

The Black Reltrad Method for Classifying Religious Affiliations among African Americans

This document provides code for researchers interested in utilizing the Black Reltrad method of categorizing religious affiliations among African American respondents in major surveys. The code appears below in various formats including SPSS, Stata, and SAS. While it is written for religious traditions specified by participants in the General Social Survey, applying the logic of Black Reltrad to other datasets should be straightforward.

We do not require permission to use Black Reltrad. However, we ask that scholars who use Black Reltrad in their papers include the following citation for the article in which we developed the coding scheme:

Shelton, Jason and Ryon J. Cobb. (2017). "Black Reltrad: The Measure for Testing Religious Diversity and Commonality among African Americans." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 22(2): 222-222.

SPSS code for Black Reltrad:

*The following code is for members of the black Baptist tradition.

IF any (denom, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18) xbaptist=1.

IF any (other,16, 19, 93, 133, 186) xbaptist=1.

Variable labels xbaptist 'recoded baptists'.

Value labels xbaptist 1 'baptists'.

*The following code is for members of the black Methodist tradition.

IF any (denom, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28) xmethod=1.

IF any (other,15,112, 196) xmethod=1.

Variable labels xmethod 'recoded methodists'.

Value labels xmethod 1 'methodists'.

*The following code is for members of the black Holiness tradition.

Recode other (9 18 21 35 36 56 65 78 79 83 85 87 90 117 130=1) into xholiness.

Variable labels xholiness 'recoded holiness'.

Value labels xholiness 1 'holiness'.

*The following code is for members of the black Pentecostal tradition.

Recode other (12 14 37 38 39 52 67 68 69 103 104 125 138 154=1) into xpentecost.

Variable labels xpentecost 'recoded pentecostal'.

Value labels xpentecost 1 'pentecostal'.

*The following code creates the combined black Holiness and Pentecostal family.

IF (xholiness eq 1) xholipent=1.

IF (xpentecost eq 1) xholipent=1.

Variable labels xholipent 'recoded holiness/pentecostal'.

Value labels xholipent 1 'holiness/pentecostal'.

*The following code is for members of historically white mainline Protestant denominations.

IF any (denom, 30, 31, 35, 38, 40, 41, 43, 48, 50) xwmain=1.

IF any (other, 8, 23, 25, 40, 44, 48, 70, 71, 81) xwmain=1.

Variable labels xwmain 'recoded historically white mainline Protestant denominations'.

Value labels xwmain 1 'historically white mainline Protestant denominations'.

*The following code is for members of historically white evangelical Protestant denominations.

IF any (denom, 32, 33, 34, 42) xwev=1.

IF any (other, 3, 10, 20, 22, 28, 31, 32, 45, 51, 63, 77, 107) xwev=1.

Variable labels xwev 'recoded historically white evangelical Protestant denominations'.

Value labels xwev 1 'historically white evangelical Protestant denominations'.

*The following code is for non-denominational Protestants.

IF (denom=70) xnondenoms=1.

IF any (relig, 11, 13) xnondenoms=1.

IF any (other, 24, 41, 88, 98, 108, 151, 168, 169, 179, 180) xnondenoms=1.

Variable labels xnondenoms 'recoded nondenominational Protestants'.

Value labels xnondenoms 1 'nondenominational Protestants'.

*The following code is for Catholics.

Recode relig (2=1) into xcath.

Variable labels xcath 'recoded catholics'.

Value labels xcath 1 'catholics'.

*The following code is for members of non-Christian religious traditions and non-traditional Protestants.

IF any (relig, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) xothers=1.

IF any (other, 11, 74, 80, 95, 188, 7, 33, 58, 64) xothers=1.

Variable labels xothers 'recoded other faiths and non-traditional Protestants'.

Value labels xothers 1 'other faiths and non-traditional Protestants'.

*The following code is for respondents with no religious affiliation.
Recode relig (4=1) into xnopref.
Variable labels xnopref 'recoded no religious preferences'.
Value labels xnopref 1 'no religious preferences'.

*This is the syntax for black reltrad.

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IF (xbaptist eq 1) xblkreltrad=1.  
IF (xmethod eq 1) xblkreltrad=2.  
IF (xholipent eq 1) xblkreltrad=3.  
IF (xwmain eq 1) xblkreltrad=4.  
IF (xwev eq 1) xblkreltrad=5.  
IF (xnondenoms eq 1) xblkreltrad=6.  
IF (xcath eq 1) xblkreltrad=7.  
IF (xothers eq 1) xblkreltrad=8.  
IF (xnopref eq 1) xblkreltrad=9.  
Variable labels xblkreltrad 'recoded composite r religious traditions among African Americans'.  
Value labels xblkreltrad 1 'Baptist' 2 'Methodist' 3 'Holiness/Pentecostal' 4 'Historically white  
Mainline Protestant Denominations' 5 'Historically white Evangelical Protestant Denominations'  
6 'Non-denominational Protestant' 7 'Catholic' 8 'other faiths and non-traditional Protestant  
Denominations' 9 'no religious preference'.
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Stata code for Black Reltrad: