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The Researcher: An Interdisciplinary Journal



**Reimagining the Black Family: Transitional Representations of the
Black Family Structure in American Society**

Barak Obama was not alone on the evening of 2008 when he gave his acceptance speech and became the forty-fourth, and America's first, black president. On that historic night, his Ivy-league educated wife and their two young daughters joined him on stage to greet the nation. As President Obama led the nation out of an economic recession and redefined the concept of healthcare, First Lady Michelle Obama distinguished herself as a dynamic public speaker, fashion icon, and advocate for military families and physical wellness, their two daughters grew into accomplished young women, and the entire family openly embraced all aspects of their black American culture. Both President Obama and the First Lady openly discussed their determination to make their daughters' lives as "normal" as possible in the White House. The years of President Obama's administration, therefore, were more than the period of the first black American president; they were also years when a young black couple and their two daughters forever redefined the world's image of America's first family.

This special edition of *The Researcher* examines historical, cultural, and political points of transition in how the black family is represented in American society. Topics for this issue include, but are not limited to:

- Representations of the black family in music and the visual arts
- Literary representations of black masculinity or black femininity
- Immigration and the black family
- The black family in advertisement, business, and the economy
- The black family in politics, education, and religious leadership

Scholars interested in contributing to this issue should send a 200-250 word abstract and author biography to editor.researcher@jsums.edu no later than August 15, 2021. Invited manuscripts must be submitted by December 1, 2021. Full article manuscripts should be between 4,000-5,000 words with discipline-appropriate documentation. All papers will undergo double-blind peer-review before being accepted for final publication. Submitted manuscripts must not have been published previously nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Accepted papers will be published in the Spring 2022 issue and will be listed on the special issue webpage. Submit manuscripts to the general editor at editor.researcher@jsums.edu. Submissions from HBCU's are especially encouraged.

The Researcher: An Interdisciplinary Journal (ISSN 0271-5058) is a peer-reviewed journal published at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, the nation's 4th largest Historically Black College and University (HBCU). *The Researcher* is an open access bi-annual journal that is also indexed in EBSCO's Academic Search Complete. Website - <http://www.jsums.edu/researcher/>.