrumentation

Validated survey instrument that measures attitudes, knowledge, beliefs, or behaviors… (quantitative)

This study will utilize the \_\_\_\_\_\_ instrument, which measures \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subscales (cite).

The instruments that measure the following variables: self-restraint/Everyday Discrimination Test (9 questions); sacrifice/Concern Measure Test (4 questions); and re-negotiating a new normal/Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (16 questions)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measures** | **Instrument** | **Items** | **Hypothesis** |
| Subconstruct: Self-Restraint | Everyday Discrimination | 9 | H1a |
| Subconstruct: Sacrifice | Concern Measure Test | 4 | H1b |
| Subconstruct: Renegotiating a New Normal | Toronto Empathy Questionnaire | 16 | H1c |
| Superconstruct: Cultural Metriopathy |  | Sum of scores | H1 |

# Research Design

Quasi-Experimental: compare differences in a continuous dependent variable between groups split on one or more independent variables from a validated instrument (quantitative, deductive)

This quantitative study will utilize a quasi-experimental design because it will examine \_\_\_\_\_ scores between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ for statistically significant differences among \_\_\_\_\_.

# Population and Sampling

The target population for this study will be white, European Americans and black, African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery a part of Baptist churches in name only in Orange County, California.

Stratified sampling to reach a threshold for a particular number of participants from each racial group.

# Hypotheses (Quantitative Only)

Quasi-Experimental:

H0: No statistically significant difference exists in \_\_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ among…

Ha: A statistically significant difference exists in \_\_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_ among…

Null Hypothesis: H0 - There is no statistically significant difference in the level of cultural metriopathy between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

Alternative Hypothesis: Ha - There is a statistically significant difference in the level of cultural metriopathy between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

H01a: There is no statistically significant difference in self-restraint scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

Ha1a: There is a statistically significant difference in self-restraint scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

H01b: There is no statistically significant difference in sacrifice scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

Ha1b: There is a statistically significant difference in sacrifice scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

H01c: There is no statistically significant difference in “negotiating a new normal” scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

Ha1:c There is a statistically significant difference in “negotiating a new normal” scores between White European Americans and Black African American descendants of US Chattel Slavery who identify as Baptist Christians living in Orange County, California.

# Data Analysis Plan

Quantitative:

This study will test data for normality and relevant assumptions of appropriate statistical procedures. If data do not meet assumptions for parametric procedures (results apply to the population), nonparametric procedures (results apply only to the sample) will be utilized.

This study will utilize Pearson’s Product Moment of Correlation (parametric) or Spearman’s Rank Correlation (nonparametric) to test the hypotheses for statistically significant relationships.

This study will utilize a t-Test (parametric) or a Mann-Whitney U procedure (nonparametric) to test the hypotheses for statistically significant differences.