

## Multiple Layers:

### The Assimilation of First and Second Generation African Immigrants in the United States

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There is a long history of sociological research on immigrants and assimilation. However, research on Africans is sparse. While African immigrants comprise only a small proportion of immigrants to the United States, they are an important group to study because of their tie to African Americans. We know that West Indian immigrants often become categorized as black which influences their trajectory of assimilation. In her newly published research on the assimilation of Nigerians in the United States, Onoso Imoagene notes that among the broader public in the United States, blacks are seen as a “single ethnic group” and “monolithic.” Drawing on in-depth interviews, my research project examines the assimilation of first and second generation African immigrants in the United States with a focus on college students and recent graduates.

In my presentation, I will discuss findings on how assimilation differs between first and second generation African immigrants. I will focus on early experiences, college experiences, family influences, art/food/music, and racial and ethnic identity. Secondly, I will talk about how gender may complicate the assimilation process of first and second generation African immigrants. Lastly, I will compare African immigrants to African Americans in the United States.