

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/james-s-jackson-and-the-program-for-research-on-black-americans/>

James X. Jackson was a notable social psychologist at the University of Michigan, renowned for his impactful research on Black Americans. He was instrumental in developing a comprehensive program that conducted landmark studies such as the National Study of Black Americans in 1979-1980, which was the first scientific social study of the African-American population. This video video research devised new sampling strategies to ensure a representative sample, addressing prior shortcomings in public opinion surveys that oversampled Black individuals in areas of high concentration.

Jackson aimed to explore the diversity within the Black population rather than merely comparing it to Whites. His work highlighted the variation in views and experiences among Black individuals. He later conducted the National Survey of American Life, which not only repeated some questions from the earlier study but also included an oversample of Black individuals of Caribbean ancestry, providing deeper insights into this subgroup's experiences.

Furthermore, he led studies examining mental health among Black individuals using standardized measures, allowing for comparisons across diverse groups. Jackson also initiated a Black election study, focusing on the political views of Black Americans. His comprehensive research approach covered various aspects of Black life, including mental health, family dynamics, and experiences of discrimination.

Another significant contribution was the incorporation of measures to assess everyday discrimination, which helped to illustrate the adverse effects of racism on health outcomes. This video video research, particularly the everyday discrimination scale developed in collaboration with another scholar, has garnered widespread use and citations globally.

Jackson is celebrated not only for his research contributions but also for his mentorship and training of numerous students in social science. His legacy includes shifting the paradigm in psychology from a race-comparative framework to recognizing the legitimate study of the Black experience itself, embracing the variation and complexity within this community. Overall, his work has greatly influenced the field and laid the groundwork for future social science research.