



# Religious Syncretism and Cultural Adaptation Among African Diasporas in Malawi

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## Abstract

Religious syncretism refers to the blending of different religious practices into a single system. In African diasporas in Malawi, this phenomenon is evident as individuals integrate elements from their ancestral faiths with contemporary beliefs and practices. This research employs a qualitative approach, conducting semi-structured interviews with members of different African diaspora communities in Malawi. Data collection is supplemented by participant observation and document analysis. A key finding is the prevalence of intermarriage between individuals from various religious backgrounds, which facilitates cultural blending and syncretic practices within families. The findings suggest that while maintaining their ancestral identity is important, African diaspora communities in Malawi also seek to adapt religious beliefs to better fit contemporary social contexts. Future research should consider longitudinal studies to track changes over time and the impact of globalization on religious syncretism among these communities.

**Keywords:** *African diaspora, Malawi, cultural adaptation, syncretism, ethnography, hermeneutics, postcolonial studies*

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