

---

---

## PREFACE

*Robert Joseph Taylor, Ph.D. Associate Professor, School of Social Work,  
Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan*

*African American Research Perspectives* is an occasional report that is comprised of reviews and summaries of work conducted by scholars pursuing a wide range of research interests in the social and behavioral sciences. The aims of *African American Research Perspectives* are to: 1) provide a forum for research and scholarship on the African American population and 2) broaden the network of individuals who have access to this work. The primary audience for the occasional report are Black social and behavioral scientists and those who conduct research on Black Americans.

Within the last ten years, dramatic increases in the volume of high quality research and theory on Black Americans has taken place across a number of disciplines and scholarly fields. As in any situation in which there is a rapid expansion of research inquiry, it is difficult to remain current with new developments. Most scholars have kept abreast with their particular disciplines and fields, but may be unfamiliar with many of the interesting studies that are being conducted in other areas. Hopefully, *African American Research Perspectives* will serve as a bridge across disciplines and assist in the development of interdisciplinary perspectives on Black American life.

Articles published in *African American Research Perspectives* generally will take one or more of the primary approaches: 1) summarize prior research in a particular substantive area (e.g., immunization and black children, religion and health among black Americans), 2) provide details of a particular research project that is in progress or recently completed (e.g., the multi-city survey of urban inequality), 3) give an indepth summary or review of a recently published book or article, or 4) review recently published research in a particular substantive area. Published articles will provide a comprehensive list of references to assist scholars in conducting their own research in the particular field.

*African American Research Perspectives* is published by the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA) at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. PRBA has as its director James S. Jackson, Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan and Research Scientist at the Institute for Social Research. Under the leadership of Dr. Jackson, PRBA has conducted several large national probability surveys of Black Americans, produced over 200 journal articles and book chapters, written a series of books on Black American life, and trained over 75 Black scholars through a variety of full year and summer postdoctoral programs and graduate and undergraduate training opportunities.

---

---

*African American Research Perspectives* continues the goals of Dr. Jackson and PRBA of providing high quality interdisciplinary research on Black Americans and disseminating this research to scholars and practitioners. The views and opinions expressed by the contributing authors are their own and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or the Program for Research on Black Americans.

---

---

***Program for Research on Black Americans***

**Staff**

Steve Blixt, Research Associate  
Dale Jerome, Secretary III  
Tina Meltzer-Odonnell, Field Research Assistant  
Sally Oswald, Administrative Assistant II  
Myriam Torres, Research Associate II

**Doctoral Students**

Shawn Abyss	Rebekah Levine
Dubois Bowman	Patricia Raspberry
Cheryl Burns	Jodie Roth
Valerie Ely	Sherrill Sellers
Charlene Flagg	Aurora Sherman
John Gomez	Robin Soler
Rukmalie Jayakody	Estina Thompson
Colin Leach	Monica Wolford

**Undergraduate Students**

Larry Conlan  
Jorge Garcia  
Michael DelNegro  
Tamika Person