African Cultural Retention in the African Diaspora

Aaron Brown

The College at Brockport, State University of New York, abrown@brockport.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/research_posters

Recommended Citation
Brown, Aaron, "African Cultural Retention in the African Diaspora " (2019). Posters@Research Events. 22.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/research_posters/22
African Cultural Retention in the African Diaspora

The College at Brockport, State University of New York
Presenter: Aaronn Brown
Mentor: John K. Marah

Introduction
This research will discuss how African culture has survived throughout the diaspora. Through misinformation and myth perpetuated in part by Eurocentric media, many don’t recognize the lasting legacy of African culture. A closer look at music, language, food, religion, etc., will help dismantle false narratives pertaining to African culture and enlighten people to what has been retained. For example, Nigerian culture can clearly be found within Brazilian culture’s religious practices. My research seeks to encourage accurate and precise information in relation to the depiction of Africa and support a multicultural lens on African and Black History in our educational system.

Methodology
The style of research used was analyzing various documents and autobiographies concerning facts about enslaved Africans on their journey from Africa to the Americas and facts concerning African Culture that were not as well known.

Procedure
Exploring the slave castles of Ghana where some enslaved Africans were held until being auctioned off; researching multiple contexts of places where African descendants were dispersed. I researched various cultures of black ethnicities to see any resemblances or similarities of cultures in Africa.

Research Question
How has African culture been retained throughout the diaspora of African descendants?

Results
There are still aspects of African culture that black people at different regions of the world still follow and practice. For example, the Gullah people (right) happen to be descendants of enslaved Africans from West African countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Senegal. There are some influences from Ghanaian culture as well as it can be seen with the patterned kente cloth the woman in front is wearing. The Gullah people also specialize in rice production and use the same traditional practices similar with Sierra Leonean people.

The Salsa Dance, which is popular in Cuban culture, has origins from West-Africa. The footwork and arm movements mimic some of the same styles with dances performed in West-Africa.

Conclusion
African Americans, Caribbeans, Hispanics, and Afro-Latinos share a very deep connection with Africa. Although there are many black people dispersed throughout the world, much of the same cultural influences from various African cultures are still apparent in the rest of the African diaspora. African culture has not died due to the advent of the Atlantic Slave Trade. African culture is still being practiced but just through various and intricate forms.

Acknowledgments
Cstep/McNair Program at The College at Brockport
Barbara Thompson
Helen Cheves
John K. Marah

References
Holloway, Joseph E. Africanisms in American Culture. Indiana University Press, 2005