

Home > Journal > Social Sciences & Humanities > SM

[Indexing](#) [View Papers](#) [Aims & Scope](#) [Editorial Board](#) [Guideline](#) [Article Processing Charges](#)

SM > Vol.2 No.4, October 2012

Open Access

Black Americans and Interracial Marriage: A Focus on Black Women

PDF (Size: 211KB) PP. 407-427 DOI: [10.4236/sm.2012.24054](https://doi.org/10.4236/sm.2012.24054)

Author(s)

Amadu Jacky Kaba

ABSTRACT

This paper claims that although there has been a significant increase in the number of scholarly publications on interracial marriages in the United States in recent decades, most of these publications tend to focus on the small but visible increase in marriages, co-habitations and dating; how Whites or European Gentile Americans are gradually becoming accepting of these relationships; the factors that are causing non-Blacks to "reject" Blacks; and specifically factors that are causing White men and other non-Black men to "reject" Black women. As a result, the paper attempts to contribute to this topic by focusing on an important phenomenon—that it could actually be Black women who are turning down non-Black men. The paper presents eight factors that may be causing Black women to turn down interracial romantic relationship requests from non-Black men.

KEYWORDS

Black American Women; Interracial Marriage; Economics; Education Levels; History; Gender and Race

Cite this paper

Kaba, A. (2012). Black Americans and Interracial Marriage: A Focus on Black Women. *Sociology Mind*, 2, 407-427. doi: [10.4236/sm.2012.24054](https://doi.org/10.4236/sm.2012.24054).

References

- [1] Alexander, M. (2010). *The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. New York: New Press.
- [2] Banks, R. R. (2011). *Is marriage for white people? How the African American marriage decline affects everyone*. New York: Dutton.
- [3] Belknap, J. (2010). "Offending wome" : A double entendre. *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 100, 1061-1097.
- [4] Bernard, E. (2011). The marriage gap. *Wilson Quarterly*, 35, 88-90.
- [5] Blackmon, D. A. (2009). *Slavery by another name: The re-enslavement of black Americans from the civil war to world war II*. Harpswell, ME: Anchor.
- [6] Blau, P. M., Blum, T., Rytina, S., & Schwartz, J. (1988). Inequality and intermarriage: A parado of motive and constraint. *Social Forces*, 66, 645-75. doi: [10.1093/sf/66.3.645](https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/66.3.645)
- [7] Bobo, L. D. (2009). Crime, urban poverty, and social science. *Du Bois Review*, 6, 273-278. doi: [10.1017/S1742058X0999021X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742058X0999021X)
- [8] Bobo, L. D., & Thompson, V. (2006). Unfair by design: The war on drugs, and the legitimacy of the criminal justice system. *Social Research*, 73, 445-472.
- [9] Boroughs, M. S., Krawczyk, R., & Thompson, J. K. (2010). Body dysmorphic disorder among diverse race/ethnic and sexual orientation groups: Prevalence estimates and associated factors. *Sex Roles*, 63, 725-737. doi: [10.1007/s11199-010-9831-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-010-9831-1)

[SM Subscription](#)

[Free Newsletter Subscription](#)

[Most popular papers in SM](#)

[Publication Ethics Statement](#)

[About SM News](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Recommend to Peers](#)

[Recommend to Library](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Downloads:	84,052
------------	--------

Visits:	266,705
---------	---------

Sponsors, Associates, and Links >>

- [Conference on Psychology and Social Harmony \(CPSH 2014\), May 15-16, 2014, Suzhou, China](#)

- [10] Boroughs, M., Cafri, G., & Thompson, J. K. (2005). Male body depilation: Prevalence and associated features of body hair removal. *Sex Roles*, 52, 638-644. doi: 10.1007/s11199-005-3731-9
- [11] Boroughs, M., & Thompson, J. K. (2002). Body depilation in males: A new body image concern? *International Journal of Men's Health*, 1, 247-257. doi: 10.3149/jmh.0103.247
- [12] Brattain, M. (2005). Miscegenation and competing definitions of race in twentieth-century Louisiana. *The Journal of Southern History*, 71, 621-658. doi: 10.2307/27648822
- [13] Brettschneider, M. (2010). Critical attention to race: Race segregation and Jewish Feminism. *Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal*, 15, 20-33. doi: 10.2979/BRI.2010.15.2.20
- [14] Charles, C. Z. (2003). The dynamics of racial residential segregation. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 29, 167-207. doi: 10.1146/annurev.soc.29.010202.100002
- [15] Cocchiara, F., & Bell, M. P. (2006). Latinas and black women: Key factors for a growing proportion of the US workforce. *Equal Opportunities International*, 25, 272-284. doi: 10.1108/02610150610706258
- [16] Camp, S. M. H. (2000). Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson. *The Mississippi Quarterly*, 53, 275-283.
- [17] The Statistical Assessment Service (1997). Can intermarriage make you smarter and statistical assessment service, richer? <http://www.stats.org/newsletters/9708/interrace2.htm>
- [18] Carter, R. T., Pieterse, A. L., & Smith III, S. (2008). Racial identity status profiles and expressions of anger in black Americans: An exploratory study. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, 36, 101-112. doi: 10.1002/j.2161-1912.2008.tb00074.x
- [19] Coleman, M. (1998). Homemaker as worker in the United States. *Challenge*, 41, 75-87.
- [20] Collins, J. (2003). "Poor and black and apt to stay that way": Gambling on a sure thing in Louise Meriwether's daddy was a number runner. *The Midwest Quarterly*, 45, 49-58.
- [21] Cose, E. (2003). The black gender gap. *Newsweek*, 141, 46.
- [22] Cready, C. M., & Saenz, R. (1997). The nonmetro/metro context of racial/ethnic outmarriage: Some differences between African Americans and Mexican Americans. *Rural Sociology*, 62, 335-362. doi: 10.1111/j.1549-0831.1997.tb00655.x
- [23] Crenshaw, C. (1997). Resisting Whiteness' rhetorical silence. *Western Journal of Communication*, 61, 253-278. doi: 10.1080/10570319709374577
- [24] Crowder, K. D., & Tolnay, S. E. (2000). A new marriage squeeze for black women: The role of racial intermarriage by black men. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62, 792-807. doi: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2000.00792.x
- [25] Degloma, T. (2009). Expanding trauma through space and time: Mapping the rhetorical strategies of trauma carrier groups. *Social Psychology*, 72, 105-122. doi: 10.1177/019027250907200203
- [26] Drake, K. (1997). Rewriting the American self: Race, gender, and identity in the autobiographies of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs. *Melus*, 22, 91-108. doi: 10.2307/467991
- [27] Du Bois, W. E. B. (1965). *The souls of black folk. Three Negro Classics*. New York: Avon Books.
- [28] Douglas, F. (2002). *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglas, An American slave*. New York: Barnes & Noble Books.
- [29] Edlund, L., & Kopczuk, W. (2009). Women, wealth, and mobility. *American Economic Review*, 99, 146-178. doi: 10.1257/aer.99.3.1082
- [30] Fears, D., & Deane, C. (2001). Race, dating and marriage. *Washington Post*, A01.
- [31] Fenyo, M. D. (2001). Cross-cultural marriage; identity and choice. *Journal of Third World Studies*, 18, 334-335.
- [32] Fields, J., & Casper, L. M. (2001). *America's families and living arrangements 2000*. US Census Bureau, Table FG3. P20-537. Washington DC: Government Printing Office. Table FG3 at: <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/p20-537/2000/tabFG3.pdf>
- [33] Firmin, M. W., & Firebaugh, S. (2008). Historical analysis of college campus interracial dating. *College Student Journal*, 42, 782-788.

- [34] Fisher, C., & Wiebe, C. (2003) Race, sex, and redemption in monster' s ball. *Ethnic Studies Review*, 26, 68-80.
- [35] Foster, G. M. (2005). The great southern babylon: Sex, race, and respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920. *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 14, 219-223. doi:10.1353/sex.2006.0009
- [36] Fryer Jr., R. G. (2007). Guess who' s been coming to dinner? Trends in interracial marriage over the 20th century. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21, 71-90. doi:10.1257/jep.21.2.71
- [37] Gordon-Reed, A. (1998). *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American controversy*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.
- [38] Green, T. L., & Darity Jr., W. A. (2010). Under the skin: Using theories from biology and the social sciences to explore the mechanisms behind the black-white health gap. *American Journal of Public Health*, 100, S36-S40. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2009.171140
- [39] Goss, L. (1997). Bessie Delany and Sadie Delany, with Amy Hill Hearth. Having our say: The delany sisters' first 100 years. *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, 21, 99-103.
- [40] Granger, D. (2002). Friendships between black and white women. *The American Behavioral Scientist*, 45, 1208-1213. doi:10.1177/0002764202045008004
- [41] Groves, C. P. (1989). Fauna of Australia. 44. Hominidae. In D. W. Walton, & B. J. Richardson (Eds.), *Fauna of australia volume 1B: Mammalia*. Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS). Collingwood: CSIRO Publishing.
- [42] Hama, A. (2010). The curse of ham: Race and slavery in early judaism, christianity and islam. *Mankind Quarterly*, 50, 174-177.
- [43] Hadaway, C. K., Hackett, D. G., & Miller, J. F. (1984). The most segregated institution: Correlates of interracial church participation. *Review of Religious Research*, 25, 204-219. doi:10.2307/3511119
- [44] Harris-Perry, M. V. (2011). *Sister citizen: Shame, stereotypes, and black women in America*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- [45] Heep, H. (1995). The American body as a semiotic sign. *The American Journal of Semiotics*, 12, 261-272. doi:10.5840/ajs1995121/414
- [46] Henry, W. J. (2008). Black female Millennial College students: Dating dilemmas and identity development. *Multicultural Education*, 16, 17- 21.
- [47] High Beam Research (2003) *Vital signs: Statistics that measure the state of racial inequality*.
- [48] Hughes, Z. (2003a). Why some sisters only date whites & " others" . *Ebony*, 58, 55-58,70-74.
- [49] Hughes, Z. (2003b). Why some brothers only date whites and " others" . *Ebony*, 58, 70-74.
- [50] Jacobs, M. D. (2002). The Eastmans and the Luhans; interracial marriage between white women and native American men, 1875-1935. *Frontiers*, 23, 29-54. doi:10.1353/fro.2003.0009
- [51] Jeter, K. (1982). Analytic essay: Intercultural and interracial marriage. *Marriage and Family Review*, 5, 105-111. doi:10.1300/J002v05n01_10
- [52] Jin, W., Xu, S., Wang, H., Yu, Y., Shen, Y., Wu, B., & Jin, L. (2011). " Genomeide detection of natural selection in African Americans pre- and post-admixture. *Genome Research*.
- [53] Jordan-Zachery, J. S. (2007). Policy interaction: The mixing of fatherhood, crime and urban policies. *Journal of Social Policy*, 37, 81-102.
- [54] Jones, A. (2010). " Stability of men' s interracial first unions: A test of educational differentials and cohabitation history. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 31, 241-256. doi:10.1007/s10834-010-9186-3
- [55] Jones, C., & Shorter-Gooden, K. (2003). *Shifting: The double lives of black women in America*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers.
- [56] Joyner, K., & Kao, G. (2000). School racial composition and adolescent racial Homophily. *Social Science Quarterly*, 81, 810.
- [57] Kaba, A. J. (2008a). Race, gender and progress: Are black American women the new model minority? *Journal of African American Studies*, 12, 309-335. doi:10.1007/s12111-008-9043-8

- [58] Kaba, A. J. (2008b). Sex ratio at birth and racial differences: Why do black women give birth to more females than non-black women? *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, 12, 139-150.
- [59] Kaba, A. J. (2008c). Review of race mixing: Black-white marriage in postwar America. *The Journal of African American History*, 93, 119-121.
- [60] Kaba, A. J. (2010). Educational attainment, population increase and the progress of african americans. *Journal of Pan African Studies*, 3, 106-127.
- [61] Kaba, A. J. (2011a). Inter-ethnic/interracial romantic relationships in the United States: Factors responsible for the low rates of marriages between blacks and whites. *Sociology Mind*, 1, 121-129. doi: 10.4236/sm.2011.13015
- [62] Kaba, A. J. (2011b). The family and political unity between blacks and Jews in the United States. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 1, 167-177.
- [63] Kaba, A. J. (2011c). Race, conquest and revenge: Why do black people resist racial revenge? *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 1, 92-106.
- [64] Kaba, A. J. (2011d). Explaining the causes of the black-white wealth gap in the United States. *Sociology Mind*, 1, 138-143. doi: 10.4236/sm.2011.13017
- [65] Kaba, A. J. (2011e). African American women voters: Review article. *The Review of Black Political Economy*, 38, 183-203. doi: 10.1007/s12114-011-9092-4
- [66] Kaba, A. J. (2012a). The exclusion of black women from national leadership positions in the United States: Taxation with Limited representation. *Sociology Mind*, 2, 133-140. doi: 10.4236/sm.2012.22017
- [67] Kaba, A. J. (2012b). Talented tenth: An analysis of the 2011 root magazine' s 100 most influential young black Americans. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2, 1-31.
- [68] Kaba, A. J. (2012c). African Americans in the US women' s national basketball association, 2006: From the NCAA to the WNBA. *Sociology Mind*, 2, 95-108. doi: 10.4236/sm.2012.21013
- [69] Kalmijn, M. (1998). Inter-marriage and homogamy: Causes, patterns, trends. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 24, 395-421. doi: 10.1146/annurev.soc.24.1.395
- [70] Kalmijn, M. (1993). Trends in black/white intermarriage. *Social Forces*, 72, 119-146. doi: 10.2307/2580162
- [71] Kennedy, R. (2002). Interracial intimacy. *The Atlantic Monthly*. URL (last checked 4 May 2012). <http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/2002/12/kennedy.htm>
- [72] Kitwana, B. (2002). *The hip hop generation: The crisis in African American culture*. New York: Basic Civitas Books.
- [73] Kosmin, B. A., & Keysar, A. (2009). *American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS 2008)*. URL (last checked 10 April 2009). http://www.americanreligionsurvey-aris.org/reports/ARIS_Report_2008.pdf
- [74] Lawson, C. (2007). The most segregated hour in America: Protesting segregation in the church. URL (last checked 2 April 2009). <http://dam.rhodes.edu:8080/dspace/handle/10267/2420>
- [75] Leslie, A. R. (1996). Multiracial couples. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 58, 530-531. doi: 10.2307/353519
- [76] Lewis, D. L. (1993). *W. E. B. DuBois: Biography of a race. 1868-1919*. New York: John Macrae Book, Henry Holt and Company, Inc.
- [77] Lichter, D. T., LeClere, F. B., & McLaughlin, D. K. (1991). Local marriage markets and the marital behavior of black and white women. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 96, 843-867. doi: 10.1086/229610
- [78] Malherbe, V. C. (2006). Illegitimacy and family formation in colonial Cape Town, to c. 1850. *Journal of Social History*, 39, 1153-1176. doi: 10.1353/jsh.2006.0047
- [79] Manning, W. D., & Smock, P. J. (1995). Why marry? Race and the transition to marriage among cohabitators. *Demography*, 32, 509-520. doi: 10.2307/2061671
- [80] Mare, R. D. (1991). Five decades of educational assortative mating. *American Sociological Review*, 56,

- [81] McClain, C. S. (2004). Black by choice: Identity preferences of Americans of black/white parentage. *The Black Scholar*, 34, 43-54.
- [82] McClintock, E. A. (2010). When does race matter? Race, sex, and dating at an elite university. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72, 45-72. doi:10.1111/j.1741-3737.2009.00683.x
- [83] McCreary, D. R., Hildebrandt, T. B., Heinberg, L. J., Boroughs, M., & Thompson, J. K. (2007). A review of body image influences on men's fitness goals and supplement use. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 1, 307-316. doi:10.1177/1557988306309408
- [84] McWhorter, J. (2003). *Authentically black. Essays for the black silent majority*. New York: Gotham Books.
- [85] Mills, C., Green, M., & Lawson, S. (1999). Black women speak out... about their interracial relationship. *Interrace*, 45, 4.
- [86] Millward, J. (2010). "The relics of slavery": Interracial sex and manumission in the American South. *Frontiers*, 31, 22-30.
- [87] Mitchell, A. (2001). Not enough of the past: Feminist revisions of slavery in Octavia E. Butler's *Kindred*. *Melus*, 26, 51-75. doi:10.2307/3185557
- [88] Mitchell, M. N. (2006). Righteous propagation: African Americans and the politics of racial destiny after reconstruction. *The Journal of Southern History*, 72, 688-690. doi:10.2307/27649192
- [89] Model, S., & Fisher, G. (2001). Black-white unions: West Indians and African Americans compared. *Demography*, 38, 177-185. doi:10.1353/dem.2001.0019
- [90] Morgan, M., & Bennett, D. (2006). Getting off of black women's backs: Love her or leave her alone. *Du Bois Review*, 3, 485-502. doi:10.1017/S1742058X06060334
- [91] Nealy, L. N. (2009). *African American women voters: Racializing religiosity, political consciousness and progressive political action in US presidential elections from 1964 through 2008*. Lanhan: University Press of America.
- [92] Newman, A. A. (2010). No body hair left behind. *New York Times*, E6.
- [93] O'Brien, C. C. (2006). What the Dickens?: Intertextual influence and the inheritance of virtue in Julia C. Collins's *The Curse of Caste; or The Slave Bride*. *African American Review*, 40, 661-685.
- [94] O'Brien, C. C. (2003). Racing toward civilization: Sexual slavery and nativism in the novels of Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins and Alice Wellington Rollins. *Legacy*, 20, 118-133. doi:10.1353/leg.2003.0059
- [95] Oakley, S. (2007). The libertine colony: Creolization in the Early French Caribbean. *Wadabagei: A Journal of the Caribbean and Its Diaspora*, 10, 104-109.
- [96] Oliver, J. E., & Wong, J. (2003). Intergroup prejudice in multiethnic settings. *American Journal of Political Science*, 47, 567-582. doi:10.1111/1540-5907.00040
- [97] Ondaatje, C. (1998). *Journey to the source of the Nile*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.
- [98] Perry, B., & Sutton, M. (2008). Policing the colour line violence against those in intimate interracial relationships. *Race, Gender & Class*, 15, 240-261.
- [99] Philpot, T. S., & Walton Jr., H. (2007). One of our own: Black female candidates and the voters who support them. *American Journal of Political Science*, 51, 49-62. doi:10.1111/j.1540-5907.2007.00236.x
- [100] Pittman, C. (2007). Black women writers and the trouble with ethos: Harriet Jacobs, Billie Holiday, and Sister Souljah. *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 37, 43-70. doi:10.1080/02773940600860074
- [101] Porter, M. M., & Bronzaft, A. L. (1995). Do the future plans of educated black women include black mates. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 64, 162-170. doi:10.2307/2967239
- [102] Qian, Z. (1997). Breaking the racial barriers: Variations in interracial marriage between 1980 and 1990. *Demography*, 34, 263-276. doi:10.2307/2061704
- [103] Robnett, B., & Feliciano, C. (2011). Patterns of racial-ethnic exclusion by internet daters. *Social*

- [104] Roland, Charles P. 1982. The ever-vanishing South. *Journal of Southern History*, 48, 3-20. doi:10.2307/2207294
- [105] Rogers, J. A. (1952). *Nature knows no color-line* (3rd ed.). St. Petersburg, FL: Helga M. Rogers.
- [106] Rogers, J. A. (1944). *Sex and race* vol. III. St. Petersburg, FL: Helga M. Rogers.
- [107] Romano, R. C. (2006). *Race mixing: Black-white marriage in postwar America*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.
- [108] Saint Louis, C. (2009). Do women like men quite that clean shaven? *New York Times*, E3.
- [109] Scanlon, M. (1998). The divine body in Grace Nichols' s *The Fat Black Woman' s Poems*. *World Literature*, 72, 59-66. doi:10.2307/40153535
- [110] Simmons, C. (2003). Women' s power in sex radical challenges to marriage in the early-twentieth-century. *Feminist Studies*, 29, 168-198.
- [111] Sivanarayanan, A. (2005). The black female body: A photographic history. *Callaloo*, 28, 1108-1113. doi:10.1353/cal.2006.0036
- [112] Soomer, J. (2000). The manipulation of the production and reproduction of African women in the caribbean during slavery. *Negro History Review*, 63, 1-7.