

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges in
Emerging and Developing African Countries.*

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Book of Proceedings

Editors

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32.

Cultural Differences, Adaptation, and Dynamics: Perspective from Black African Male Immigrants in Interracial Marriage in Türkiye

Zulkarnain Mohammed Laye¹

This study examined the role of cultural differences in interracial marriages. A qualitative approach employing in-depth interviews with 20 individuals in marriages involving black male African immigrants and ‘white’ female Turks was utilized to examine how the couples perceive culture differences as a variable in their marriages, its impact on the formation of their relationships, how it shapes and continues to shape their union, including the challenges it presents, and how they navigate these challenges. Almost all the respondents appreciated cultural differences as a likely route of conflict in their unions. In the same breath, they tailored the strength of their union to these differences. In this regard, cultural differences provided spices to nourish their union, preventing the union from going dormant with rudimentary claws. There is always something new to learn, which instills an element of adventure into the union. While improved and constant communication was key in resolving conflicts generally, downplaying differences and holding on to a common identity in religion were significant for many. These findings further existing literature by shifting the focus away from the overly focused hostile terrain of conflicts associated with cultural differences.

Keyword: African Immigrants; Communication; Cultural Differences; Interracial Marriages

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