

The Black Woman And Her Place in the Twentieth Century

RUTGERS

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Introduction

- The Black Woman has always been an anomaly, suffering from racial & gender oppression while she manages to strive in a society that has no place for her.
- The goal of this research is to examine historical data on African American women and the 1920s and if black women of the 1920s employed Black Feminism.
- I will focus on the following women : Mary Church Terrell, Jessie Fauset, Anna Cooper, Ida B. Wells, & Mary McLeod Bethune.
- Women used club organizations to create study clubs, mother's clubs, & ran for office on national/local levels.

Research Question

- How did college educated African American women represent themselves in American society during the 1920s?

Objectives

- I will be adding knowledge on the experiences of black women in the 1920s and how they made themselves present throughout society when white female suffragists tried to cast them out.
- The goal of this research question is to examine historical data on African American women in the 1920s that has previously been overlooked through Black Feminism.

Methods

- Historical Analysis: Time period, the life/experiences of the women
- Analysis of Archival Data : Newspapers, Speeches, Writings
- Black Feminism: the recognition that A.A. women are status deprived because they face discrimination on the basis of race & gender.

Images of the 1920s

"It is a wonder that Afro-American women dared to dream a white man's dream– the right to enfranchisement– especially at a time when white women attempted to exclude them from that dream." (Taylor, 237)

(Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture)



(African American Registry)

Conclusion

- Why Black Feminism? Black Feminism represents a collective identity among black women. We all have different self defined narratives that add to the history and elevation of the black woman .
- Also, I want my research to teach modern women and girls of all ages about Black Feminism and the importance to tying it back to education so they can incorporate Black Feminism into their lives.
- I would recommend that Black Feminism be included in a multicultural education. A crucial goal of multicultural education, is to reform the school and other educational institutions so that students from diverse racial, ethnic, and social-class groups will experience educational equality. Another important goal of multicultural education is to give both male and female students an equal chance to experience educational success and mobility (Banks, 1993; Klein, 1985; Sadker & Sadker, 1982).

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