



Religious Syncretism and Cultural Adaptation in Eritrean Diasporas

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Abstract

Religious syncretism refers to the blending of different religious beliefs or practices within a single community, often in response to cultural and environmental factors. In Eritrea, traditional religions coexist with Christianity, Islam, and other faiths, creating diverse cultural landscapes that reflect diasporic identities. The methodology involves qualitative research through semi-structured interviews with Eritrean immigrants in Australia, Europe, and North America. Data analysis employs thematic coding for identifying recurring themes related to religious practices and cultural adaptation. Interviews reveal that syncretic practices are prevalent among diaspora communities, often integrating elements from multiple faiths into daily rituals. For instance, some individuals combine Christian liturgy with traditional Eritrean songs during communal gatherings, demonstrating a blend of spiritual expressions across generations. The findings suggest that religious syncretism in Eritrean diasporas is not merely an amalgamation but rather a dynamic process shaped by local contexts and global influences. This study highlights the importance of considering cultural adaptation as a continuum within diaspora studies. Future research should focus on longitudinal studies to track how syncretic practices evolve over time, and comparative analyses with other African diasporas to identify universal patterns of religious adaptation. Religious Syncretism, Diaspora, Cultural Adaptation, Eritrea

Keywords: *African diaspora, syncretism, cultural adaptation, Eritrea, geography, anthropology, migration studies*

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