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ATTITUDES OF BLACK SOCIOECONOMIC CLASSES
IN THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA
RELATIVE TO BLACK PSYCHOLOGY

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Division in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science

By

Patricia D. Polk

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KANSAS STATE COLLEGE OF PITTSBURG

Pittsburg, Kansas

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
II. METHOD.....	11
III. RESULTS.....	16
IV. DISCUSSION.....	34
APPENDIX A. Questionnaire.....	37
APPENDIX B. Selected Forms.....	42
REFERENCES.....	46

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"Add to your faith virtue, and to your virtue
knowledge. And to your knowledge temperance."
II Peter 1: 5

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all those who helped with the planning and execution of
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Most important, many thanks to my God.

Abstract

Four hundred and twenty-nine questionnaires developed by the investigator were distributed to Black white collar, blue collar, farm, and service workers in the Metropolitan Kansas City Area. The questionnaires, of which 383 were returned, were designed to determine whether the subjects perceived themselves as being different from the dominant society, to assess their attitudes about the need for a Black Psychology which concerns itself with the unique behavioral characteristics of Black Americans, and to see whether those assessments differed according to socioeconomic status.

The subjects who comprised the convenience sample were contacted through several agencies including the U.S. Department of Labor, nursing homes, hospitals, construction companies, and business unions.

Findings were: 1.) Blacks perceived themselves as equal to other people, yet acknowledged the presence of measurable differences in the Black social structure and family life; 2.) the degree of perceived differences in heritage, need for psychology, priorities, etc. varied according to socioeconomic status; and 3.) the need for a Black Psychology or a change in the prevailing psychological framework was overdue.

All results were significant at the .01 or .001 levels.

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	PAGE
I.	Number of Cases in Each Category..... 11
II.	Occupation of Black Population for Counties, Total Occupation for 16 Years of Age and Older..... 12
III.	Contingency Table for Question 7..... 17
IV.	Contingency Table for Question 8..... 18
V.	Contingency Table for Question 9..... 19
VI.	Contingency Table for Question 10..... 20
VII.	Contingency Table for Question 11..... 21
VIII.	Contingency Table for Question 12..... 23
IX.	Contingency Table for Question 13..... 24
X.	Contingency Table for Question 14..... 25
XI.	Contingency Table for Question 15..... 26
XII.	Contingency Table for Question 17..... 27
XIII.	Contingency Table for Question 18..... 28
XIV.	Contingency Table for Question 19..... 29
XV.	Contingency Table for Question 20..... 30
XVI.	Contingency Table for Question 21..... 31
XVII.	Contingency Table for Question 22..... 32
XVIII.	Contingency Table for Question 23..... 33

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Age of Subjects.....	13
2. Educational Attainment of Subjects Years Past Grade Nine.....	14

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Reams of paper have been used for studies investigating the disproportionate amount of ethnic group members labelled mentally retarded (Mercer, 1972); the number of Black* children who score lower on intelligences tests than their white peers even though they have received a "Head Start;" the assertion that minority group members score, on the average, fifteen points lower on intelligence tests than whites of all ages and all socioeconomic classes; and the statement that the Black family, hence, the Black community, is falling apart due to the "disintegration of conventional social relationships" (Moynihan, 1965). What accounts for these differences? How can they be studied? How have they been studied? Several psychologists, predominantly Black, have become discontented with the methods used to research and explain these phenomena, consequently, they have suggested the need to study these phenomena and others from a Black perspective, one that is different from the prevailing framework.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether Black white collar, blue collar, farm, and service workers in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of Kansas City, Kansas--Kansas City, Missouri perceive themselves

*The term Black will be used in lieu of the term Negro throughout this paper in order to maintain consistency and to comply with current trends.

as being different from the dominant society and whether they see a need for a separate Black Psychology. Black Psychology in this study refers to that proposed discipline in psychology that concerns itself with the unique behavioral characteristics of Black Americans. These characteristics include personality development, family functioning, education, and other areas to be described later in this paper.

A survey was made using a questionnaire developed by the investigator. A copy of the questionnaire appears in Appendix A. Participation in the study was limited to Black persons 16 years of age and older who are in or have been in the work force and reside in the Metropolitan Kansas City Area. Limitations resulted from the investigator's inability to personally oversee the dispersion of the questionnaires.

A Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) must meet one of the following criteria established by the U. S. Bureau of the Census. It must be:

- a.) one city with 50,000 or more inhabitants or
- b.) a city having a population of at least 25,000 which, with the addition of the population of contiguous places, incorporated or unincorporated, having a population density of at least 1,000 per square mile, and which together constitute for general and economic purposes a single community with a combined population of at least 50,000 provided that the county or counties in which the city and contiguous places are located has a population of at least

75,000. (Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1975.
96th ed.)

The SMSA of Kansas City, Kansas--Kansas City, Missouri includes the following counties in Missouri: Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray; as well as Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. (Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1975, p. 941.)

The four occupational divisions used in the study were derived from the definitions used in the 1970 Census and are summarized as follows:

White Collar-----Professional, technical, and kindred workers, managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers; clerical and kindred workers.

Blue Collar-----Craftsmen and kindred workers; operatives, except transport; transport equipment operatives; laborers, except farm.

Farm Workers-----Farmers and farm managers; farm laborers and farm foremen.

Service Workers--Service including private household; food service; health service; protective service. (The 1970 Census: Characteristics of the Population. Vol. 1, Pt. 27.)

Is there a significant difference between Blacks and other groups which warrants the development of such a discipline as Black Psychology? Do the people who stand to benefit from the programs brought about by such a discipline want them or see a need for them? Does the assessment of the purported need vary according to socioeconomic status? Would it be worthwhile to combine the many facets of the many Black experiences in the United States into a viable Black Psychology? It is to these questions and

others already mentioned that the investigator addresses herself.

Wyne, White, and Coop (1974, p. 3) relate that some may question whether the self concept of Black children and youth is sufficiently different from the study of self in other groups to justify separate examination. They assert that the fact that the self image of Black Americans is fundamentally related to a color-caste system justifies exclusive treatment of the topic. Rainwater (1966) holds that the Black lower class family is the "crucible of identity" for the child in a manner quite distinct from that of the families of children from other cultural groups. Baughman warns that:

"To regard the Black Norm as pathological and attempt to remove such traits by treatment would be akin to analyzing away a hunter's cunning or a banker's prudence. This is a body of characteristics essential to life for Black men in America and woe be unto that therapist who does not recognize it."
(1971, p. 70.)

In the wake of pleas for Black unity, Black advancement, Black help for Black people and in light of the alleged differences between Blacks and whites, several Black psychologists (Jones, 1972) have asserted that there is a definite need for a Black Psychology. Mosby (1970a, p.33) indicates that a Black Psychology will have to reexamine:

- 1.) personality development,

- 2.) family functioning,
- 3.) social relations,
- 4.) interracial relationships,
- 5.) intellectual achievement and functioning.
- 6.) education, and
- 7.) general developmental areas (i.e., physical, motor, genetic, etc.).

Other proponents (Jones, 1970; Thomas, 1970; White, 1970) also believe that a comprehensive theory of Black Psychology will have to explain the dynamics of the Black home, family, hero, role models, language systems, work and time management, and the nature of suspiciousness. Simpson and Yinger (1965) point out the great pitfalls in drawing general conclusions from simple comparisons of Black and white subjects. It is necessary, they postulate, to remember that the amount and type of prejudice and form of reactions to it depend on individual variables, such as age, education, occupation, temperament, and family training about the dominant group.

In spite of these findings, Mosby (p.33) warns that "a danger is inherent in the very labelling of the Black as different in behavior or personality." She notes that the term 'different' may imply that one is to be judged by different or less rigid standards; nevertheless, she also maintains that it is possible to infer and to document that qualitatively different experiences within the Black's life make mandatory, qualitatively different adjustments in her/his life pattern and in the actualization of her/his needs. Barnes (1972, p.166) suggests that

in considering the mutual interdependence of the Black family and the Black community, it is of "crucial importance to assess the status of Black people in terms of extent of group unity, identification, sense of peoplehood, or what you will." He asserts that the changes in the community have implications for changes in the family and in the units of which it is comprised.

Moynihan (1965) is credited with bringing the plight of the Black family and the Black community to the attention of a mass of American sociologists, psychologists, and politicians; however, as early as 1957 Smuts indicated that the Black community needed to know more about why families failed to discharge the normal functions of the family in our society.

Moynihan's findings suggested that although the white family has achieved a high degree of stability and maintains that stability, the family structure of lower class Blacks is highly unstable, and in many urban centers is approaching complete breakdown. He lists several reasons for the occurrence of these breakdowns. Among the reasons are: 1.) the dissolution of nearly one quarter of urban marriages; 2.) the illegitimacy of nearly a quarter of Black births; and 3.) the female heading of almost one-fourth of all Black families. Because of these problems, Black male children have no immediate male models with whom to identify, Black children lack the self-esteem necessary to function in the competitive American

society, and the Black family is on the verge of total collapse. Moynihan concluded his report by indicating that a national effort should be made with the objective of strengthening the Black family so as to enable it to raise and support its members as do other families.

Rainwater and Yancey (1967, p. 27) relate that Moynihan sought to present a sharply focused argument leading to the conclusion that "the government's economic and social welfare programs, existing and prospective ones, should be systematically designed to encourage the stability of the Black family."

Many Blacks took exception to Moynihan's assertion that the Black family was disorganized, and retaliated by saying that the phenomena deemed as disorganizing factors were the very mechanisms used for the survival of the Black community. Grier and Cobbs hypothesize that the behaviors of Blacks which are labelled deviant are, in fact, adaptive and in some cases they are survival behaviors developed in response to the white environment.

Rainwater and Yancey elaborate on this point by conceding that:

"One concerns oneself with how particular family patterns function to enable individuals to adapt to their depriving lower class existence and to maintain themselves biologically, psychologically, and socially in the one world in which they must live. From this perspective some of the behaviors that appear pathological (in terms of ability to function in line with the demands of stable working or middle class norms and institutions) are functional in terms of the

ability to make as gratifying a life as possible in a ghetto milieu." (p. 31)

Jensen (1969) points out that there is clearly a difference between Black and white intellectual functioning. In a discourse concerning the failure of compensatory education, he suggests that the differences result from the different types of learning abilities employed by the two groups. He postulates that lower class children employ Level I (associative) learning, whereas middle class children use Level II (conceptual) learning. He states that Level I involves "neural registration and consolidation of stimulus inputs and the formation of association. There is relatively little transformation of input...Level II abilities, on the other hand, involve self-initiated elaboration and the transformation of the stimulus input before it eventuates a response." (p. 111)

Jensen proposes that these differences should be acknowledged and that children should be educated accordingly. Lower class children, most of whom are Black, should be most proficient at rote memorization, whereas Level II children would be best at intuitive, problem solving activities. Jensen does not indicate whether this instruction would be done by separating children into different classes or whether Level I children would attain Level II abilities. Bickham (1974) responded to Jensen's proposal by saying:

"If Jensen and others expect us to utilize associative learning for our Black students, then they must show explicitly how it can

serve as a bridge to higher education, because, if associative learning is a dead end rather than a bridge, a cul de sac instead of a tunnel, then its implementation would amount to a subtle form of keeping the Black in his place." (p. 163)

The political overtones in the Moynihan report, as well as those in the Jensen discourse, and the controversies that followed their publication will not be belabored in this paper. It is sufficient to say that Moynihan and Jensen, in addition to the Black psychologists already mentioned, perceive a distinct difference between Blacks and whites and that those differences should be studied.

Moynihan also indicated that there were indications that the Black community was in fact dividing between a stable middle class group that was growing more successful and stronger, and an increasingly disorganized lower class group, thereby suggesting that there is even great variability within the Black social structure. It is this variability in the Black community that prompted Hayes (1972, p. 52) to say that the call for a Black Psychology is an ambitious one. He asserts that the approach must be capable of demonstrating "internal consistency and of developing into a formal discipline according to an explicit set of rules designed to establish it as a science." He suggests that a more reasonable alternative is to adopt the approach to psychology with the greatest potential for leading to a fair understanding of the behavior of Black people.

One view that can be taken is that, "A Black is the same, no more or less so, and equal to other people in all respects," (Mosby, p.33) and therefore warrants no exemplary treatment. If that view is correct, then the push for the development of a Black Psychology is folly and a waste of time. In contrast to this view, Wyne, White, and Coop say that unless the Black individual is viewed within his own frame of reference, his behavior cannot be accurately assessed with regard to its normality or abnormality.

The hypotheses that were tested include: 1.) there would be no significant differences between groups regarding their assessments of the need for a Black Psychology or their attitudes toward the prevailing framework; 2.) any differences within groups would not be significant; and 3.) there would be no discontent with present psychological services voiced.

CHAPTER II

METHOD

Subjects

A convenience sample divided into strata was employed. Table 1 summarizes the number of subjects obtained for each stratum and county. Quotas for each stratum were based on the 1970 Census data summarized in Table 2 in order to insure representative proportions of the various classes of occupations. The percentage of cases in each category is also summarized in Table 2, e.g., in Cass county the 113 white collar workers constitute 71.9% of the total workers of the county. The composite column of classes in Table 2 summarizes the data used to determine the number of subjects from each county.

Table 1
Number of Cases in Each Category

Group	Counties						N
	Cass	Clay	Jackson	Ray	Johnson	Wyandotte	
White Collar	7	10	143	0	20	43	223
Blue Collar	8	8	36	0	8	20	80
Farm	-	2	12	0	-	7	21
Service	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>59</u>
Total <u>N</u>	21	26	216	0	38	85	383

Four hundred and twenty-nine questionnaires were dispersed and 383 were returned yielding a response rate of

Table 2
 Occupation of Black Population for Counties: 1970 Kansas * and Missouri**
 Total Occupation for 16 Years of Age and Older

Group	Counties					Total
	Cass %	Clay %	Jackson %	Johnson %	Wyandotte %	
White Collar	113=71.9	268=68.7	51,902=67.5	439=66.8	14,807=70.4	67,529
Blue Collar	35=22.0	58=14.8	14,592=19.0	141=21.4	3,370=16.0	18,196
Farm	----	2= 0.5	369= 0.4	---	98= 0.5	469
Service	9=5.7	62=15.8	9,934=12.9	77=11.7	2,754=11.0	12,836
Total	157	390	76,797	657	21,029	99,030

*Data abstracted from The 1970 Census: Characteristics of the Population, Pt. 18, Table 125, p. 413.

**Data abstracted from The 1970 Census: Characteristics of the Population, Pt. 27, Table 127, p. 491.

89 percent.

Demographic data concerning ages of subjects and the years of school attained appear in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. When asked how they classified themselves racially, 339 subjects marked the Black response, 32 marked other, and 12 subjects did not respond.

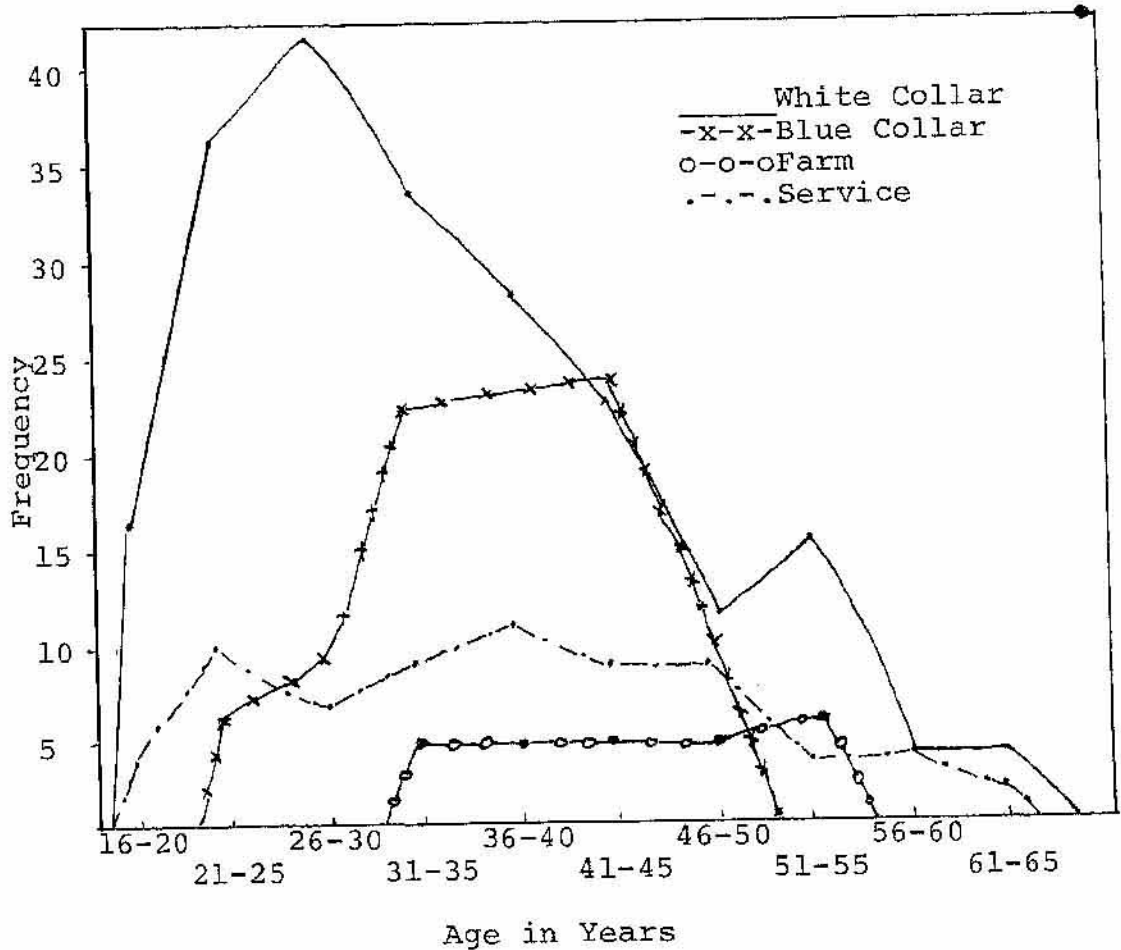


Figure 1. Age of Subjects

<u>Note.</u> White collar	\overline{N} = 223
Blue collar	\overline{N} = 80
Farm	\overline{N} = 21
Service	\overline{N} = 59
TOTAL	\overline{N} = 383

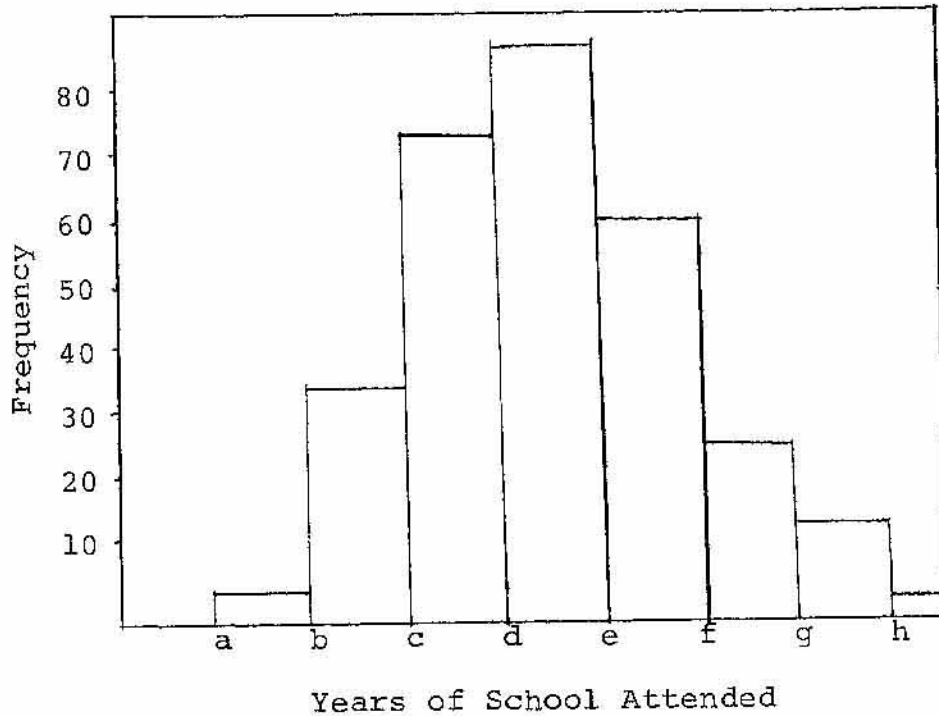


Figure 2. Education Attainment of Subjects--
Years Past Grade Nine

Note. a. none
 b. 1-2 years
 c. high school graduate
 d. some college
 e. college graduate
 f. some graduate school
 g. received Masters degree
 h. received Ph.D.

Materials

Questionnaires developed by the investigator were used to gather data. A copy of the questionnaire and cover letter given to the subjects can be found in Appendix A.

Procedure

Questionnaires were distributed to the agencies listed in the Appendix. The agencies were selected because of their involvement with Black people in the Kansas City Area.

Written as well as verbal instructions were given

to the receptionists and other office personnel who distributed the questionnaires (color-coded by county) to the patrons of the agencies. Questionnaires marked with a red square (placed in the upper right hand corner) were distributed to Cass county residents, those marked with orange to Clay county subjects, those with green squares to Jackson county participants, those with blue markings were distributed to Johnson county residents, and those with purple to Wyandotte county subjects.

Responses to the questions were in the form of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD). Subjects were instructed to circle the response that was most appropriate.

Subjects were directed to return the questionnaires to the receptionists upon completion. The investigator collected the majority of the completed questionnaires two weeks after their dispersion. Several of the questionnaires were received later by mail.

The level of significance was set at $p < .05$ during the planning stages of the study. After the questionnaires were received, the chi square statistic using a one-way classification with a contingency table was employed to determine the significance of the inter-group and intra-group differences that occurred.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS

The data indicate that there is variability between socioeconomic classes in their attitudes toward psychology (including Black Psychology) and its relation to Black people. Analysis of each question and the level of significance that was attained for each follow.

It should be noted here that the observed frequencies of the service group and the farm group were combined during the computation of the chi square in order to facilitate the determination of the expected frequencies. It should be noted that the discrepancies that appear in the composite column of the contingency tables were caused by some subjects marking no response to several of the questions.

The first page of the questionnaire was used to gather background data. Questions used for the comparison of attitudes commenced with question number seven..

Question 7

"A Black is the same and equal to other people in all respects."

The sectional value of the highest magnitude occurred in the Agree (A) cell of the farm and service workers group, where the observed frequency (24) was considerably higher than the expected frequency (11). The observed frequency of the white collar workers in the Strongly Agree (SA) cell (120) was also much higher than expected (96).

Less subjects than expected marked the D and SD categories in all cells except the D cell of the farm and service group. They (farm and service workers) did believe that the Black is equal to other people, but not as strongly as the other groups.

The obtained chi square of 68.68 with 8 df was much larger than the critical value of 26.16 needed for significance at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Table 3

Contingency Table for Question 7

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	120 (96)	23 (43)	12 (21)	45 (42)	23 (21)	221
Blue	21 (35)	17 (15)	13 (7)	16 (15)	13 (7)	80
Farm & Service	24 (35)	34 (15)	11 (7)	11 (15)	0 (8)	80
Total	165 (165)	74 (74)	36 (36)	72 (72)	36 (36)	381

Question 8

"If a clinic staffed by Black psychologists, social workers, probation officers, and counselors were available in my community, I would use it."

The overall attitude toward such a facility was more favorable than expected in the farm and service workers group. It was expected that at least seven subjects from

that group would mark the SD response, however, no one in the group did. It was also expected that less people from this group would mark the agree category. The data indicate that if such a facility were available it would be used by members of all groups.

The obtained χ^2 of 21.66 with 8 df was larger than the critical value of 20.09 necessary for significance at the .01 level. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 4

Contingency Table for Question 8

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	55 (49)	62 (66)	51 (51)	26 (29)	25 (22)	219
Blue	18 (18)	18 (24)	19 (18)	12 (11)	13 (8)	80
Farm & Service	11 (16)	33 (22)	17 (17)	13 (10)	0 (7)	80
Total	74 (83)	112 (112)	87 (86)	55 (50)	38 (37)	379

Question 9

"Black Americans have a heritage that is distinctly different from other American groups."

The overall attitude in the blue collar group and farm and service group was one of disagreement. The most significant discrepancy occurred in the SD cell of the blue collar group. It was expected that four subjects would mark SD, however, thirteen of the eighty blue collar

workers marked that response. In the SA cell for both the blue collar and farm and service workers, the expected frequency was much higher than the observed. The opposite result occurred in the white collar group. The expected frequency for the SA cell was 89, however, 125 subjects from that group marked the SA response. More farm and service workers marked the neutral response.

The obtained χ^2 of 91.33 with 8 df was exceptionally higher than the necessary critical value of 26.12 for significance at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 5

Contingency Table for Question 9

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	125 (89)	58 (64)	18 (31)	12 (24)	8 (12)	221
Blue	14 (32)	22 (23)	15 (11)	16 (8)	13 (4)	80
Farm & Service	14 (32)	31 (23)	21 (11)	14 (9)	0 (4)	80
Total	153 (152)	111 (110)	54 (53)	42 (41)	21 (20)	381

Question 10

"I believe that Black psychologists have sold out to the White Establishment, so it wouldn't matter whom I see for psychological help."

The most significant discrepancy occurred in the SD cell of the farm and service workers group. It was ex-

pected that 14 subjects would mark that response, but no one did. In the A cell of the same group it was expected that only 14 subjects would mark that response, however, the observed frequency was 33. It was expected that 37 white collar workers would agree with the assertion, yet only 15 members of that group marked that response, indicating that white collar workers have a more favorable response about Black psychologists than blue collar or farm and service workers.

The obtained χ^2 of 64.77 with 8 df surpassed the necessary critical value of 26.12 to be significant at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 6

Contingency Table for Question 10

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	11 (8)	15 (37)	56 (55)	90 (81)	46 (36)	218
Blue	0 (3)	17 (14)	17 (20)	28 (29)	17 (13)	79
Farm & Service	3 (3)	33 (14)	23 (21)	23 (31)	0 (14)	82
Total	14 (15)	65 (65)	96 (96)	141 (141)	63 (63)	379

Question 11

"Black middle class families resemble white middle class families more than they resemble Black lower class families."

The most significant results occurred in the farm

and service workers' SA and A cells. The observed frequencies were 0 and 37, respectively, while the expected frequencies were 16 for SA and 21 for A. More people agreed than expected, but no one strongly agreed. It was expected that 18 members of the white collar group would mark SD, however, 32 members did. It was also expected that 57 white collar workers would agree with the assertion, but only 35 marked that response. No members of the blue collar group marked SD, however, it was expected that seven subjects would choose that response. These findings indicate that farm and service workers agree with the statement to a greater degree than the other groups.

The obtained χ^2 of 68.35 with 8 df is sufficiently larger than the critical value of 26.12 to be significant at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 7

Contingency Table for Question 11

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	56 (43)	35 (58)	44 (47)	52 (53)	32 (18)	219
Blue	18 (16)	28 (21)	17 (17)	17 (19)	0 (7)	80
Farm & Service	0 (16)	37 (21)	21 (17)	22 (19)	0 (7)	80
Total	90 (75)	100 (100)	82 (81)	91 (91)	32 (32)	379

Question 12

"Psychology and psychologists are for the birds!!
In other words, we don't need it or them."

The sectional value of the highest magnitude occurred in the SA cell of the blue collar group. It was expected that only 5 members would mark that response, however, 16 subjects did. The next highest value was in the A cell of the white collar group. The expected frequency was 21, whereas the observed frequency was only 6. The final difference occurred in the SD cell of the white collar group. It was expected that 73 subjects would strongly disagree with the assertion, however, the observed frequency was 96. A significant amount of farm and service workers marked the neutral response. The expected frequency was 10, but 26 subjects marked that response.

These findings indicate that white collar workers feel strongly that psychologists are needed; blue collar workers feel that the need is not so strong; and farm and service workers either see a strong need for psychologists or are markedly neutral on the subject.

The obtained χ^2 of 93.18 with 8 df is much higher than the critical value needed for significance at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Table 8

Contingency Table for Question 12

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	8 (16)	6 (21)	22 (27)	90 (84)	96 (73)	222
Blue	16 (6)	16 (7)	2 (10)	28 (30)	18 (26)	80
Farm & Service	3 (6)	14 (7)	23 (10)	27 (30)	12 (26)	79
Total	27 (28)	36 (36)	47 (47)	145 (144)	126 (126)	381

Question 13

"Black families deal with a completely different set set of priorities than white families."

The sectional value of the highest magnitude occurred in the SD cell of the blue collar group. The observed frequency was 17, whereas the expected was 8. The other significant differences occurred in the SD category of the white collar group. The expected frequency was 21 while the observed was 11.

Findings indicate that white collar workers disagree to a lesser extent than the blue collar workers.

The obtained χ^2 of 26.77 with 8 df is larger than the 26.12 critical value needed for significance at the .001 level. The null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 9

Contingency Table for Question 13

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	65 (54)	74 (66)	30 (34)	40 (44)	11 (21)	220
Blue	13 (20)	17 (24)	15 (13)	20 (16)	17 (8)	82
Farm & Service	14 (17)	20 (21)	13 (11)	15 (14)	8 (7)	70
Total	92 (91)	111 (111)	58 (58)	75 (74)	36 (36)	372

Question 14

"For the most part, I don't believe that Black people trust psychologists."

More farm and service workers disagreed with this statement than expected, thereby indicating that they believe Black people trust psychologists. In the SA cell of both the white collar and the blue collar workers some turnarounds were experienced. In the white collar group less people than were expected agreed with the statement, whereas in the blue collar group more people agreed.

These findings indicate that farm and service workers strongly agree that Black people trust psychologists, whereas white collar and blue collar workers believe that Black people do not trust them.

The obtained χ^2 of 36.13 with 8 df is larger than

the critical value needed for significance at the .001 level, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 10

Contingency Table for Question 14

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	13 (25)	90 (85)	76 (64)	36 (39)	6 (8)	221
Blue	17 (9)	27 (31)	16 (23)	20 (14)	0 (3)	80
Farm & Service	13 (9)	29 (31)	19 (23)	11 (14)	8 (3)	80
Total	43 (43)	146 (139)	111 (110)	67 (67)	14 (11)	381

Question 15

"There is a common thread of Black experiences so different from white experiences that they should be studied and interpreted separately."

The largest discrepancy between expected and observed frequencies occurred in the SD section of the farm and service workers group and the D cell of the blue collar group. In both groups more subjects than were expected marked the D and SD responses. The opposite occurred in the white collar group. It was expected that 22 subjects would disagree, but only 11 subjects marked that response.

From these findings the investigator concludes that white collar workers agree with the assertion, while farm and service workers hold a less favorable attitude. Blue

collar workers marked a greater number of D and SD responses.

The obtained χ^2 of 79.70 with 8df was sufficiently larger than the critical value of 26.12 needed for significance at the .001 level and the null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 11

Contingency Table for Question 15

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	98 (79)	84 (92)	28 (23)	11 (23)	0 (4)	221
Blue	27 (28)	29 (33)	2 (8)	21 (8)	0 (1)	79
Farm & Service	11 (28)	45 (33)	10 (8)	7 (8)	7 (1)	80
Total	136 (136)	158 (158)	40 (40)	39 (39)	7 (6)	380

Question 17

"I believe that there is a need for a Black Psychological Clinic in the greater Kansas City Area."

Sectional values indicate that the most significant difference occurred between the farm and service workers and the other two groups. Less subjects marked the SA response than expected and more subjects marked the neutral response.

The obtained χ^2 of 25.24 is larger than the critical value of 20.09 which is necessary for significance at the .01 level. The null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 12

Contingency Table for Question 17

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	85 (78)	92 (88)	26 (35)	12 (16)	6 (3)	221
Blue	34 (28)	25 (32)	15 (13)	6 (6)	0 (1)	80
Farm & Service	15 (28)	35 (32)	20 (13)	10 (6)	0 (1)	80
Total	134 (134)	152 (152)	61 (61)	28 (28)	6 (5)	381

Question 18

"If I had to take an intelligence test or some other psychological test, I would want a member of my own race to score it."

The highest sectional value occurred in the blue collar group. It was expected that at least 15 members of that group would mark the SA response, however, no members responded in such a manner. It was expected that 12 subjects would disagree, however, 29 members of the group marked that response. The opposite result occurred in the white collar group. Less subjects marked D, while 20 more subjects than expected marked the SA category.

These results indicate that white collar workers would much rather have a member of their own race administer and interpret test results, while blue collar workers are less favorable to the idea.

The obtained χ^2 of 64.34 with 8 df is significant at the .001 level, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 13

Contingency Table for Question 18

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	61 (42)	47 (55)	89 (85)	17 (35)	7 (4)	221
Blue	0 (15)	22 (20)	29 (31)	29 (13)	0 (1)	80
Farm & Service	11 (15)	26 (20)	28 (31)	15 (13)	0 (1)	80
Total	72 (72)	95 (95)	146 (146)	61 (61)	7 (7)	381

Question 19

"The tragedy of the Black in America is that he has rejected his origins and that this severely limits his ability to evolve a new identity or give his life meaning and purpose."

In the blue collar group it was expected that 14 subjects would mark neutral, however, only two subjects chose that response. The expected frequency in the SA category was 11, however, 21 subjects marked that response. In the farm and service group less people than expected marked D, whereas more than expected marked N. In the white collar group more subjects than expected marked D.

These data indicate that white collar workers more decidedly disagree with this statement, more blue collar

workers agree, and farm and service workers have not formed concrete opinions.

It is interesting to note the comments written about this question. Three white collar workers who marked SD indicated that the Black has not rejected his origins, but has been stripped of them.

The obtained χ^2 of 45.06 with 8 df is significant at the .001 level and the null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 14

Contingency Table for Question 19

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	25 (32)	42 (55)	44 (40)	76 (60)	34 (34)	221
Blue	21 (12)	25 (20)	2 (14)	16 (22)	16 (12)	80
Farm & Service	10 (12)	27 (20)	23 (14)	12 (22)	8 (12)	80
Total	56 (56)	94 (95)	69 (68)	104 (104)	58 (58)	381

Question 20

"There is a need for the development of a true psychological picture of the Black experience in the United States."

Once again more farm and service workers than expected marked the neutral response and less than expected marked the SA category. More blue collar workers than expected marked the SA and D responses, and less than expected

marked the neutral response.

These results indicate that the blue collar workers hold a more favorable attitude about the need mentioned than the other groups. The farm and service workers were the least ecstatic about the development of a psychological picture of the Black experience.

The obtained χ^2 of 64.12 with 8 df is significant at the .001 level. The null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 15

Contingency Table for Question 20

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	99 (97)	101 (94)	19 (26)	0 (2)	2 (1)	221
Blue	50 (35)	24 (34)	2 (9)	4 (1)	0 (0)	80
Farm & Service	19 (35)	37 (34)	24 (9)	0 (1)	0 (0)	80
Total	168 (167)	162 (162)	45 (44)	4 (4)	2 (2)	381

Question 21

"There are so many different Black experiences in America that it would be impossible to lump them together to form one Black Psychology."

The blue collar group received the three highest sectional values. The expected frequency for the D response was 23, however, none of the blue collar workers marked D or SD. The expected frequency for the SA response was

11 and that of the A response was 22, however, 25 blue collar workers marked SA and 40 marked A. More white collar workers than expected marked D where the observed frequency was 95 and the expected was 66. Once again the farm and service workers swarmed to the neutral category.

White collar workers were more disagreeable to the assertion than the other groups. In the farm and service group, members either agree or have no opinion.

The obtained χ^2 of 97.97 with 8 df is much higher than the critical value of 26.12 required for significance at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

Table 16

Contingency Table for Question 21

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	23 (30)	45 (63)	37 (46)	95 (66)	21 (17)	221
Blue	25 (11)	40 (23)	15 (15)	0 (24)	0 (6)	80
Farm & Service	3 (11)	23 (23)	27 (17)	19 (24)	8 (6)	80
Total	51 (52)	108 (109)	79 (79)	114 (114)	29 (29)	381

Question 22

"Blacks speak the same language, even without talking; they are united in a common bond of

suffering, a present state of struggle, and a future hope of success."

The greatest difference occurred between the blue collar workers and the other two groups. The expected frequencies for the SA and D responses were 23 and 14, respectively, however, the observed frequency for the SA response was 34 and for the D response the observed frequency was 6. It was expected that 8 farm and service workers would mark the neutral response, however, 18 members of that group chose the N response.

These data indicate that blue collar workers are much more agreeable with the statement.

The obtained χ^2 of 36.65 with 8 df is significant at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Table 17

Contingency Table for Question 22

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	54 (64)	87 (85)	20 (23)	50 (40)	10 (9)	221
Blue	34 (23)	32 (31)	2 (8)	6 (14)	6 (3)	80
Farm & Service	22 (23)	27 (31)	18 (18)	13 (14)	0 (3)	80
Total	110 (110)	146 (147)	40 (40)	69 (69)	16 (16)	381

Question 23

"If I had a problem that I could not solve, I would talk to my friends, to my boss, or to a preacher before I would go to a psychologist."

The expected frequency for the neutral response in the blue collar group was 22, however, 41 subjects marked that response. In the SA cell the expected frequency was 11, but no blue collar workers marked that response. The expected frequency for the neutral response among white collar workers was 60, however, only 35 subjects marked neutral.

The data indicate that more white collar workers have some feeling about the question, both negative and positive, than blue collar workers who are more neutral and less agreeable.

The obtained χ^2 of 50.43 with 8 df is significant at the .001 level. The null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 18
Contingency Table for Question 23

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Total
White	40 (30)	86 (75)	35 (60)	43 (38)	17 (18)	221
Blue	0 (11)	24 (27)	41 (22)	8 (14)	7 (7)	80
Farm & Service	11 (11)	20 (27)	27 (22)	15 (14)	7 (7)	80
Total	51 (52)	130 (129)	103 (104)	66 (66)	31 (32)	381

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

Due to the high level of significance obtained for each question, the null hypothesis is rejected.

The questions used in the questionnaire can be divided into three categories, 1.) those that deal most specifically with attitudes about Black people; 2.) those that deal most specifically with the need for Black Psychology and Black psychologists; and 3.) those that deal most directly with psychology in general. For the ease of interpretation, the investigator will deal with each category separately.

Attitudes About Black People 7,9,11,13,15,19,22

All groups agree that Blacks are equal to other people, however, in terms of family life, priorities, heritage, and experiences in America, white collar workers more strongly agree that Blacks are different.

Attitudes About Black Psychology 8,10,17,21

White collar and blue collar workers agree that there is a need for the development of a Black Psychology to a stronger degree than farm and service workers. All groups indicated the need for a Black Psychological Clinic in the Metropolitan Kansas City area, however, farm and service workers indicated that they would use such a facility to a greater extent than the other groups.

the overwhelming feeling is that some change needs to be made. This investigator agrees that some light needs to be shed on some of the myths and assumptions that have been formulated to account for Black variability.

Attitudes About Psychology 12,14,18,20,23

Farmers seem the most neutral and negative about psychology. They more strongly agree that it is not needed than the other groups and that Black people trust psychologists. On the other questions in this category, the overwhelming response is one of neutrality. The white collar and blue collar groups marked more favorable responses, however, the white collar workers were more likely to mark extreme agreements or disagreements than the blue collar workers who were the most lukewarm.

Because a convenience sample was employed, these results cannot be generalized to the entire Black population of the United States, however, this sample of that population clearly recognizes a need for either the development of a Black Psychology or for a change of psychology as it presently stands.

The results of this study support the claims made by Baughman, Grier and Cobbs, Rainwater and Yancey, and many of the other psychologists mentioned in the introduction. These Black people from Kansas City do believe that they deserve equal rights and that they should not be judged by less rigid standards, yet they also indicate that they are a unique people, and that those things that make them unique should be studied. There is variability between socioeconomic classes, nevertheless

APPENDIX A



Summer, 1976

Because of the unique experiences and needs of Black people in the United States, several Black psychologists have suggested that a separate discipline, i.e., Black Psychology, should be established. According to one psychologist, such a discipline would have to re-examine personality development, family functioning, social relationships, interracial relations, intellectual achievement and functioning, education and general development areas (i.e., physical, motor, genetic, etc.).

This questionnaire is designed to gather useful information concerning psychology and its relation to Black people in the Kansas City area. Due to the importance of the information, your cooperation in completing this questionnaire would be greatly appreciated. In order to guarantee the confidentiality of your responses, please do not mark your name on any of the pages.

After you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to the receptionist or attendant. A summary of the results can be seen at the office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Room 1000, 9th and Walnut, Kansas City, Missouri.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. Polk
Patricia D. Polk

Graduate Assistant Dept. of Psychology
and Counselor Education

BLACK PSYCHOLOGY

1. What is your age? _____
2. In the 1970 Census, how did you classify yourself?
 - a. _____ Black
 - b. _____ Other
3. In what county do you reside?
 - a. _____ Cass
 - b. _____ Clay
 - c. _____ Jackson
 - d. _____ Platte
 - e. _____ Ray
 - f. _____ Johnson
 - g. _____ Wyandotte
4. In what county is your place of employment located?
 - a. _____ Cass
 - b. _____ Clay
 - c. _____ Jackson
 - d. _____ Platte
 - e. _____ Ray
 - f. _____ Johnson
 - g. _____ Wyandotte
5. Mark the highest amount of schooling you have had beyond the ninth grade.
 - a. _____ none
 - b. _____ 1-2 years
 - c. _____ high school graduate
 - d. _____ some college
 - e. _____ college graduate
 - f. _____ some graduate school
 - g. _____ received Masters degree
 - h. _____ received Ph.D.
6. According to the following list, how is your job classified?
 - a. _____ White collar--Professional, technical and kindred workers; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers; and clerical and kindred workers.
 - b. _____ Blue collar--Craftsmen and kindred workers; operatives, except transport; transport equipment operatives; laborers, except farm.
 - c. _____ Farmers and farm managers, farm laborers and farm foremen.
 - d. _____ Service workers--including private household, food service and health service.
7. Have you ever seriously wanted to consult a psychiatrist or psychologist?
 - a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No

BLACK PSYCHOLOGY

Many Black people indicate that the thought of going to see a psychologist makes them anxious. The following rating scale is designed to show how you feel about psychology, psychologists, and the proposal for a Black Psychology, one that is based on the unique needs and experiences of Black people. Read each item carefully and answer each one as accurately as possible. Please respond to each item by circling the response that is most appropriate.

SA = Strongly Agree
 A = Agree
 N = Neutral
 D = Disagree
 SD = Strongly Disagree

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 7. | A Black is the same and equal to other people in all respects. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 8. | If a clinic staffed by Black psychologists, social workers, probation officers, and counselors were available in my community, I would use it. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 9. | Black Americans have a heritage that is distinctly different from other American groups. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 10. | I believe that Black psychologists have sold out to the White Establishment, so it wouldn't matter whom I see for psychological help. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 11. | Black middle class families resemble white middle class families more than they resemble Black lower class families. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 12. | Psychology and psychologists are for the birds!! In other words, we don't need it or them. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 13. | Black families deal with a completely different set of priorities than white families, for example day-to-day survival vs long range goal setting. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 14. | For the most part, I don't believe that Black people trust psychologists. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 15. | There is a common thread of Black experiences so different from white experiences that they should be studied and interpreted separately. | SA | A | N | D | SD |

BLACK PSYCHOLOGY

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| 17. | I believe that there is a need for a Black Psychological Clinic in the Greater Kansas City Area. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 18. | If I had to take an intelligence test or some other psychological test, I would want a member of my own race to score it. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 19. | "The tragedy of the Black in America is that he has rejected his origins and that this severely limits his ability to evolve a new identity or give his life meaning and purpose." How do you feel about this statement? | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 20. | There is a need for the development of a true psychological picture of the Black experience in the United States. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 21. | There are so many different Black Experiences in America that it would be impossible to lump them together to form one Black Psychology. | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 22. | "Blacks speak the same language, even without talking; they are united in a common bond of suffering, a present state of struggle, and a future hope of success." How do you feel about this statement? | SA | A | N | D | SD |
| 23. | If I had a problem that I could not solve, I would talk to my friends, to my boss, or to a preacher before I would go to a psychologist! | SA | A | N | D | SD |

Thank you again for participating in the study. If you have any comments or further questions, please feel free to write them on the back of this sheet.

APPENDIX B

Agency List

Apprenticeship Outreach Program
Forest Coulter, Jr., Program Asst.
1659 Washington Blvd.
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Children and Youth Neighborhood Clinic
One Gateway Center, Suite 415
Fourth and State Ave.
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Urban League On-the-Job Training Program
Thomas A. Jones
1007 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Equal Opportunity Employment Commission
Charles Clark, Reg. Dir.
601 E. 12th St. Rm 113
Kansas City, Mo. 64106

Curtis McClinton, Exec. Dir.
Greater Kansas City Area Regional Black Economic Union
2502 Prospect Ave.
Kansas City, Mo. 64127

HEW
Perry Hooks, Asst. Reg. Admin. for Equal Opportunity
911 Walnut Rm. 300
Kansas City, Mo. 64106

Labor Dept. of Apprenticeship and Training
Equal Employment Opportunity
Robert D. Gatewood, Rep.
911 Walnut Rm. 1000
Kansas City, Mo. 64106

St. Luke's Hospital
Food Service
4400 Nichols Pkwy.
Kansas City, Mo. 64111

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE of PITTSBURG

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELOR EDUCATION



66762

April 30, 1976

American Psychological Association
1200 Seventeenth St., N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

To whom it may concern:

I am presently conducting a study in order to fulfil the requirements for a Masters degree in Psychology. My thesis topic concerns the attitudes of Black white collar, blue collar, farm, and service workers toward Black Psychology, i.e., a discipline based on the unique experiences and needs of Black people in the United States. All the subjects for my study are located in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of Kansas City, Kansas-Missouri. I am particularly interested in the results of this study because I plan to practice in this area.

My thesis adviser suggested that I contact Black members of APA, send them my questionnaires, and see how that population assesses the need for Black Psychology. I am also interested in contacting Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a former president of APA and having him complete one of my questionnaires. Would you please send me a copy of the names and addresses of the Black members of the association so I can see which ones I can easily contact in this area.

I plan to graduate this summer and will need the names and addresses as soon as possible in order to insure response by July 16.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. Polk
Graduate Assistant Dept. of Psychology and Counselor Education



KANSAS STATE COLLEGE of PITTSBURG

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELOR EDUCATION

March 8, 1976

I am working on a Masters degree in Psychology at Kansas State College of Pittsburg and am presently involved with completing my thesis, which is entitled, "A Study Between Black Socioeconomic Classes Relative to Black Psychology."

The purpose of my study is to determine how Black white collar workers in the Metropolitan KansasCity area evaluate the need for a separate Black Psychology as compared to the evaluations of Black blue collar, farm, and service workers from the same area.

I have developed a questionnaire that I will use to gather the data. In order to have a representative sample, I'll need at least 379 subjects. This is where I need your help. I'm asking all the Black professional agencies and organizations, as well as Federally funded ones, in the Metropolitan area to assist me in contacting people to be subjects.

This is merely a letter of introduction for my "cause." I would like to speak to you or a representative of your program during the week of March 15-19 (our Spring Break) in order to further explain my thesis topic and to answer any questions you may have.

I hope that you'll be interested in helping me gather what I think is very important information.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration,

Patricia D. Polk

Patricia D. Polk
Graduate Assistant Dept. of Psychology and Counselor Education
Home Address and phone: 420 North 11th. KCK
342-8602

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