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Perception of Nigerian Immigrants of Police and Policing in the United States

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MS, Everest University, 2008

BS, University of Ado-Ekiti, 2002

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

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Abstract

Nigerian immigrants in the United States exhibit complex and different perceptions of police in the criminal justice system than those of African Americans who are born in the United States. In order for Nigerian immigrants to contribute to improved police–community relations, their views and experiences with local police should be evaluated and applied to police agency decision-making. The purpose of this narrative study was to explore Nigerian immigrants' perceptions of police and policing in the United States (U.S.). Social cognitive theory was utilized as a lens of analysis to understand how prior experiences can influence future behavior and expectations. Structured interviews from a purposive sample of 14 Nigerian immigrants living in San Antonio, TX, were coded and subjectively analyzed with Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) miner software. A narrative inquiry was used so that participants could provide reasoning from their own perspectives and experiences to answer the research and interview questions. According to the study findings, despite overwhelming negative opinions about police in the United States, Nigerian immigrants hold more positive opinions about police in the United States than the police force in their home country. While nearly all participants complained about the abuse of authority by police, police in the United States are not perceived as corrupt. These findings can be used to enhance relationships between Nigerian immigrant communities and the police in areas where there are high concentrations of this particular group, especially in the practice of community policing and resolving negative perceptions based on cultural imprints that hinder effective policing.

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to the memory of my son, David Boluwatife Akinropo who died on 07/20/2016 during tubing at Guadalupe River in New Braunfels, Texas. Also, to my wife Folake Akinropo, my daughter Ifeoluwa Akinropo, my son, Akinbolade Akinropo, and my parents Gabriel Olaniran and Susannah Akinropo without whom none of my success would be possible.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

In recent years, the tension between racial and ethnic minorities and the police in the United States has become a subject of debate among politicians in Washington, D.C, following the waves of incidents involving police officers and African Americans. Kent and Jacobs (2005) discussed the relationship between racial threat and police strength in large U.S. cities. Excessive or unreasonable use of force against minorities continues to generate headlines more than 2 decades after the 1992 Los Angeles riot.

Some of the recent alleged police brutalities against people of color include the July 2014 death of Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y.; the fatal shooting of teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO.; the April 4, 2015 death of Walter L. Scott who was shot by a police officer in a traffic routine stop in North Charleston, SC; and the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, MD who died in the police custody. Categorizing all people of color into a broad racial connotation undermines the significance of cultural differences among people of color. People see things differently and knowing how people explain things that happen in their world provides insights into their thinking, culture, and social functioning (Ainsworth, 2003, p.19).

Groups of immigrants may have different perceptions of police behavior, which could be attributed to their cultural differences and prior experiences (Arisukwu, 2012, p. 153). Instead of categorizing all African Americans' perception towards policing in the United States as the same, it is important to examine the impact of cultural differences and prior experiences among African Americans. It is important to focus on a subgroup among African Americans with different cultural values and prior experiences.

There are few comprehensive studies of immigrants' perception of established policing in the United States, including the Nigerian immigrant community. In this study, I explored U. S. Nigerian immigrants' perceptions towards police and policing policies and strategies. I used several parameters like cultural background, prior experience, and sociopolitical factors to investigate whether Nigerian immigrants have differentiated views of police in the United States. The majority of African immigrants in the United States came from countries where police oppression and brutalities were common (Arisukwu, 2012; Okeshola, 2013; Otu, 2012). Most African nations were under military rule for decades, with an authoritarian rule that undermines the fundamental human right of the populace. Stakeholders can use the results of this study to enhance the relationship between police and immigrant community. Understanding cultural differences and the impact of prior experience while focusing on diversity can be a tool in creating effective community policing in African immigrant populations.

Nigeria is a coastal state on the shore of the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. Nigeria is estimated to have a population of 178 million people as of July 1 2014, which was approximately 2.46% of the total world population. Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups. The most populous of all the ethnic groups are Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, and Tiv 2.5% (Anas, 2014; Omudu & Okafor, 2011; Owolabi, 2014). Nigeria is divided into three major parts by the River Niger and the River Benue, which are located in the North, the Southwest, and the Southeast. The North consists of the Hausas and the Fulanis, who are predominantly Muslims. The Southwest consists of the Yorubas who are both Christians and Muslims.

The Southeast comprises of the Igbos who are predominantly Christians (Owolabi, 2014). Due to the number of ethnic groups and the variety of languages in Nigeria, the official language is English.

Prior to the modern era, the most prosperous business was the slave trade, even before the advent of the European slave trade. The common practice in many African nations was to sell prisoners of war, abandoned children, and the disabled. Nigeria was colonized by the British, and in 1914, there was amalgamation of all the protectorates of Nigeria. Nigeria became an independent nation in 1960, but the independence brought several political crises. Nigerian independence was short lived due to political crises that led to the coup in Africa in January 15, 1966 when the military took over power. Nigeria was under military rule for many years in which most government officials were guilty of corruption and abuse of authority. During those years of military rule, freedom of press was restricted, and many journalist and human right activist were incarcerated.

During World War I, Africans wished to receive African-based education with emphasis on economic rural development. It was traditional for Nigerians to travel to European countries for education in Great Britain to receive a high level of education. Most Nigerians who traveled to the West after Nigeria gained independence did so for educational purposes. They returned to their home country after completion of their programs. The Nigerian population studying abroad steadily increased in the 1970s, due to the oil boom that made Nigeria one of the richest nations in Africa. During the 1970s and 1980s, Nigeria was among the top six countries that allowed citizens to travel to the United States to study.

In the late 1980s, the Nigerian economy was in decline, and the number of Nigerians returning to their home country after their formal education began to decline. Many Nigerians who migrated to the United States. Family relations, previous school attended, and weather were the three major determinants of their settlement consideration. In the 1990s, the Nigerian economy declined further. The number of students returning home after their education reduced, and the highly-educated Nigerians took odd jobs to pay their bills and remain in the United States instead of returning to their home country. In many metropolitan cities, the highly-educated Nigerians were cab drivers and security officers. Nigerians can be found in all 50 states of the United States, but their heaviest concentration is in found in Texas, California, New York, Maryland, Illinois, and Georgia.

Most Nigerians came to the United States for educational purposes. Due to the high cost of transportation to the United States, they tended to leave their family behind in their home country. They later saved money and sent for their family to join them in the United States. Some Nigerians who migrated to the United States were sponsored by government agencies, which made it possible for them to migrate to the United States with their family. Africans in general have strong family commitments. Even though children are treated equally in Nigerian American homes, parents tend to pay more attention to the girls and teach them sex education to prevent teenage pregnancy. Nigerian immigrants tend to interact with other ethnic minorities, but they first seek out people from their own tribe and then their country. Most Africans in the United States see themselves as brothers and sisters. Some Nigerians, however, prefer not to interact with

people of their own heritage due to Internet fraud and drug smuggling involving Nigerian immigrants (Sarkodie-Mensah, 2007). Nigerian immigrants have pride for their county and maintain ties with their country and family.

Transparent International (TI) rated Nigeria to be one of the most corrupt nations in the world. Corruption in Nigeria occurs throughout the whole nation (Ackerman, 2007). Contrary to the criminal justice system in the United State where every suspect is innocent until proven guilty in the court of law, in Nigeria, all suspects are guilty until they can prove their innocence in the court of law. In the United States, the burden of proof rests on the prosecutor, but in the Nigerian criminal justice system, the burden of proof is on the defendant. Police in Nigeria will arrest suspects based on mere suspicion instead of probable cause. The Nigerian Judicial system is part of the corrupted system, as politicians and the wealthy can bribe their way through the judicial system.

Background of the Study

Egharevba (2006) showcased African immigrants' perceptions of police and policing and found that the culture and socialization that was different from that of the Finnish–their immigrant destination's indigenous population. Brown (2002) suggested that that to understand attitudes towards police and the need for policies based on such research, it is important to examine the problems associated with negative perceptions of police. Hasisi (2008) explored the subject of divisive societies and how they impact police-minority relations and found power relations and inequality and how people tended to decide and behave for self-preservation. Hasisi explained the policing nature of the home nations of African immigrants to provide insight into their policing experiences

and the imprint they left on them in relation to police perceptions in their newly migrated-to countries.

Hill and Gowen (2010) demarcated the importance of considering previous cultural imprints–the socialization-based ideas of immigrants in relation to police and policing–in relation to how they perceive the police organizations that serve the communities they are a part of in the United States. Haugen and Musser (2011) provided a systematic review on whether or not immigrants view situations differently in the United States based on their prior experiences in their home countries. Meissner, Kerwin, Chishti, and Bergeron (2013) and Truddeau and Scahller (2011) also explored the origins of cultural differences in conformity and perception in relation to their impact on the prevalence of deteriorating social standards. Although conformist behaviors are valued across cultures, deviance and counternormative ideas in relation to resistance are also expected across cultures. These attitudes and norms impact society to various degrees.

Egharevba (2006) explored this issue by seeking to place the respondents' perception and experiences into context by using their prior experiences. Egharevba used a series of interviews from 53 African immigrants that showcased conclusions about the Finnish police based on their previous experiences in their home countries. Egharevba provided the insight that gave police in Finland new strategies to reach out to their African immigrant population, in particular, strategies that introduce the police as accessible, educated, fair, and accountable to the law.

Egharevba (2006) illustrated an important replication here in the US due to the large population of African immigrants. At 3.2 million, Nigerians comprise a significant

minority group in the United States. Although their racial background is the same as Nigerian immigrants, the culture and socialization that shaped them are different, especially if they have migrated to the United States as adults. They may hold the same perspectives as the African immigrants in Finland. With culture a barrier to police access, perceptions can impact peace, order, and justice in communities.

Immigrants from Nigeria experienced an undemocratic police force in Nigeria (Hills, 2012). According to Hills (2012), police in Nigeria, even with funding from the United States and the United Kingdom to develop their police force, continued to be despotic, corrupt, and resistant to change. The Nigerian police are often commanded by central figures who hold on to power and influence so that the police become the enforcers for their interests rather than the interest of the people. Hills (2008) concluded, "Quality fades as reform processes are manipulated by representatives of the existing order so as to protect their interests and achieve predetermined political or personal gains that are at odds with normative reform and efficiency" (p. 216).

African immigrants are changing the U.S. Black population. According to the Pew Research Center (as cited in Anderson, 2015), "A record of 3.8 million foreign-born Blacks now live in the United States" (p. 2). The share of foreign-born Blacks, largely from Africa and the Caribbean, has grown from 3.1% of the Black population in 1980 to 8.7% in 2013. By 2060, 16.5% of the U.S. Black population will be foreign-born. The U.S. Black population is less homogenous than in previous generations. Although African immigrants, especially those who are Black, are included within the U.S. Black population–the different socialization and cultural experience means that policing in

African American communities and neighborhoods will not be effective as it will not tackle the perceptions or ethnic practices of the new immigrants.

According to Anderson (2015),

Foreign-born Blacks have a median age of 42, compared with 29 for U.S.-born Blacks. Twenty-six percent have college education, compared with 19 percent of native-born blacks, and black immigrants are less likely to live in poverty (20 percent vs. 28 percent) and have higher incomes. About 48 percent of black immigrants who are 18 or older are also married, compared with 28 percent of blacks born here, a finding that is likely related to the higher median age among immigrants. (p. 12)

Egharevba (2014) suggested that the new immigrants' perception of policing is impacted (aside from their policing histories) by their experience of a police force's trust and legitimacy. Establishing legitimacy and trust via community policing might improve relations. Research on Nigerian immigrants' experiences and perceptions of the U.S. police force has not been a focus of research and has not generated much media attention. Researchers and media have focused mainly on police brutality against minorities and minority relationships with police (Kent & Jacobs, 2005).

Problem Statement

African immigrants in the United States exhibit complex and different perceptions of police in the criminal justice system from that of African American who are born in the United States. African immigrants come from countries where the police role is a buffer between the elite and the masses, and where their services favor the needs of the

upper class. In countries like Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Liberia where autocracy and dictatorship ruled for decades, police forces were used by the elite to suppress the masses (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). This experience has instilled a suspicion of law enforcement as being biased and serving only the needs of those in power. African immigrants bring this perception of law enforcement and apply it as a lens to view the police in the United States.

Although this lens is important to consider in the practice of law enforcement in areas where African immigrants reside, it has not been examined. For example, research on Nigerian immigrants' perception of the police has not been a focus of research and has not generated much media attention even when Nigerian immigrants make up a large portion of the African immigrants' population. In the last few decades, researchers and media have focused mainly on police brutality against minorities and minority relationships with the police (Kent & Jacobs, 2005).

African immigrants, in comparison to Blacks born in the United States, have different views of law enforcement in the United States due to their prior experiences and cultural values with police in their home countries. In this study, I analyzed police perception from an emic position. I focused on Nigerian-Americans as a subset of African immigrants to showcase how different the Nigerian immigrants' perceptions are in comparison to African Americans. Nigerian immigrants' expectations, assumptions, and biases impact the way they perceive the police and practice of policing in the United States.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to add to the existing body of knowledge in relation to the law enforcement and the African immigrants' dynamics. I focused on one particular minority group–Nigerian immigrants in the United States. Minorities in the United States come from varied cultures, which leads to differing worldviews and shared national and cultural experiences and traditions from their countries of origin**.** Sampson and Raudenbush (2004) articulated the importance of prior neighborhood/cultural experience that minorities might for perceiving crime and disorder in the current neighborhood. Immigrant minorities may have different outlooks on police behavior. These differences can be attributed to cultural backgrounds and other factors. This research was an attempt to place respondent culture and prior experience into context while examining Nigerian immigrants' perception about policing in the United States.

I investigated how Nigerian immigrants view policing in the United States and why their views may be different from other Black people in the United States who have resentment towards policing in the United States. One of the issues that have created tension between police and African Americans is racial profiling, which occurs when the police use of race as a factor or indicator when calculating whether an individual is dangerous or suspicious (Kennedy, 2001, p. 3). More than half of all Black men and 25% of Black women believe that they have been unfairly stopped, detained, or arrested by police (Morin & Cottman, 2001; Weitzer & Tuch, 2005).

Nature of the Study

There are various designs in qualitative research. Qualitative designs include narrative, grounded theory, case study, ethnographic, and phenomenology (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias, 2008; Patton, 2002). Some of these designs could be used for this study; but, it is imperative that a researcher use the most appropriate design for a study. I chose a narrative inquiry so that participants could provide reasoning from their own perspectives and experiences to answer the research and interview questions. Prior research on police and minorities has focused on policing in inner city neighborhoods and unfair treatment towards minorities by the police. In this study, I investigated the Nigerian American immigrant community and their perceptions of the police in the United States.

By using a narrative inquiry, participants were allowed to answer questions in their own words. It is these words/text-data that are presented in this study. Because the purpose of this project was to attain in-depth knowledge of Nigerian immigrants' perceptions of police in United States, the qualitative data were obtained through interviews of Nigerian immigrants who have lived in the United States for a long time and who had prior contact with U.S. police. To improve the findings' reliability, the research findings were reviewed with the participants for the purpose of reframing and mirroring the narrative they disclosed. Although the qualifiers make for a purposed participant qualification, the participants' positions on the subject were unknown to me I wished to determine the manner by which they perceive police in the United States i and if they feel this to be a threat to the U.S. way of life.

The narrative inquiry method was used to investigate the Nigerian American immigrant community and their perceptions of the police in the United States. Narrative studies are influenced by phenomenology's emphasis on understanding the lived experience and perceptions of experiences (Patton, 2010). Narrative inquiry was used to explore whether the Nigerian American immigrant communities' perceptions of the police in the United States were different and whether the differences were based on the premises of their culture and prior experiences. Existing literature on police/ethnic minority relations was examined. Police culture in Nigeria was also reviewed, and the premise of this study was based on Nigerian police culture and participant experiences.

Research Questions

The impetus of the research on police behavior was an attempt to identify the kinds of perceptions that influence Nigerian immigrants' attitudes and beliefs regarding police behaviors and overall policing in the United States. Formulating research questions is an aspect of creating a qualitative study. Research questions guide the researcher on the types, quantity, and validity of data to be collected, and they provide a conceptual framework to guide the direction of flow of the research. To this end, for this study, one primary research question (RQ) and five sub research (SRQs) questions drove the research. The overarching RQ was

RQ: Do Nigerian immigrants base their perceptions, and ultimately their relationships with the police, on their prior experiences dealing with the police in Nigeria?

SRQs included

1. Does culture and prior experiences impact the way Nigerian immigrants access police services in the United States?

2. Have culture and prior experiences with the justice system in Nigeria made Nigerian American more wary and distrustful of the U.S. justice system?

3. Have Nigerian immigrants' culture and prior experiences impacted community policing in their own communities here the United States?

4. What hard-core perceptions do Nigerian immigrants have of U.S. policing; that are fully or partially based on policing habits and police history in Nigeria?

5. Do such perceptions contribute to Nigerian immigrants' feelings of being excluded and discriminated against in the United States?

Framework

Social cognitive theory (SCT), pioneered by Bandura (Bodenhausen & Morales, 2012), was used as a lens to understand how a person's past experiences influences reinforcements, expectations, and expectancies. According to SCT, people anticipate the consequences of their action before engaging in a behavior and that expectation is derived from previous experience. Bandura emphasized social influence and its emphasis on external and internal social reinforcement. In SCT, the acquisition, maintenance, reinforcement, and social environment of a particular behavior is made in context; this lens explains perspectives shaped by socialization and sociocultural experiences. An element of SCT is the manner by which it explores people's expectations about outcomes

based on learned behaviors and thinking. It includes vicarious learning about how human beings learn by exposure and imitation.

Bodenhausen and Morales (2012) explored SCT and pointed out that the legacy associated with past experiences can provide ample context for interpreting the modern situation and how they have been encoded, stored, and retrieved from memory. SCT provided a theoretical anchor from which the narrative resulting from the fieldwork can be analyzed using categorization, pattern recognition, and the search for themes in discourse. I used SCT to outline how prior experiences of Nigerian immigrants influenced their perception of police and policing in the United States.

Definition of Terms

Culture: Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving (Texas A&M University, 2014).

Ethnic group: An ethnic group or ethnicity is a socially defined category of people who identify with each other based on common ancestral, social, cultural or national experience (Wikipedia, 2015).

Immigrant: A person who leaves one country to settle permanently in another. An organism that establishes itself in an area where it previously did not exist (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 2011).

Police culture: Police culture is a type of organizational culture that contains unwritten roles and social codes that dictate the way a person within the culture will function, as well as building a strong sense of solidarity among the group and a will to conform. Police culture deals with the behavior of officers within the force (Sociology Index, 2002).

Subculture: A subculture is a group of people with different ideologies and usually fashion and music tastes than that of the larger culture they are a part of. Many subcultures also detest "mainstream" and commercialization. (Urban Dictionary, 2015)

Assumptions

The Nigerian immigrants in the United States are assumed to have different perceptions of police and policing in the United States. This was the primary topic-centered assumption of this study, which was a fundamental basis for the resulting research purpose and design. Countries like Nigeria have a policing system that is affected by politicking and political power-grabbing so that positions of authority, however small (i.e., that of police officers), become posts of influence and power maximized by those who hold them leading to corruption. I assumed that this mistrust was imbedded so that even while the U.S. policing system and culture is different, new Nigerian immigrants to the United States will hold similar mistrusts about those who wear the uniform.

I assumed that the best method to undertake was a narrative inquiry largely because the evidence was drawn from the narratives of Africans, largely Nigerian immigrants. Another assumption is that data-gathering will be best done through

conversations and interviews to gather text-data. I also assumed that the theories are emergent. Thus, no hypothesis was formed. Rather, the findings were expected to emerge from gathered data, and with the use of validation process, the results can be evaluated to determine possible conclusions.

Scope and Delimitations

Because of access, a delimitation was to create a study specifying major African immigrant subgroups like Liberian-Americans or Liberian immigrants, South African immigrants, Sudanese immigrants, and Egyptian immigrants. African nations, while having similar experiences as peoples and nation-states, have developed their own cultural identities. This study was limited to two immigrant voices-primarily that of Nigerian immigrants, a population that I had access to, and African immigrants in general as an umbrella term for all African immigrants who have established lives in the United States.

I did not detail specific corruption events and players in Nigerian politics and Nigerian police history, but rather offered common sources of police mistrust based on home-country experiences. Although the research included information on police relations with African immigrant populations, it did not include interviews with police agencies in terms of their experience of African immigrants. The focus of the study was on the perception of the immigrants. The data were gathered with regards to events that showcase Nigerian immigrants and African immigrants' attitudes towards the police. Police perceptions of African and Nigerian immigrant populations was not necessary to explore.

Limitations

This study was framed by my ability to access African immigrants, Nigerian immigrants, and African Americans subpopulations whose perceptions about U.S. policing requires a comparative analysis to determine differences. The resource element had to do with time, access, and financial restrictions. Scheduling interviews, accessing gatekeepers, and undertaking interviews were bound by money, time, and social elements.

Significance of the Study

Immigrants, whether from minor or major groups, can have different perceptions of police behavior. These different perceptions can be attributed to their socialization, cultural background, and prior experiences from their native country. A number of qualitative scholars have validated this point, including Stenning (2003), Ben-Porrat and Yuval (2011), Weitzer and Hasisi (2008), and Cochran and Warren (2012). With the lack of available resources on the perception of Nigerian immigrants on police and policing in the United States, I explored the impact of cultural background and prior experience of respondents' native country. Human rights in Nigeria has been under assault for decades. Authoritarian regime has been the experience of an average Nigeria and their worldview of democracy differs from the developed nations (Alemika, 1993b; Ebo, 2006; Ehindero, Kayode, 1976; Okonkwo, 2003).

Injustice, judicial overreach, and recklessness of the government outputs of a history of colonial unpredictability. Police and judicial corruption, coupled with the inability of politicians to create solutions alongside military rule, created an atmosphere

that undermines human rights. The Nigerian criminal justice system can be manipulated by those in power to allow oppression and abuse, without respect for human rights. With this dysfunctional system in their native country, the perceptions of Nigerians in the United States with regards to U.S. police practice will likely be formed with their knowledge and experience of the Nigerian police force. The results from this study can inform police-perception-constructs which might find relevance in the formation of practical policing competencies, as well as establishing model strategies for effective community policing in immigrant-rich areas, particularly in locations with African immigrant populations.

Summary and Transition

Immigrants may have different perceptions of police behavior in comparison to the indigenous population of that country, as well as in comparison to that country's minority groups; these differences in perceptions can be connected to their differences in culture, ethnicity, and other levels of outward manifestations. In Chapter 1, I discussed the problem statement, the conceptual framework, the research question and a set of supporting questions, the limitations and the delimitations of the study, and the study significance.

In Chapter 2, I present the intercultural sources and instances of perceptions of policing in the United States based on previous culture and experiences/exposures. I also outline police-community violence in Nigeria, structural roots of police-community violence in Nigeria, institutional causes of police-community violence in Nigeria, policing in the United States, similarities and differences between the U.S. police and

Nigerian police force, opposing views between NI and AA on the issue of policing in the

United States, and Nigerian immigrants' perceptions of the United States police.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

Agharevba (2006) explored the perceptions of African immigrants in relation to police and policing based on their experiences and observations of and with Finnish police officers. Agharevba found that the immigrants drew their opinions not just from their knowledge of the Finnish policing system, but largely from their own culture and socialization back in their home countries in Africa. Understanding the subject in the United States will give U.S. law enforcement information on the difference between African immigrants, African Americans, and other minorities in relation to police perception. This gap in knowledge can be filled to enhance community policing and cooperation between the police and the African immigrant population they serve.

Many immigrants have experienced a divided policing system. According to Hasisi (2008), such societies can be characterized by political disagreements. Majority of researchers have focused on the centrality of the political variables as a way of understanding police interactions with minorities. In such societies, people mistrust the police so that issues can only be resolved in two ways-either the police enforce their judgement or the police have no power over a certain group that they cannot enforce their judgement on the matter. A divisive society creates power relations so unequal that those often under police control have given upon on the notion of fairness and of the police working to achieve justice, peace, and order for the people rather than for themselves and those who in turn control them. Hasisi wrote,

Findings from a survey conducted in Israel indicate that political disagreements between Jews and Arabs have negatively affected the Arab minority's perceptions of the police...The Druze hold similar political orientations to the Jewish majority, and consequently their perceptions of the police were found to be more positive than those of Muslim Arabs. Nevertheless, both Druze and Muslim Arabs expressed restricted receptivity to contact with the police when police practices threatened their community cultural codes.

Immigrants from divisive societies in Africa can hold the same views of police and policing, even if the police who serve them are not the police that they grew up with.

Police and immigrants experience difficulty in cooperation and communication. Immigrants and police shared stories about situations that have led them into conflict or distrust. Such stories can be studied to determine the instances of communication and relations breakdown. According to Hill, Hubal, and Gowen (2010),

Effectively communicating and eliciting cooperation becomes increasingly difficult when first responders and law enforcement personnel interact with immigrant groups. This difficulty is often cited as one important reason that disasters have significantly greater impact on immigrant communities. In addition, immigrants seem to be less likely to cooperate with authorities, especially the police, in addressing public safety issues. Although some larger police departments are able to recruit from immigrant groups and thus facilitate effective communication and cooperation, information on these processes has not been collected in a systematic way to enable widespread use.

Exploring this concept thematically can yield information to help create a systematic approach to immigrant-police communications which is essential in policing.

Literature Search Strategy

The Walden library provided relevant literature applicable for this study. Search engines used to gather literature included ProQuest Central, Academic Search Complete, University of Michigan library, Science Direct, Google scholar, and Department of Homeland Security library database. The literature review was divided into various topics. These topics included police–community violence in Nigeria, structural roots of police-community violence in Nigeria, institutional causes of police-community violence in Nigeria, policing in the states to show differences between the U.S. police and the Nigerian police force, and the opposing views between NI and AAs on issue of policing in the United States.

Key terms that included these topics were used to gather the literature related to my topic. There was a paucity of research on the Nigerian American immigrant community and their perceptions of the police in the United States. Therefore, I did not just concentrate on the Nigerian-American perceptions of police, but also on the opposing views of Nigerian-Americans and Black Americans on the issue of policing in the United States. Additional literature that was older than 5-years-old was also included as it was vital to establish the postcolonial era of policing in Nigeria.

Conceptual Framework

The theoretical framework that was chosen for this study was the SCT pioneered by Bandura. The SCT started as a social learning theory and later developed into a SCT

in the 1980s. According to the SCT, leaning occurs in a social context with a dynamic and reciprocal interaction of the person, environment, and behavior (Bandura, 1986; Bodenhausen & Javier, 2012; Bolender, 2010).

The SCT was used primarily as a lens to understand how a person's past experiences influences reinforcements, expectations, and expectancies. People anticipate the consequences of their action before engaging in a behavior and that expectation is derived from previous experience (Bodenhausen & Morales, 2012). Social cognitive theorists place an emphasis on social influence and its emphasis on external and internal social reinforcement. In the SCT, the acquisition, maintenance, reinforcement, and social environment of a particular behavior is in context; I used this lens to explore perspectives shaped by socialization and sociocultural experiences. Social cognitive theorists explore people's expectations about outcomes based on learned behaviors and thinking. It takes into account the notion of vicarious learning, which explores how human beings learn by exposure and imitation.

Bodenhausen and Morales (2012) explored the SCT using it to examine the past in the context of interpreting the present. The SCT was chosen because I aimed to investigate whether prior experiences and cultural values of Nigerian immigrants influenced their views of policing in the nation. The theory provided a theoretical anchor from which narrative results from the fieldwork can be analyzed using categorization, pattern recognition, and the search for themes in discourse.

Using the SCT's perspective enables a researcher to probe for deeper comments and insight from the participants, based upon their initial responses to the questions that

were asked. This aids in providing rich data that can be further analyzed, leading to more reliable and valid conclusions to the research questions. I used this theory to outline how prior experiences of Nigerian immigrants influenced their perception of policing in the nation.

Police-Community Violence in Nigeria

According to Alemika and Chukwuma (2000), there is widespread ignorance and misperception about the role and powers of the police by the public. The misperception derives from the historical legacy of using police to suppress the citizens by colonial and postcolonial governments. Citizens will fear and resent police, even when they are engaging in legitimate activities. This resentment sometimes provokes other ill-feelings, including citizens attacking the police and the police retaliating. Alemika and Chukwuma reported that police's use of violent force against Nigerians was rampant. In Nigeria, individuals in positions of power, including the police, often abuse that power. Not only is the power abused by those holding such power, it is also used to the justify certain acts and to grant favors and privileges to themselves, friends, family members, and to other individuals in power.

Several researchers have examined the policing habits, history, and the overall culture of law enforcement in Nigeria (Adeyemi, 1999; Alemika, 1993b; Ebo, 2006; Ehindero & Kayode, 1976; Okonkwo, 2003). Researchers from the above-mentioned studies all agreed that policing and law enforcement powers in Nigeria were in breached of the premise of the constitution, particularly because the constitution exists to guarantee, protect, preserve, restore, and maintain human rights. It was clear to the

researchers that such rights were frequently breached and at all levels of Nigeria's criminal justice system. Such breaches resulted from direct or indirect colonial arbitrariness, Nigeria's corrupt penal system, politicians' excessive indulgencies, and manipulation of the judiciary and of the police, and from the extensive military rule that seems to consistently undermine Nigerians' rights (Adeyemi, 1999; Alemika, 1993b; Ebo, 2006; Ehindero & Kayode, 1976; Okonkwo, 2003).

Structural Roots of Police-Community Violence in Nigeria

According to Alemika and Chukwuma (2000), social conflict theorists concentrated on the more repressive aspects of police work in a society characterized by class conflict, underlined by unequal and inequitable economic and power relations among groups in society. Their views explained why the poor and the powerless are more likely to be victims of police violence than the elite are. As a people whose ethnic roots have always been structured by social class, and where social standing limited access to influence, wealth and positive life chances, Nigerians consider authority equating to power. Those who have used it, often to further themselves and their families (even if it impacts others negatively) and those who do not have it resent those who do, especially if it impacts them negatively. It is that brewing tension between those who have some sort of influence and control (i.e., police officers, soldiers, local politicians) that undertones the structure of community violence.

The misgivings for the police are fueled by the fact that police officers, especially new intakes, see their positions both as responsibility and privilege. According to Human Rights Watch (2010), widespread corruption in the Nigeria Police Force fuels abuses

against citizens and undermines the rule of law in Nigeria. In a culture that accepts

beatings of children and deviant adults for their rehabilitation and punishment to right

them as a structural means of moral and legal enforcement - the choice of violence to

instill control on the part of the police and the reaction of violence by the community to

fight back is understandably made all the worse by the institutional inequality and the

view of positions of authority as means of control as well as gain.

Institutional Causes of Police-Community Violence in Nigeria

It does not help that the country's essential institutions also practice the

underlying belief of authority equating to control and control equating to power, with the

latter easily utilized for individual gain. The public accepts that while police officers and

officials can be good at their jobs, they are also liable to do a bit of graft and corruption

(i.e. taking bribe money), however small. People believe that there is always a grey area

in why the police do what they do, especially to them. In a report based on interviews

with 145 victims and witnesses of police corruption in Nigeria, Human Rights Watch

(2010) explained that many Nigerian police officers conduct themselves in an exemplary

manner, working in difficult and often dangerous conditions. However, it also showed

that corruption and abusive behavior within the Nigeria Police Force is endemic. One

police sergeant lamented to Human Rights Watch that corruption is like a disease in all of

us. With interviews including rank and file and senior police officers, the fact that it is an

acknowledged institutional social disease explains community distrust. The Human

Rights Watch further explained that Nigerians traveling on the country's roads, buying or

selling at markets, running daily errands, or working in their offices are accosted by

armed police officers demanding bribes. To extort money, these officers frequently threaten victims and commit human rights abuses.

This can be subsequently related to the concept of narrative inquiry – stories of experience of abuses in law enforcement in their home countries have in a sense normalized the idea that police officers and the police structure itself do not function for the protection of ordinary citizens. The view thus carried by immigrants from Nigeria and neighboring countries who share the same policing culture is that powers in policing are used by those in position to enrich themselves and protect their own interest.

Police and Policing in the United States

The history of the United States illustrates the organic growth of police and policing culture in the country. Today, law enforcement is administered under the US Department of Justice with various federal and state law enforcement agencies comprising the sociostructural human resources that enforce both the law of the nation and the state to protect people, property, and way of life in accordance with the law. American policing has its roots in their colonial policing systems heavily influenced by the British policing systems which the US practiced when it was a British Colony. It went through its own periods of moral upheaval; when corruption was rife in a social situation where equality was evident in the nation's history (i.e. the Industrial period, the Great Depression). According to Barry (1999), in the late 1800s and early 1900s, politics also influenced the hiring and promotion of patrol officers.

In order to secure a position as a patrol officer in New York City, the going rate was $500. As the country went through World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, and cultural

as well as politico social shifts, graft and corruption have been systemically rooted out in practice and in principle as both socially unacceptable and legally unlawful. The reigning social discourse in policing in America is equality, community policing, and service whereby authority flows from the top and all law enforcement personnel are made accountable to both duty and ethics. This is evident in the mission statement of such federal agencies like the FBI, DHS, and local law enforcements like the NYPD:

- FBI (2015) - The mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners. It performs these responsibilities in a way that is responsive to the needs of the public and faithful to the Constitution of the United States.

- DHS (2015) - The vision of homeland security is to ensure a homeland that is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards.

- NYPD (2015) - The MISSION of the New York City Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in our city by working in partnership with the community and in accordance with constitutional rights to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment.

These three agencies have institutionalized mechanisms against corruption as well as practice a nondiscriminative service. According to Martin (2011), policing requires perfection and unyielding ethics. Policing depends on each employee's personal level of

knowledge, rationality, and devotion to moral excellence. Anything less than perfect

ethical conduct can be disastrous for a department, a community, and an entire nation.

While it is acknowledged that officers are only human and will continue to make

mistakes, ethical misconduct cannot be tolerated.

Similarities and Differences Between the U.S. Police and Nigeria Police Force

Most research conducted on police culture and police/immigrant relations in the

United States has been focused on police officers' misconducts and minority brutality by

the police. Past researchers focused on individual police misconduct and minority

relationship with police. It is believed that using a broad blanket to study the relationship

between the police and minority has overlooked the cultural differences that exist among

the minorities. What constitutes police brutality or police abuse of power in one culture

might be the norm in the other, based on prior experiences with law enforcement.

The United States and other developed nations have developed a code of conduct

and operating procedures for law enforcement officers (i.e. the Miranda rights and the

Fourth Amendment that protect the citizens from unreasonable search and seizure).

However, these measures while effective, did not eradicate injustices in the criminal

justice system including the discriminative treatment of minority populations (Kent &

Jacobs, 2005). Taylor et al. (2001) found a racial hierarchy of support for police with

white and Asia being more supportive of police than blacks.

The fact that both countries have working police and law agencies is the broad

similarity. Unlike the US however, Nigeria's police force is controlled by one directorate,

that is, the Nigeria Police Force. While each city in Nigeria has its own police

department, they are under the command of the NPF directorate concurrently headed by

Solomon Arase (Alade, 2015). In the US, each police department in a town or city is

subject to the purview of the local government or the state government (depending on

agency) and its concerns limited to within its area of responsibility. While the US

Department of Justice oversees administration, promotion, and national coordination -

each of the US police departments is subject to its town, city or state first-off.

In Nigeria, a police officer can both serve locally and nationally according to the

requirements of NPF. This gives the executives in this agency huge influence and power

so that NPF can rival the Nigerian military in terms of influence and power. In the US,

federal agencies work on national cases alone (i.e. the FBI can only work on cases that

concern two or more states - any within state or territory is within the purview of local

law enforcement). This means that the authority of people in control is limited within a

particular sphere only which in a sense, aside from ensuring that there is no overload of

responsibility also limits influence as a means to combat corruption. Additionally, with

funding different between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies but all

governed by Department of Justice rules, individuals at the top are limited with regards to

financial access of distribution. The checks and balances ensure that power and influence

as well as control is distributed and checked.

Alade's (2015) reported that this is not the case in Nigeria as it appears Arase, the

current NPF Chief, holds all the power. Following narrative inquiry, information from

this report constitutes the view that power in the Nigerian police structure is held by one

man who, unlike his counterpart in the US, holds vast authority without the check and

balances that can make him accountable to his people. This normalized view of the most powerful police chief in their country can be transplanted towards a perception of the police chiefs in the US wherein the assumption of vast authority without accountability makes police in the US suspect to corruption in the eyes of the immigrants.

Nigerian immigrants' and African Americans' Views on U. S. Policing

To understand the opposing views between NI and AA Black sociocultural subgroups in the US, it is advisable to first explore their ideas of difference. The experiences of NEs are similar to that of their fellow recent African immigrants. Conteh (2013) observed:

> As an immigrant to the United States from Sierra Leone, I perceive a huge chasm between African-Americans and African immigrants in the United States...A fundamental difference between African Americans and African immigrants is the way they react to racism and discrimination. African Americans usually see racism as the main cause of poverty among their people. (p. 32)

They are also quick to point out instances of perceived racism, even in circumstances where it is ambiguous, unclear, or more complex than simple racial bigotry or discrimination.

Africans, after suffering many years in civil wars, military coups, and with other problems are happy to be in a country that offers them freedom. They are ready to integrate into the American culture without getting involved in lingering racial conflicts. They do not typically get involved in the ongoing civil rights struggle – and that has angered many African-Americans. For Nigerians, while they perceive American police

with the similar misgiving they have of the police back home, familiarity with law enforcement from exported US cultural material (i.e. TV shows, movies) with regards to now familiar US agencies like the NYPD, LAPD, and the FBI give them a sense of difference in relation to inequalities felt back home. They have that distrust, but as Conteh (2013) explained, they are also thankful so that they feel that the African American cousins have no appreciation for what they have.

Most African immigrants to the United States came for economic advancement. They do not have any political agenda. They are willing to take any job and do not blame the system when they fail in their endeavors. This seeps into a kind of thankfulness over working police system miles away from what Nigerians see as a cruel police culture back in their home country. Maja-Pearce (2014) described Nigeria's police as an organization where institutionalized torture is practiced. Maja-Pearce reported a specific instance of a criminal suspect being lashed upon his back.

Nigerian immigrants' Perception of the United States Police

African immigrants and Blacks born in the United States may have different views of policing in the United States due to the African immigrants' prior experiences with police in their home country and cultural values. Because Africa as a continent embedded several cultures and police experiences vary from one country to another, I focused on the Nigerian immigrants into the United States. African immigrants' perception of police in the criminal justice system is a very complex area because most African immigrants in United States came from countries where police role is more of a buffer between the elite and the masses. In most countries with authoritarian leaders and

dictatorship, the police protect the elite and repress the masses (Brogden &Nijhar, 2013, p. 154).

It is also important to focus on this population because according to the 2010 Census (US Census Bureau, 2010), the number of African immigrants who lived in the United States was around 3.2 million. Perception of the police by the African immigrants is complex, especially among immigrants that migrated to the United States from the countries where human rights are undermined and police brutality is the norm (Hills, 2008; Udosen et al, 2006). Police in most African countries lack autonomy; police policies and priorities are set by the political leadership of the country, whether military or civilian governments (Hills, 2008, p. 215).

Ette (2011) discussed Nigerian immigrants in the US and he recalled the story a Nigerian immigrant, Bob. Bob went to the US to study and returned to his home country to get married and to work. His change and development ideas were unwelcomed in Nigeria under the control of a few especially since his positions on reform and corruption of the police endangered him and his family. It is for this reason he chanced to enter the US, this time illegally only to be allowed entry after being arrested and detained because his wife was American. He reported of finding work easy enough - doing manual labor despite his qualifications. He also reported his coworkers - African Americans - report of dissatisfaction and anger when faced with racist overtures from people at work. But Bob said he did not care - racism, especially if it involves just slurs - is not an issue to him in comparison to issues he faced in Nigeria. His education taught him that people will always have different perspectives and trust. Eventually, by being persistent he overcame

his struggles and found work in accordance with his education. Bob felt that complaining and blaming other races, other people or events in history are not long-term solutions to personal and social issues. For Bob, his American dream is about proving himself and trusting that education and perseverance will get him there. Derived from this experience is the view of NIs like Bob in relation to American policing.

As with the story related by Maja-Pearce (2014), the violence and corruption in Nigerian police is appalling. The notion of thankfulness goes not just with the availability of opportunities despite obstacles (Nigerian culture accepts that obstacles are present in everything in life - this includes bad people ranging from the abusive Nigerian Torture Officers to racially discriminative Americans - whatever their ethnicities maybe) - it is also the fact that US policing enshrines human rights so that corruption, violence, and torture are not just illegal but criminal in a police force made accountable to the public and the law. While there is that grey area of distrust, a relic of cultural experience from back home, there is also that positive perception of marked moral difference.

With most research in relation to African immigrants' police perception undertaken outside the US, this particular study can contribute to present research by looking into the subset of Africans, particularly Nigerian immigrants in relation to their perception of US police and policing practices. This particular subset of immigrant population in relation to police relations and community policing relationship issues has not been extensively studied. The thing is, their number is significant as there are around 3.5 million of them who now call the United States their home. It is important to determine their perceptions of policing and the police to determine if these can cause

issues in community policing, community relations, assimilation, and peace and order. Doing so can contribute towards formulating strategies to overcome the said perceptions on both the side of the police as well as the immigrants.

Conclusion

An important element to the sociological experience is the formation of concepts and social frameworks about the world. Growing up, people are introduced to the building blocks of society, that is, those social organizations essential to the communities and cultures. People may be members of –school, families, church, government and organizations like the police. According to Hill, Hubal, and Gowen (2010), there is a between communication and cooperation, where, trust plays a significant role in establishing effective communication, cooperation, and mediation. There are a number of challenges that impact communication and cooperation between immigrant communities and law enforcement in the United States. The gap includes the police and the US government's lack of knowledge of the impact of the imprint of the immigrants' previous police experience in their home countries.

The findings in literature failed to address the impact of previous experience and culture on the perception of Nigerian immigrants on police and policing in the United States. To be able to improve communications and bridge the gap between perception and reality, the impact of previous experiences of Nigerian immigrants must be understood as it prejudges the policing intent and likely relations of the immigrants and the United States police. The theme that this study raises will help to yield important information in understanding the imprint of previous experiences and socialization and how this can be

mitigated to correct problematic perceptions. In the next chapter, I will explain the

research methodology that was implemented in this study.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to add to the overall knowledge base in relation to the law enforcement and the African immigrants' dynamics. I focused on one particular minority group–the Nigerian immigrants in the United States. Minorities in the United States come from different and diverse cultures. This can cause differing worldviews and shared national and cultural experiences and traditions from their countries of origin. Both the minority and majority groups of immigrants may have different perceptions of police behavior, which could be attributed to cultural differences. This research was an attempt to place respondent culture and prior experiences into context while examining their perceptions about policing in the United States. Sampson and Raudenbush (2004) articulated the importance of prior neighborhood/cultural experience and claimed that a minority with a prior experience of living in a disadvantaged neighborhood might have a higher threshold for perceiving crime and disorder in the current neighborhood than the White residents. As a result of prior experience, police behavior that might be perceived as offensive to a White male who has spent most of his life in a privileged neighborhood might not be perceived as such by a Nigerian who lived most of his life in more disadvantaged neighborhoods.

In this study, I investigated how Nigerian immigrants view policing in the United States and why their views may be different from other Black Americans who have resentment towards policing in the United States. One of the issues that has created tension between the police and African Americans is racial profiling, which occurs when

the police use of race as a factor when calculating whether an individual is dangerous or suspicious (Kennedy, 2001, p. 3). More than half of all Black men and 25% of Black women believe that they have been unfairly stopped, detained, or arrested by police (Morin &Cottman, 2001; Weitzer & Tuch, 2005).

Research Questions

The overarching RQ was

RQ: Do Nigerian immigrants base their perceptions, and ultimately their relationships with the police, on their prior experiences dealing with the police in Nigeria?

SRQs included

1. Does culture and prior experiences impact the way Nigerian immigrants access police services in the United States?

2. Have culture and prior experiences with the justice system in Nigeria made Nigerian American more wary and distrustful of the U.S. justice system?

3. Have Nigerian immigrants' culture and prior experiences impacted community policing in their own communities here the United States?

4. What hard-core perceptions do Nigerian immigrants have of U.S. policing; that are fully or partially based on policing habits and police history in Nigeria?

5. Do such perceptions contribute to Nigerian immigrants' feelings of being excluded and discriminated against in the United States?

Research Design and Rationale

According to Creswell (2009), a researcher chooses a design to narrate how a chosen method will provide answers to research questions. It is imperative that a chosen research design not only fit the analysis of the research, but also the goal of the study (Creswell, 2007; Patton, 2002). Narrative inquiry was chosen for this study because of its ability to allow participants to provide reasoning from their own perspectives and experiences to answer research and interview questions.

Because the study was exploratory in nature, I examined Nigerians living in San Antonio, TX. San Antonio is the seventh largest municipality in the United States. San Antonio grew by 6.6% between 2010 and 2015, and it is projected to grow an additional 6.34% through the year 2020. The median household income in San Antonio in 2014 was $50,075, compared to the national median household income of $51,939. The United States (2014) indicated that the percentage of Whites in San Antonio metro area was 45.13%, Hispanics was 54.87%, and Black/African Americans 6.95%. Out of the 6.95% of the African Americans living in San Antonio metro area, over 5,000 are Nigerian immigrants (U.S Census, 2014).

A majority of Nigerians in San Antonio, TX are members of the Nigerian People's Association San Antonio, Texas (NPASA). NPASA is a nongovernmental and nonprofit organization that is organized for charitable and educational purposes. The NPASA also promotes social integration and healthy social cultural interchange between Nigerian immigrants and other ethnic communities within Texas. The purpose of the organization is to unite the Nigerians living in San Antonio, TX and to promote Nigerian

culture. In 2014, the Nigerian American community in San Antonio was estimated at over 5, 000 residents. The field work for this study also included face-to-face interviews to explore Nigerian immigrants' perceptions on this topic.

Accessibility to the population was a factor and as a Nigerian living within San Antonio metro, this accessibility problem was overcome. I made contact with Nigerian immigrants in San Antonio, TX through NPASA. There are other subgroups of Nigerian associations like the Yoruba American Community, the Hausa American Organizations, and the Igbo descendants of San Antonio; however, they are all small groups under NAPSA. I made contact with the Nigerians living in San Antonio through NAPSA because it is an organization that encompasses all Nigerians, regardless of age, gender, and ethnic groups. All participants were reminded of their right not to answer any question that they feel is inappropriate. All participants were assured of their confidentiality.

The interview questions were designed to cover the dimensions of their perceptions of police, knowledge about the role of the police in the society, their assessments of the police, and their experiences with the police in their home country. The interview consisted of 45 questions, the first 15 questions were used to gather the respondents' demographic information; these include age, gender, national origin, social status, and educational background. The interviews conducted for this study consisted of questions derived from the main research question and secondary questions; they were semi structured and open ended. If needed, I adapted and constructed new questions correlated to the semi structured interview questions if the flow of the interview or

discussion required it. Trochim (2006) advised that interviewers need to avoid leading questions to allow interviewees to explain a position in their own voice. Narrative scholars focus on the story shared by the interviewees so that it is their voice heard.

The challenge was to apply active listening so that the interviewees can mirror and rephrase the ideas presented by the participants into the discussion (Louw & Jimakorn, 2011). This enabled me to probe for deeper comments and insight from the participants, based upon their initial responses to the questions that were asked. This also me to gather rich data that can be further analyzed, leading to more reliable and valid conclusions to the research questions. My role here was as a research designer, an interviewer, an ethics analyst as it applies to the study, a qualitative text-data transcriber and analyst and as a writer to present the findings via a report that encompasses the observer-participant role.

Nature of the Study

The narrative inquiry method was used to collect data for this research due to its ability to allow participants to reflect on their experiences and answer questions from their own perspectives. Narrative studies were influenced by phenomenology's emphasis on understanding life experience and perceptions of experiences (Patton, 2010, p. 115). This type of inquiry was selected for this study because of its ability to allow participants to provide reasoning from their own perspectives and experiences to answer research and interview questions. Although there have been several qualitative and quantitative studies on illegal immigration and crime and police and policing in the United States, I focused on the perceptions of Nigerian immigrants on police and policing in the United States. By

using the narrative inquiry, I was able to allow participants to answer in their own words. It is these words/text-data that were presented and used in this study, as expressed by the participants.

Because the purpose of this project was to attain in-depth knowledge on what Nigerian immigrants perceive of police, I avoided guiding questions and allowed the participants to narrate their experiences, opinions, and positions on the subject matter. The qualitative data were obtained through interviews of Nigerian immigrants. To improve findings' reliability, the research findings were reviewed with the participants for the purpose of reframing and mirroring the narrative they disclosed so as to validate their stories as they told them in the interviews. Although the qualifiers make for a purposed participant qualification, their positions on the subject were unknown to me. I wished to determine the manner by which they perceived the police and if it was based on the discourse of race or culture.

Role of the Researcher

Choosing a valid and reliable instrument for data collection is important in qualitative study (Creswell, 2009; Frankfort-Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Researchers in qualitative studies are often used as instrument of data collection (Denzin & Lincoln, 2003). Because researchers serve as instrument in qualitative studies, data transpires through the researchers (Turner, 2010). Researchers in qualitative studies play numerous roles. The roles include, but are not limited to, interviewing, limited observation, securing locations for the interview, and maintaining the integrity of the study.

For the purpose of this study, I used an in-depth interview technique to explore the content of the study. Data were collected and analyzed based on the SCT chosen for this study. I remained objective rather than subjective to make sure biases were not introduced into the study (Denzin & Lincoln, 2003). As a Nigerian American who lived most of my life in Nigeria, I understood the bias that might be brought to the field. This perspective enabled me to ask more probing questions, listen attentively, remain objective, and leave all prejudices behind in order to maintain the integrity of the research.

Participant Selection

Selecting participants for a study is a critical component to a qualitative study, as participant responses determine the reliability of the research. For this study, purposeful sampling was accurate as it enabled me to select participants from a specific group for a specific purpose. Selecting relevant participants enabled me to collect an in-depth information about a particular study (Gangle & Smick, 2009; Verial, 2013). In this research, because it is a study about Nigerian immigrants' perception, the Nigerian immigrants in San Antonio, TX were purposefully chosen. This group in San Antonio, TX was chosen not only because of availability, but also for the diversity among the group. Nigerian immigrants in San Antonio, TX came from different parts of Nigeria with different cultural backgrounds.

Participants chosen fairly represented individual cultures and provided in depth details about their experience with Nigeria police force and policing in the United States. For a researcher to use purposeful sampling, participants must present certain features

(Verial, 2013). Participants in this study were voluntary without any pressure from me. Sample size and saturation were addressed. It is important for researcher to gather or collect data that is most relevant to the study. According to Mason (2010), research should reach its saturation when the purpose of the research becomes achieved.

Sample Size

The number of participants was determined after initial background work was completed to determine plausibility of access. I set out to approach 40 participants for this research, out of which 15 participants were to be selected for structured interviews. The first criterion that was used in screening and selecting participants is national origin (Nigerians living in the United States) looking at those who have legal status to live and reside in the United States. An additional qualifier was the duration which the participants have lived in the United States. For the purpose of this research, I selected Nigerian legal residents that have had contact with both Nigerian police force and police in the United States. All interviews were conducted in an informal manner between the interviewer and individual Nigerian immigrants on a one-to-one basis.

Procedure for Data Collection

The procedure for data collection in this study involved interviews and field notes. Turner (2010) asserted that there are several interview techniques in qualitative studies. This study made use of semi structured interview questions. This interview technique enabled participants to express their views and also stay to the content of the subject. Participants were free to exit the study anytime by letting me know that they wish to either in person, or via e-mail, a telephone call, or in writing or any other means

of communication as long as it could be verified. Data were transcribed text-data from interviews. Analysis follows the narrative inquiry rule of qualitative interviews following traditions like ethnography. Ethical codes from the APA in relation to research that includes human participants were used in research design and implementation.

Informed Consent

Interviews were conducted face to face with the research participants. The research details and purpose were discussed with the participants. During debriefing, participants were encouraged to ask questions and the issue of their confidentiality was addressed. The procedure for data collection was discussed in detail with the participants as required by the Walden University Institution Review Board (2015). I reminded all of the participants that their participation is voluntary and that they are not under any obligation to complete the process. The participants were made aware that they could remove themselves from the process at any time without any penalty or consequence. An informed consent form was provided for the participants to sign, indicating they are willing to participate freely without any obligation. Copies of the signed informed consent were provided to the participants and subsequently forwarded to Walden University Institution Review Board as required (IRB, 2015).

Interviews

The nature of this research was exploratory; therefore, participants were given the opportunity to narrate their experiences of the Nigerian police and the American police in their own words. The participants were afforded the opportunity to compare their experiences with Nigeria police force and American policing. Participants were asked

whether their views and perception of policing in the United States are based on the discourse of race or culture. Based on the initial assumption that prior experiences and culture play a vital role in the way Nigerian immigrants perceive policing in the United States, the participants were asked to narrate their experiences with police in their home country of Nigeria and draw a difference between Nigeria Police Force and policing in America.

For the purpose of gaining voices from the Nigerian immigrants, I deemed it essential to gain access to a representative group of Nigerians so as to include them as part of the data resource. While many resources of information (participants) and determined their qualifiers (Nigerian immigrants in the United States, they were legal and documented immigrants into the US for economic, political, and academic reasons whose participation in my research via interviews was voluntary); when they have been identified and access has been arranged, the research was designed and conducted so that it follows the ethical rules of APA (Smith, 2003) in relation to dealing with the handling and protection of human participants whereby the principles of informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, and nonharm was prioritized and embedded in the research design, especially during interview and fieldwork.

As it stands, because I only identified sites of participants' recruitment, the declaration was made that no relationship to any potential participant as far as the research designs exist. Any other issues, ethical or otherwise, were noted and challenged/resolved as the research work progressed through field notes and research design amendments. Patton (2012) explained that building rapport with research

participants is very important. Building good rapport with participants will afford the

participants the opportunity to freely express themselves. Although, the interviews

consisted of a semi structured questions to maintain focus and preserve the integrity of

the research, flexibility, and freedom of expression on the part of respondent was also

paramount. Kvale (1996) asserted that a conducive and relaxed atmosphere is important

for participants of a research to remain calm while narrating their experiences. This

study was conducted at Krueger middle school library in San Antonio. The interviews

were conducted on weekends when the students were not in school. Conducting the

interviews on weekends provided a comfortable environment and allowed the participants

to concentrate fully on the research. It is important for the researcher to choose an

interview venue that is less restrictive and more conducive to discussion for the

participants (Creswell, 2007; Patton, 2002). The participants were divided into three

groups and each group was interviewed on a weekend that was most convenient. Patton

(2012) and Walden University IRB (2015) asserted that a researcher must be adequately

prepared before interviewing the participants. Part of the preparations included interview

location, duration of the interview, addressing of both ethical and confidential issues, and

provision of contact information for the participants.

     The location for this interview was selected due to its location outside the

congested area of San Antonio. The interview location was also accessible to all

participants living within and on the outskirts of San Antonio, TX. All interviews were

audio recorded and lasted for 30 to 35 minutes to avoid boredom. Although the interview

questions were semi structured, I had the built-in flexibility to ask follow up questions as

needed. A phenomenological interview procedure was incorporated as suggested by Creswell (2007).

Factors that were taken into consideration during the interview included: the participants' knowledge and experience of the subject matter. Research questions also focused on the experience of the participants and a phenomenological approach was used to analyze data collected during the interviews. According to Creswell (1998), the reduction method is used when analyzing and interviewing with a phenomenological approach.

Field Notes

The importance of field notes cannot be over emphasized, despite the fact that I audio-taped the interviews. The field notes proved useful in capturing the vital information not caught by audio taping alone. Audio taping is a valuable tool, but reactions and insights that will otherwise not be captured by audio taping can be annotated by field notes. According to Fink (2000), field notes can be written by hand and later typed and stored as field notes to support the missing links from audio taping. To avoid bias in data collection, a researcher must avoid collection of data that are not related to the study (Collier & Mahoney, 1996).

Debriefing Procedures

After the interview, participants were informed that the interview had been completed and were also thanked for their participation. The participants were reassured of their confidentiality. It is important for the researcher to assure the participants that the data collected will be used solely for the specified purpose. The importance of the

research was communicated to the participants in regard to how the research can contribute to a positive social change that will benefit the participants and the community. This research also enabled law makers and policy makers to reallocate resources and have an in-depth knowledge of how Nigerian immigrants perceive policing in the United States.

All additional questions by the participants were also clarified. After the interview, I provided the participants with an email address and contact information in case any of the participants had follow up questions. The participants were asked to write down their e-mail address in order to receive copies of the findings of the research.

Data Analysis: Storing and Filing

The developing, storing, and filing process is very important in conducting reputable research. Data need to be stored in a manner that it can be retrieved and referenced by other scholars in the field. According to Morse (1989), designing a plan on how to store and file data is an important element of a data analysis plan. The Walden International Review Board (2013) recommended that research participants' information should be kept confidential. I stored files electronically and in hard copies. Creswell (2009, 2007) suggested that the researcher should use hard copies to back up their electronic copies. Protecting integrity of research is very important. For this study, I stored the data collected from participants, both audio and written in secured storage in a residential house. All files collected were appropriately labeled and categorized for easy access. The storage has a lock and it is not accessible to the other people in the house and the public. Inadequate handling of data can compromise confidentiality of participants.

QDA Data miner software was used to analyze the data of this research. This data analysis software enables a researcher to collect and import data, organize, classify, and code data, search, and query data and also allows a researcher to share files with others. This data analysis software allowed for the collection, analysis, and organization of data in a way that it will be easier for other scholar practitioners to read. All primary and secondary questions were coded. The qualitative data analysis focused on providing specific themes and sub themes generated by the key items of the interview questions. I paid attention to other emerging themes to ascertain that the views of Nigerian immigrants about police and policing in the United States are well documented.

As indicated by Creswell (1998), when using phenomenological design, data analysis follows reduction methodology. During data analysis, it was important for me to take the information collected from participants into consideration as it becomes bulk of the information to be analyzed. When using phenomenological design to analyze data, researchers should always apply necessary precaution as it can generate large data (Lester 1999). Data were analyzed with QDA Data miner software based on the headings for easy comparison. I am a Nigerian American and it is important to note the bias I brought to the study and set aside all prejudices when analyzing the collected data. Setting aside all prejudices is very important in research and could be achieved through bracketing.

Bracketing

Bracketing is a process by which a researcher acknowledges his or her previous experience, beliefs and attitude but sets them aside when conducting a research to avoid being bias or judgmental (Creswell, 2013). Because this is a perception study, using

phenomenological design, it was important for me to suspend all judgment about the natural world and focus on analysis of collected data. I understood the bias I brought to the study and put all biases aside to focus on coding and analyzing of the data collected. I used bracketing and triangulation to strengthen the validity and reliability of the data collected. Bracketing is a method used by phenomenological researcher to reduce the potential damaging effect of prejudging or preconceptions that may taint the analyzed data (Tufford & Newman, 2012).

Issue of Trustworthiness

According to Shenton (2004), to attain trustworthiness in a research, the data have to be credible, dependable, and transferable. I preserved the credibility of this research by making sure that internal validity is achieved. Information collected from participants was presented as raw data without any manipulation. The participants were given the opportunity to review their statements and clarify any confusing or ambiguous statements. External validity, also known as generalizability is also important to ensure trustworthiness (Rothwell, 2005).

Because this research was focused on Nigerian immigrants, the findings on this research must be transferable and apply to all members of the population under the study. A study or research is reliable if tested several times, using the same instrument, method, and participants and yields the same result (Creswell, 2007; Patton, 2002). Trustworthiness of this study was maintained through the guidance of dissertation team members who always made sure all biases are put aside when collecting and analyzing data.

Validity

When conducting study, it is not uncommon that researcher bring some inherent bias to the field of study. In order for a researcher to demonstrate that a study was subjective, he or she must establish the accuracy of data interpretation and correctness of the findings. Validity in qualitative study is a process of determining that a study measures what it was intended to measure. Validity measures the truthfulness of the findings (Kothari, 2012).

To maintain reliability and validity of this study, it was paramount for the result of the study to be believable, credible, consistent, and applicable to the targeted population. Other researchers in the same field of study must be able to corroborate and confirmed the result. The sampled population must be true representation of the targeted audience. The Nigerian-American partaking in this study must have prior experience with Nigerian police force and policing in the United States. It is imperative that the participants freely narrate their experience and verify the accuracy of their interview narratives.

Since qualitative research is based on interpretation and contextual data, results are more subjected to higher level of scrutiny (Creswell, 2014). A qualitative researcher must take extra steps to minimize bias by allowing participants to feely narrate their story in an open-ended manner and avoid leading questions. Researchers must state in detail, biases, values, and personal objectives in the research report to maintain openness and credibility of the study. Openness is an important element of qualitative research as it enables targeted audience to separate facts from fiction (Creswell, 2014, p.201).

Data Collection Procedures

An electronic method of communication was sent to selected panel members. The introductory e-mail provided and explained the research problem and how their specified responses will be used within the overall implication of the study and its main objectives. The letter also provided the interviewee with information on how data were collected. From the very beginning of the process, all participants receive a consent form (Appendix A).

After a delegated amount of time had passed, a follow up e-mail was sent to each of the individuals selected along with request for questions that participants might have concerning the study. All questions and concerned were addressed within a specified amount of time. Some of the interviews were conducted electronically, and a record of every communication were kept to ensure the integrity of the study. All participants volunteered to participate in the study without any pressure or coercion.

In order to maintain integrity, validity, and allow certain level of authority to be created within the study, participants were asked of their demographical information. The demographical information was used to determine the location of participant, age, and their length of stay in the United States. The demographical information was also valuable to determine the eligibility of the participant.

Some of the interviews were conducted in person and some via phone. The interviews conducted via telephone were transcribed to enhance adequate analysis of data. A follow up e-mails were sent to some panel member who did not complete the interview within the time allotted. An appreciation letter was sent to the interviewer after

they have completed the interview questions. In order to complete the interview in a reasonable amount of time, combination of e-mail, telephone, and face-to-face interviews were used.

Ethical Procedures

The APA 2002 Ethics Code explains that psychologists base the opinions contained in their recommendations, reports, diagnostic or evaluative statements, and forensic testimony on information and techniques that are sufficient to substantiate their findings (Standard 9.01a, Bases for Assessments). When conducting research, especially research that involves human subjects, it is important to maintain the highest standard (Walden University Institution Review Board, 2008). Walden University Institution Review Board encourages scholar practitioners to remain ethical in all stages of the research. In order to maintain the integrity of research and high ethical standard, the Institutional Review Board discourages scholar practitioners to start data collection prior approval from Institutional Review Board. All ethical issues regarding this research were reviewed by Institutional Review Board prior data collection. Institutional Review Board encourages all scholar practitioners conducting research to remain of high standard, especially on confidentiality of the participants. All interview papers and audio prior and after interviews must be preserved and stored in a secure place. It is also important to inform participants that their participation is voluntary and they can choose to discontinue their involvement at will.

Summary

Detailed and elaborate information on the methodology that will be applied to a research is very important and recommended (Creswell, 2009; McNabb, 2008). This chapter itemized the detailed methodology that were used in conducting this study. I detailed the sampling method in selecting participants, qualitative research design and rationale, procedure for data collection, how data were analyzed, storing, filing, and the instruments that were used in collecting data. This chapter also detailed the issue of trustworthiness, informed consent, and ethical concern in using human subjects. The coding of data and brief results of the findings is focused on and discussed in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

In this study, I attempted to explore Nigerian immigrants' perceptions of policing in the United States. The Nigerian community has a different view about policing in the United States. The focus of the study was centered on the view of Nigerian immigrants' perceptions of policing in the United States. I wished to present the rationale behind their perception and whether their perception was based on their culture and prior experience with police in their home country. Nigerian immigrants have similar worldviews as other African immigrants. Nigerian American were predisposed to have different view of police and policing in the United States. The majority of these differentiated views can be attributed to culture and prior experiences.

Only a handful of researchers have conducted related studies. Therefore, there was limited literature on the subject matter. The study provided insight for stakeholder in developing effective community policing in Nigerian American communities. Police culture in Nigeria is hostile. The police force is supposed to be a force constituted by or for the people for their wellbeing and security; instead, they use their power to suppress and brutalize the masses. The public dissatisfaction with police in Nigeria emanated from their pervasive corruption, incivility, and lack of respect for fundamental human rights. Many Nigerians feel that this level of human right abuses and overreaching police brutality are connected to colonial arbitrariness, police corruption, and an excess of power from the political elite within the nation.

Many African immigrants in the United States came from countries where there was no democracy. Authoritarian rule was a feature of many African nations. This system of government included repressive state apparatuses like police, armed forces, and other security operatives used to oppress and undermine the rights of the populace. Most immigrants from African have negative perceptions about police. The repressive political structure in Nigeria created an environment where police protected the source of wealth instead of enforcing laws that protects the populace (Okeshola, 2013). Many crises and lawlessness within Nigeria political environment are attributed to the militarization of the society.

Different perceptions of police among immigrants can be attributed to cultural differences and prior experiences. This study contributed to the growing body of research on perception of police by immigrants in the United States. Few qualitative researchers have validated that prior experience is an element in determining future behavior (Ben–Porat & Yuval, 2011; Cochran & Warren, 2012; Weitzer & Hasisi, 2008). The findings of this study can be used to fashion effective community policing between police and immigrants' community, especially Nigerian immigrants. The data collection method used in this study was narrative inquiry, and QDA Data miner software was used to analyze the collected data. The chapter is divided into four parts: demographics, data collection, data analysis, and evidence of trustworthiness.

Setting

Gathering voluntary participants to the study was challenging because each of the participants lived in different areas and had varying degree of interest to participate in the

study. I had to spend more money to support access (transportation and communication costs) as well as remain reflexive, flexible, accommodating, supportive, and patient in the exchange, especially when the subjects felt strongly about certain issues.

Demographics

Participants were Nigerian-Americans. Some participants were new immigrants to the United States, while some had been in the United States for decades. The age of participants ranged from 17 to 58, with the median age being 42. All of them were Nigerian immigrants who had experienced policing in Nigeria and in the United States. The data on which this research was drawn consisted of 14 participants. The participants were selected from the pool of 25 potential participants who volunteered to participate in the study. This research was conducted among Nigerians American living in the San Antonio, TX. San Antonio, Texas was home for approximately 4,000 Nigerians. The first criteria used in selecting participants of the study were that they were Nigerian American. Additional criteria were that they had prior experience with both Nigerian police and U.S. police.

I wished the participants to be able to draw differences between the Nigerian police force and policing in the United States. All interviews and conversations were conducted in an informal manner, and the respondents were allowed to express themselves freely. The interview was conducted on a one-to -one basis. Although the sample size for this study was small, I endeavored to include a diverse group of Nigerian individuals. My aim was to understand both prior experience and cultural impact on Nigerian immigrants in relation to their perception of police in the United States. The

fieldwork for this study was carried out in San Antonio, Texas in face-to-face interviews to explore the perceptions of Nigerian immigrants on police and policing in the United states.

Data Collection

The field work for this study was conducted in San Antonio, Texas. I am a naturalized Nigerian American with extensive experience of Nigerian police culture and policing in the United States. All respondents in this study were fluent in the English language, and the study was conducted in English. My initial contact with the respondents was made at the Nigerian People Association of San Antonio meeting. I contacted the president of the association who later introduced me to members of the association. It was easy for me to make contact with 25 members out of over 300 members of the association. The letter of cooperation that stated the purpose of the study was presented to the association and was signed by the president of the association. The participants were informed about the nature of the study and that their participation in the study was voluntary. The participants were given a consent form to know their right as a participant and that their consent to participate in the study could be withdrawn at any time. The participants were also reminded that they were not obligated to answer any of my questions and could interrupt me and ask me to stop if they thought any of my questions were inappropriate. The participants were reminded that all data collected during the interview would be confidential, and none of their personal identification would be disclosed to any third party. However, the participants were also reminded that

I was bounded by law to report to the authority any information that could jeopardize the safety of the participant or the public.

The interview questions were designed to cover the participants' perception of police and policing in the United States and whether their perception was based on their prior experience and police culture in their home country of Nigeria. This research was based on face-to-face interviews. The interview questions were divided into three parts. The first part of the interview questions was designed to collect respondents' background information; these included age, gender, country of origin, number of years in the United States, and social status. The second part of the interview questions consisted of 31 questions. These questions focused on respondents' experience with police in their home country of Nigeria, prior contacts with police in Nigeria and United States, whether their prior experience influenced their perception, and whether the respondents felt safer interacting with police in the United States compared to Nigeria police. In the third part of the interview questions, I focused on the opinion of respondents on how they felt about policing in the United States and whether their opinion was drawn from their experience with United States police or prior experience with the Nigeria police force.

Fourteen Nigerian immigrants participated in the study, and all did so voluntarily. Some consented to their identities being shared and revealed in the interview data; others chose to hide their identities. Text data from questionnaire-style, open-ended interviews using digital means were collected. Data collection was undertaken within the last quarter of the academic period last year into January 2017. The questionnaire was open-ended giving participants the chance to answer the questions in however way suited them

best. Some were short, and some were longer and more detailed. Personal information

data were asked, but respondents had the choice of not filling them. No unusual

circumstances took place. Data collection was straightforward based on initial design.

Data Analysis

The data analysis of the study yielded results through initial categorizing/coding

(narrative analysis/emergent patterns categorization) using terms (i.e., corruption, feel,

discriminate, opinion) were run through Qualitative Data Analysis Software treatment. I

used the QDA Data miner software to investigate the following patterns:

1. Positive Opinion of US Police

2. Negative Opinion of US Police

3. Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police

4. Neutral Opinion

In the categorization and emergent patterns analysis, discrepant cases were taken note of

in accordance to their difference to majority of cases that presented similar results and

patterns. The following graphic descriptions of the results following frequency analysis

are as follows.

Table 1

Frequency Table for Opinion Code

Opinion	Positive Opinion of US Police	14	51.9%	1	100.0%
Opinion	Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police	12	44.4%	1	100.0%
Opinion	Neutral	1	3/7%	1	100.0%
Opinion	Negative Opinion of US Police	0	0	0	0

Table 2

For Code on Corrupt

Question	Type of Response
Can you explain why this is your position? I feel as though I can give the police a little more leeway. The reason being is because most police are in fact not CORRUPT. Even though some may be under paid. Most still stick to high moral values.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) neutral
ANS- Nigeria Police is perceived as being CORRUPT, they work under difficult condition with poor salary, making them to depend on bribery to supplement their income. Little wonder why there is always a misrepresentation of justice, at times justice is based on "pays the piper dictates the tone". In short justice is delivered to the highest bidder. I had contact with the police whilst in Nigeria and witnessed many forms of injustice meted on innocent people especially the illiterates and the poor. This experience initially affected my perception of any police anywhere in the world.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
ANS- Both the US and Nigeria Police are similar in terms of high handedness or brutality in resolving crisis, leading to death on many occasions. They both misuse their powers at times making them lose public confidence. I believe Nigeria police is CORRUPT, mainly due to the CORRUPT system where they operate and poor condition through which they perform their duties. The US police is also CORRUPT, they misuse their powers because you cannot challenge them, making them to go away without questioning each time they encounter unsuspected members of public. I have witnessed several cases being brought by the police to court just to make money for the County but unfortunately, the judge would most of the time support the position of the police thereby furthering the hostility between the public and the police and making the common man to lose confidence in the legal system especially the black community who believe they are being profiled every time they have issues with the police.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Table 3

For the Code Feel

Question	Type of Response
Do you FEEL secure in the US in terms of policing? Yes, in as much as I'm abiding by the laws	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you FEEL is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? Protecting lives and property. They both have bad cops as well as good cops.	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
Question 6 - As a Nigerian-American or as a Nigerian immigrant to America, do you FEEL included in the community that you live in? Yes	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
If yes, do you FEEL discriminated against, including by the local police? Yes, based on the fact that I was stopped at Walmart for spending a certain amount of money and they used the statement of me matching a profile in Mount Sterling, a place that I have never been and after I asked to see the picture or the video they were referring to, they couldn't provide either.	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
Can you explain why you FEEL like this? There were no bases for them to have stopped me except for the fact that I am a black man.	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
If not, why do you think this is the case? What makes you FEEL safe, included and welcome especially in terms of policing and law enforcement? Because I am able to express myself.	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
Can you give us a summative opinion about how you FEEL with regards to Policing in America? If they can weed the bad ones out, the society will be a better place.	(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police) (within Positive Opinion of US Police)
Do you FEEL secure in the US in terms of policing? Yes	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you FEEL is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? They both work to protect law and order, they both wear uniform and they are both working for the development of the community.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

As a Nigerian-American or as a Nigerian immigrant to America, do you FEEL included in the community that you live in? YES

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

If yes, do you FEEL discriminated against, including by the local police? NO

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
Positive Opinion of US Police

Can you explain why you FEEL like this? Because police treat everyone equally, although some police do discriminate

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

What makes you FEEL safe, included and welcome especially in terms of policing and law enforcement? Obey the law and order and if you get stop by police, do the right thing, no argument, if you FEEL cheated or disrespected, you can sue them to court.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Can you give us a summative opinion about how you FEEL with regards to Policing in America? Policing in US is to protect the law and order.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Do you FEEL secure in the US in terms of policing? Yes

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

What are your opinions with regards to the US police in your community as well as in their larger, national function? The police in my current community is really diverse. Thereby making it a very approachable. On a larger scale I FEEL that it is not as effective do to the fact that is not as well diverse.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Although there are many incidents on the news involving police in recent times I FEEL that it is only a small portion of the larger police force. Therefore, as a whole they appear to be both effective and reliable.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

After your experience in Nigeria in terms of policing, do you think you have become more trustful or less trustful of the police? I FEEL like I have become less more trustful of police.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Can you explain why this is your position? I FEEL as though I can give the police a little more leeway. The reason being is because most police are in fact not corrupt. Even though some may be under paid. Most still stick to high moral values.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
neutral

What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you FEEL is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? Nigerian police seem to be undervalued and underappreciated. Thereby making their general moral low. Which also leads to their corruption. I FEEL that they can't be compared to the U.S police force. Due to the fact that they are in fact still part of a developing country. There by

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

making it very unstable. What I do FEEL is similar to the US police force is their under paid salary.

Do you think your opinion is based on old perceptions or is it a new expression based solely on your US experiences? I FEEL it is based on old perceptions.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

As a Nigerian-American or as a Nigerian immigrant to America, do you FEEL included in the community that you live in? Yes

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

If yes, do you FEEL discriminated against, including by the local police? No

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Can you explain why you FEEL like this? If not, why do you think this is the case?

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

I FEEL that because the police is well diverse in my community it is unbiased.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

What makes you FEEL safe, included and welcome especially in terms of policing and law enforcement?

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Can you give us a summative opinion about how you FEEL with regards to Policing in America? It is very much unbiased. Although there may be some incidents. As a whole they are in fact doing their job and keeping people safe.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Do you FEEL secure in the US in terms of policing? Yes

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you FEEL is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? They both work to protect law and order, they both wear uniform and they are both working for the development of the community.

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

As a Nigerian-American or as a Nigerian immigrant to America, do you FEEL included in the community that you live in? YES

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

If yes, do you FEEL discriminated against, including by the local police? NO
Can you explain why you FEEL like this? Because police treat everyone equally, although some police do discriminate

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

What makes you FEEL safe, included and welcome especially in terms of policing and law enforcement? Obey the law and order and if you get stop by police,

(within Positive Opinion of US Police)
(within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

do the right thing, no argument, if you FEEL cheated
or disrespected, you can sue them to court.

Can you give us a summative opinion about how you FEEL with regards to Policing in America? Policing in US is to protect the law and order.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
Do you FEEL secure in the US in terms of policing? Relatively yes	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)
What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you FEEL is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? Protecting lives and property, having both the good cops and the bad cops.	(within Positive Opinion of US Police) (within Negative Opinion of Nigerian Police)

Evidence of Trustworthiness

The true picture of the phenomenon (subject) is investigated. This is aided by presenting a clear problem statement and purpose of study which become the basis of research questions, a clear definition of subject/participants which altogether became the basis of the design of the study.

Sufficient detail of the fieldwork, that is, how it is undertaken, including population identification, data collection, and specification of participants, is provided. In so doing, it can be redone down to the details by other researchers.

Dependability is tied to transferability – the concept, the methods, the problem statements are dependable because they can be transferrable, redone, adapted.

The findings in the study emerge from the data alone. The can be found in the listed research questions and the answers provided to them based on the data.

Research Questions and Findings

Main RQ. Do Nigerian-Americans base their perceptions, and ultimately their relationships with the police, on their prior experiences dealing with the police in Nigeria?

Nigerian-Americans base their perception of policing on two factors:

1.   Their experience of policing from their home country,

2.   Their experience of policing in the US where time and

        immersion/exposure to policing practice is a major factor.

Subresearch Questions

1.   Does culture and prior experiences impact the way Nigerian-Americans

        access police services in the United States?

The answer is, yes. While most respondents indicate this impression, the strongest

evidence can be found in the statement of participant Aj, a passage from his interview as

follows:

I feel more secured here than I was in Nigeria in terms of policing. The US police

is adequately staffed with modern and sophisticated equipment, making them to be more

efficient in the discharge of their duties. The US police are more professional in their

conduct, more disciplined and supported. They can perform their duties without fear,

favor, or intimidation. The US police act based on the principle of equality; no one is

above the law whereas these are not the case with the Nigeria Police, they perform their

job under a critical harsh condition, no equipment, low morale, and poor infrastructure

making policing more difficult.

2.   Have culture and prior experiences with the justice system in Nigeria

        made Nigerian-American more wary and distrustful of the American

        justice system?

Not all participants felt wary and distrustful although some expressed wariness.

This depended on their prior experiences if they were positive or negative. This is

evidenced in the response provided by participant Ba as follows when asked the whether

the subject feels wary or distrustful of the US police. Ba answered that in the US, there is

"Less unnecessary harassment."

3.   Have Nigerian-Americans' culture and prior experiences impacted community policing in their own communities here in America?

The answer is, yes. Some with positive experiences are more cooperative, those with negative experiences are more wary but both these impressions change subject to their eventual experiences in the US over time. Participant Ba indicated that Ba's impressions are based on "past experiences" as well as "based on safety in my immediate environment" pointing to feeling 'safer' in the US than back in Nigeria in terms of community-based policing.

4.   What hard-core perceptions do Nigerian-Americans have of U.S. policing; that are fully or partially based on policing habits and police history in Nigeria?

The idea that the Police or members of the policing organizations in Nigeria can be influenced and turn to corruption. Evidence for this claim can be drawn from the statement of Aj who expressed the following:

Nigeria police is perceived as being corrupt, they work under difficult condition with poor salary, making them to depend on bribery to supplement their income. Little wonder why there is always a misrepresentation of justice, at times justice is based on 'pays the piper dictates the tone'. In short justice is delivered to the highest bidder. I had contact with the police whilst in Nigeria and witnessed many forms of injustice meted on innocent people especially the illiterates and the poor. This experience initially affected my perception of any police anywhere in the world.

5.　　Do such perceptions contribute to Nigerian-Americans' feelings of being excluded and discriminated against in America?

The answer is, yes. This is evidenced in a subject's response as follows, "Both the US and Nigeria Police are similar in terms of high handedness or brutality in resolving crisis, leading to death on many occasions. They both misuse their powers at times making them lose public confidence."

Summary

In recent years, the tension between racial and ethnic minorities and the police in the United States has become a subject of debates among politicians in Washington, D.C following the waves of incidents involving police officers and African Americans. Kent and Jacobs (2005) discussed the relationship between racial threat and police strength in the large United States cities. Excessive or unreasonable use of force against minorities, African Americans continues to generate headlines more than two decades after the 1992 Los Angeles riot.

Some of the recent alleged police brutalities against people of color include the July 2014 death of Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y., the fatal shooting of teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO., the April 4, 2015 death of Walter L. Scott who was shot by a police officer in a traffic routine stop in North Charleston, S.C and in the same month the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, MD who died in the police custody. The use of a broad brush to categorize all people of color or a broad use of racial connotation undermines the significance of cultural differences among the people of color. The way people attribute a cause to any particular piece of behavior is different. People see things

differently and knowing how people explain things that happen in their world gives valuable insights into their thinking, culture, and social functioning (Ainsworth, 2003, p.19).

Both the minority and majority groups of immigrants may have different perceptions of police behavior, which could be attributed to their cultural differences and prior experiences (Arisukwu, 2012, p. 153). Instead of categorization of all African Americans and their perception towards policing in the United States, it is important to examine the impact of cultural differences and prior experiences among African Americans. It is also important to focus on a subgroup among African Americans with different cultural values and prior experiences.

Due to limited study on Nigerian immigrants' perception of police and policing in the US, I investigated whether cultural background and prior experiences of Nigerians living in the United States influence their perception of police and policing in the United States. Most African immigrants come from countries with the most authoritarian or draconian regimes of police oppression with little or no respect for human rights. I investigated whether the past experiences they had in their home countries affect their perceptions (Arisukwu, 2012; Otu, 2012; Okeshola, 2013). Information from this research will also have value in practical policing practice as competencies in cultural differences in relation to perception can be used to model strategies for effective community policing relations with specific African immigrant populations.

Nigeria is a coastal state on the shore of the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. It is bounded in the North by Niger, to the West is Republic of Benin, to the East and

Southeast by Cameroon and to the Northeast by Lake Chad. Nigeria is estimated at 178,516,904 people as of July 1 2014, approximately 2.46% of the total world population. Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups. The most populous of all the ethnic groups are: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5% (Owolabi, 2014; Anas, 2014; Omudu & Okafor, 2011). Nigeria is divided into three major parts by the River Niger and the River Benue which are located in the North, the Southwest and the Southeast. The North consists of the Hausas and the Fulanis, who are predominantly Muslims. The Southwest consists of the Yorubas who are roughly balanced between Christians and Muslims. The Southeast comprises of the Igbos who are predominantly Christians (Owolabi, 2014).

Due to the number of ethnic groups and variety of languages in Nigeria, the official language is English. Nigeria was coined by Lord Lugard's wife in 1897 in honor of the 2,600 miles of the River Niger. Prior to the modern era, the most prosperous business was slave trade, even before the advent of the European. The common practice in many African nations was to sell war captives, delinquent children and the handicapped. Nigeria was colonized by the British and in 1914 there was amalgamation of all the protectorates of Nigeria. Nigeria became an independent nation in 1960 but the independence brought several political crises. Nigerian independence was short lived due to political crises that led to the bloodiest coup in Africa in January 15, 1966 when the military took over power. Nigeria was under military rule for many years in which most government officials were guilty of corruption and abuse of authority. During those years

of military rule, freedom of press was rigorously restricted and many journalists were imprisoned and tortured.

Compared to other ethnic groups, the presence of Nigerians in America does not date back very far excluding the era of slave trade. Even though, most Nigerians do not want to be associated with slave trade or put in the same category with other African Americans, history bears witness that the coastal regions of the modern-day Nigeria were referred to as the Slave Coast. World War I expanded the horizon of many Africans as the slave masters wanted Africans to receive African based education with emphasis on rural development. It was traditional for Nigerians to travel to European countries such as Great Britain to receive formal education. Most Nigerians that traveled to the western world post Nigeria independence did so for educational purposes and returned to their home country after completion of their programs.

The Nigerian population studying abroad steadily increased in the 1970s due to the oil boom that made Nigeria one of the wealthiest nations in Africa. During the 1970s and 1980s, Nigeria was among the top six countries whose citizens came to the United States to study. In the late 1980s, the Nigerian economy was in great decline and the number of Nigerians returning to their home country after their formal education started reducing. Like any other immigrants, many Nigerians who migrated to the United States were willing to settle just anywhere in the country. Family relations, previous school attended and weather were the three major determinants of their settlement consideration. In the 1990s, the Nigerian economy took a big nose dive and went from bad to worse. The number of students returning home after their education was greatly reduced and the

highly-educated Nigerians started taking up odd jobs to pay their bills and remain in the United States instead of returning to their home country. In many metropolitan cities, the highly-educated Nigerians were cab drivers and security officers. Nigerians can be found all over the 50 states of the United States, but their heaviest concentration is to be found in Texas, California, New York, Maryland, Illinois, and Georgia.

When the name Nigeria is mentioned, just like any other African country, an average American conjures up the image of the jungle or children raised in poverty (Sarkodie-Mensah, 2007). This perception is largely based on the erroneous depiction of Africans by Hollywood and all the negativity about Africa by the media. Despite all the stereotypical depictions of Nigerians, Nigerian immigrants have maintained their pride, cultural identity, and contribute immensely to the society at large. There are no associated sicknesses or medical conditions that are related to Nigeria, but just like other Black people, Nigerian immigrants are more prone to having sickle cell anemia than any other group.

Nigerian-Americans base their perception of policing on two factors: (a) their experience of policing from their home country, Nigeria; and (b) their experience of policing in the US where time and immersion/exposure to policing practice is a major factor contributing to their final impressions. The study undertaken so far is promising in terms of findings from the data gathered and suggests further investigation in certain areas of interest grounded within the context of the study. Analysis from the data collected as expressed in this chapter can now be processed for interpretation within the scope of the study in the next chapter.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to investigate how Nigerian immigrants view policing in the United States in comparison to their impressions and experiences of policing in their home country of Nigeria. I also wished to explore whether the subjects' impression of U.S. policing was different from that of the larger African American community and if their experience in their home country contributed to that impression.

Interpretation of the Findings

I confirmed the following:

1. That Nigerian immigrants have differing impressions of policing in Nigeria and in the United States

2. That Nigerian immigrants have differing expectations of policing in Nigeria and in the United States because the United States has a more socially, politically, and economically advanced world leader who ought to have a better justice system and policing practices

3. That Nigerian immigrants consider policing practices in Nigeria to be wanting in terms of Western standards of justice, and even corrupt

4. That some Nigerian immigrants feel discriminated against by the police in the United States due to cultural and ethnic characteristics they feel they have

5. The participants felt that policing in the United States was more efficient, justice-focused, and effective in combating crime.

Limitations of the Study

The trustworthiness of the data drawn from study rests on the impressions, descriptions, and opinions raised by the participants. These limitations can be claimed from data results.

Recommendations

In terms of further research, I suggest the following ideas:

1. Investigating the difference in impressions of police corruption between the police systems in the United States and Nigeria. I found that levels and ideas of what is corrupt in Nigeria and what is corrupt in terms of policing in the United States were different and require further study to ascertain these ideas of different impressions and the causes behind them.

2. Investigating the difference in expectations in terms of police performance between the police systems in the United States and Nigeria. I found that immigrants have different expectations of police performance in their home countries and in the United States and thus require further study to ascertain these ideas of different expectations and the causes behind them.

Implications

At an individual level, the research has the potential providing empowerment through reflection and iteration of ideas and social voice from the participants in order to raise concerns (where there is a concern) or present experiences and impressions, especially if they are discriminative. If researchers raise these same positive impressions from the microlevel (individual) towards elements of the mezzo level in society (families,

social groups, organizations) wherein changes based on the concerns from an individual

label are in turn discussed as social issues, at a macro level, strategies and policies can be

designed by governments, agencies and organizations who are stakeholders in the raised

social issues and whose interventions can affect positive social change within the larger

society.

      The study was limited to the African immigrant, particularly within the Nigerian

American immigrant context. Positive social change has the potential of affecting this

particular population first. However, it is possible to use the findings from this study to

investigate similar issues across subpockets of immigrant populations in the United States

as it is possible for members of those populations to have been subjected to policing

systems as the subjects in this study have been.

      To get subject-impressions from voluntary participants, it is best to incorporate

qualitative strategies, including interpreting the data received. I highlighted the

importance of identifying the population under study. The immigrant population in the

United States is vast and subcultures, and experiences and impressions of U.S. policing

are also vast. By designing the study around that, I improved its validity and reliability

phenomenologically and contextually. I recommend, as implications from this study, the

importance of identifying the problem and the population/subject of study early on in a

research.

Conclusion

      Egharevba (2006) showcased the unique perceptions of African immigrants in

relation to police and policing based on their experiences and observations with opinions

drawn from their culture. Egharevba claimed that socialization that is different and

separate from that of the Finnish. Brown (2002) suggested that in order to understand the

value of research on attitudes towards police and the need for policies based on such

research, it is important to examine the problems associated with negative perceptions of

police. Hasisi (2008) explored the subject of deeply divisive societies and how they

impact on police-minority relations. Hasisi explored the makeup of deeply divisive

societies, the power relations and inequality within it, and how people tended to decide

and behave in relation to self-preservation. Hasisi explained the policing nature of the

home nations of African immigrants to provide insight into their policing experiences and

the likely imprint this has on them in relation to police perceptions in their newly

migrated-to countries.

Hill and Gowen (2010) demarcated the importance of considering previous

cultural imprints, the socialization-based ideas of immigrants in relation to police and

policing–in relation to how they view and perceive the police organizations that serve the

communities they are a part of in the United States. Haugen and Musser (2011) provided

a systematic review that developed into a debate centering on whether or not immigrants

view things differently in the United States based on their prior experiences in their home

countries. Meissner, Kerwin, Chishti, and Bergeron (2013) and Truddeau and Scahller

(2011) also explored the origins of cultural differences in conformity and perception in

relation to their impact on the prevalence of deteriorating social standards, and in many

cases, the prevalence and enforcement of social issues. Although conformist behaviors

are valued across cultures, deviance and counternormative ideas in relation to resistance

are also expected across cultures. These attitudes and norms, then, impact society to various degrees.

Egharevba (2006) explored this issue by seeking to place the respondents' perception and experiences into context by using their prior experiences. Egharevba used a series of interviews from 53 African immigrants that showcased conclusions about the Finnish police based on their previous experiences in their home countries. Egharevba provided the inner insight that gave police in Finland new strategies to reach out to their African immigrant population, in particular, strategies that introduce the police as accessible, educated, fair and accountable to the law.

Egharevba (2006) illustrated a replication here in the US due to the large population of African immigrants. At 3.2 million, this is a significant minority group in the United States. While their racial background is the same with Nigerian immigrants, the culture and socialization that shaped them are different, especially if they have migrated to the US as adults. Likely, they will hold the same perspectives as the African immigrants in Finland and with culture of a barrier to police access, perceptions can impact peace, order and justice in communities where they reside.

Immigrants from Nigeria have experienced an undemocratic police force when they resided there (Hills, 2012). According to Hills (2012), police in Nigeria, even with funding from the US and the UK in relation to developing their police force with a view to transferring competent policing skills (including the practice of ethics and democracy) continue to be despotic, corrupt and resistant to change, and are often commanded by central figures who hold on to power and influence so that the police become the

enforcers for their interests rather than the interest of the people. Hills concluded,

"Quality fades as reform processes are manipulated by representatives of the existing

order so as to protect their interests and achieve predetermined political or personal gains

that are at odds with normative reform and efficiency" (p. 216).

Hills (2012) also gave value to the claim of an interviewee in Egharevba's

research which in turn reinforces their instilled mistrust of the police, even as immigrants,

in Finland. The advocacy group Human Rights Watch (2013) released a report on

Liberia, notably the corruption in Liberia's Police as it relates to human rights abuses.

Liberia is the only American colony in Africa, founded in 1817 by the American

Colonization Society which in turn was headed by the notable politician, Charles F.

Mercer of Virginia. Upon the establishment of the Liberian Commonwealth, it was

Americo-Liberians who were descendants of American colonists who became the power

elites of the fledgling country. There are currently around 72,000 Liberian immigrants

settled or working in New England states and cultural perceptions shaped by their history

impact the manner in which they relate to or view US police and policing. It is therefore

important to determine if the perception of Liberians, and in a larger sense, African

immigrants based on their policing histories impacts the way they access or view police

services and the men in uniform.

There is also the notion of understanding how African immigrants are changing or

remaking the American Black population. According to Anderson (2015):

A record of 3.8 million foreign-born blacks now live in the United States, the Pew

Research Center reported Thursday. The influx means that the share of foreign-

born blacks, largely from Africa and the Caribbean, has grown from 3.1 percent

of the black population in 1980 to 8.7 percent in 2013. By 2060, 16.5 percent of

the U.S. black population will be foreign-born, the report says. The report

highlights the degree to which America's black population is less homogenous

than in previous generations. (p. 2).

This means that while to an extent, African immigrants, especially those who are Black,

are understandably categorized to be included within the American Black population, the

marked difference of socialization and cultural experience means that policies in place in

relation to policing African-American communities and neighborhoods will not be

effective as it will not tackle the unique perceptions or refer to the ethnic practices of the

new immigrants. The socioeconomic profiles alone differ.

The study effectively has two conclusion/summation elements, one summarized

and raised conclusions on findings from the literature review as well as its implications.

The second one, a summary of ideas raised in the methods section listed the methods and

design that were used for the study, as well as the concepts necessary in terms of

actioning upon for the purpose of conducting research from planning to fieldwork to

analysis as well as data storage.

The simple take home message of the study is as follows. The opinion of

Nigerian-Americans and Nigerian immigrants to the US in terms of the US Police and

their policing activities are influenced and impacted by their knowledge and experience

of policing in Nigeria. The degree of impact varies from person to person. In most cases,

they see American police and policing as far more service-oriented and less influenced or

prone to corrupt practices than the Nigerian police. Most of the subjects place a higher degree of trust on the US police and American law enforcement and thus expect the US police and institutions to perform in a particular manner. Most feel safe living in the US with regards to the US law enforcement system.

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Appendix A: Contact Letter and Scheduling

Contact Letter and Scheduling

My name is *Akinniyi Akinropo*, a graduate student at Walden University's Forensic Psychology program. I am conducting a research in partial fulfillment on the requirements for the degree of PHD. My study is on the Awareness of newly arrived and established Nigerian immigrants of Police & Policing in the United States. You are selected to participate in this study because you are a Nigerian who lives in the United States, have had prior contact with police in Nigeria and United States and you meet the criteria for selection to be included in this study.

I will like to interview you at a time and place that is acceptable to you. Please note that your participation in this study is on a voluntary basis and all information will be kept confidential.

I must also remind you that you can back away from this study at any time. Your responses for the interview will be kept in a safe place and will only be utilized by me. I will ensure that necessary steps are taken in order to keep your identity confidential. If you are willing to participate in this study, please contact me via the number below. I would like to conduct this interview on weekend preferably on Saturday. Pease let me know the dates and times that are most convenient for you to participate in the interview process.

I am looking forward to your participation and as a co-researcher your input will significantly help in placing culture and prior experience into context while examining how Nigerian-Americans view policing in United States and why their views may be different from other black Americans who have astonishing resentment towards policing in the United States.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Contact Number: _____

Appendix B: Consent Form

You are invited to take part in a research study of "Perception of Nigerian immigrants of Police & Policing in the United States". This researcher is inviting Nigerians who lives in the United States and have had encounter with police in the United States and in Nigeria to partake in the study. This form is part of a process call "informed Consent" to allow you as a participant to understand this study before deciding whether to take part. This study is being conducted by Akinniyi Akinropo who is a doctoral student at Walden University.

Background Information:

The purpose of this study is to explore the topic of Police and Policing in the United States, specifically the perceptions held by Nigerian immigrants in terms of what policing is about and the role within the established policing system; how it can impact, discriminate or be advantageous/disadvantageous to them in light of laws and other bylaws.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to:

- Read the consent form and provide a signature accepting to participate in the interview.
- Participate in a face to face interview.
- The interview process will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes per participant.
- You will allow field notes to be taken during the interview process

Here are some Sample Interview Questions:

In your own words, as a Nigerian who lives in the United States what are your opinions with regards to the US police in your community as well as in their larger, national function? Do you think they are efficient and reliable? What are your reasons for these opinions? Do you think that you compare police behavior in the US to police behavior in

Nigeria when you draw these ideas about the US police? In other words, do you think your experience of Nigerian policing influence your perception of American policing?

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

This study is voluntary. Everyone will respect your decision of whether or not you choose to participate in the study. No one from United States criminal justice system or Walden University will treat you differently if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind later. You may stop at any time.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

Being in this type of study might pose some minor risk such us discomfort fatigue or even stress. However, this study will benefit policy makers to determine whether or not prior policing experience in Nigeria influence perception of Nigerian-US immigrants with regards to policing in the US. Also, this study will add to already existing literature on perception of Nigerian immigrants on policing in the United States.

Payment:

This study encourages participants to participate on a voluntary basis and no gifts or payments will be forwarded to any participant.

Privacy:

Any information provided during the interview process will be kept confidential. The researcher will not use any personal information about participants outside this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything that would allow others to identify you in this project. All data collected will be kept safe in a locked area chosen by the participant. Data will be kept for a period of five years, as required by Walden University.

Contacts and Questions:

You may ask questions you have now. Or if you have questions later, you may contact the researcher via Akinniyi.Akinropo@Waldenu.edu . You can also call Dr. Leilani Endicott (612-312-1210) if you wish to talk to the university's research participant advocate or email IRB@waldenu.edu . Walden University's approval number for this study is _____ and it expires on _____.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and I feel I understand the study well enough to make decision about my involvement. By signing below, I understand that I am agreeing to the terms described above.

Printed Name of Participant

_____

Date of consent

_____

Participant's Signature

_____

Researcher's

Signature

_____

Appendix C: Interview Questions

Based on the information that the main research question and its sub-questions want to investigate and explore, I have crafted the following Interview Questions. I have also included information details about the participant which is important in classifying participants according to their characteristics.

Part 1: Participant Information

a. Name -

b. Age -

c. Address -

d. Years living and working in the US -

e. Occupation -

f. Are you a breadwinner for your family? -

g. Your province or city/town of origin in Nigeria –

h. Would you like to keep your identity and details private? Yes or No -

Part 2: Interview Questions

Participants for this interview will be the interviewer/researcher and the interviewee who will be chosen purposively with the main requirement of interviewees as being Nigerian-Americans or Nigerian immigrants into the US. There will be no minimum number of years as having lived or worked in the US, what is important is their status as living and/or working in the US. There will be no limits to age or gender or social status.

The interviewees will be voluntary participants whose participation will be arranged by the researcher using the researcher's own access to the Nigerian-American population. The researcher will follow APA rules in interviews, ensuring that the participants come to no harm and that their consent has been given prior to the interview. The interview will be held in a secure place at pre-arranged date and times. These questions will require open-ended answers. Respondents are allowed to interject as well as bring in related topics to clarify their answers.

Question 1 - How long have you been in the US? Do you feel secure in the US in terms of policing? What are your opinions with regards to the US police in your community as well as in their larger, national function? Do you think they are efficient and reliable? What are your reasons for these opinions? Do you think that you compare police behavior in the US to police behavior in Nigeria when you draw these ideas about the US police? In other words, do you think your experience of Nigerian policing influence your perception of American policing?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 2 - Can you explain a little of your perception of police culture in Nigeria? What are the most important notions and perceptions do you have of Nigerian police culture and

performance? Have you had any experience of policing in Nigeria? Where they negative or positive? Do you think this influences how you access police services in the US?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 3 - After your experience in Nigeria in terms of policing, do you think you have become more trustful or less trustful of the police? When you came to the US, do you think you still carry this opinion? Are you wary or trusting of the US police in the community where you live? Can you explain why this is your position?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 4 - Have you heard of community policing? Community policing works to make the police and the community they serve closer by enhancing communication and cooperation and also by making sure that all members of the community can easily and confidently access police services. If not, will you be willing to work with or access police services in your community to help keep you and your family safe? If you are not willing

to or wanting to, why do you think you hold that opinion? Do you think your beliefs and experiences about policing shaped in Nigeria influences this position you have?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 5 - Can you compare and contrast US police and Nigerian police? What are your opinions about each? If there is one thing about the US police that you feel is similar to the Nigerian police, what is this? Do you think your perception about this similarity influences how you perceive American police as a whole? Can you explain your position on this? Do you think your opinion is based on old perceptions or is it a new expression based solely on your US experiences?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 6 - As a Nigerian-American or as a Nigerian immigrant to America, do you feel included in the community that you live in? If yes, do you feel discriminated against, including by the local police? Can you explain why you feel like this? If not, why do you

think this is the case? What makes you feel safe, included and welcome especially in terms of policing and law enforcement?

Answer:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Part 3 - Personal Opinion

1. Can you give us a summative opinion about how you feel with regards to Policing in America?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Is this opinion drawn exclusively from your US experience or is it also drawn from your ideas about the police when you were still living in Nigeria?

_____

_____

_____

As can be seen, the research questions, participant information and interview questions are all related and are aimed at exploring the same subject as the underlying theme. The results from the interview will inform the answers to the research questions after they are analyzed to determine whether or not prior policing experience in Nigeria influence perception of Nigerian-US immigrants with regards to policing in the US.

General Comments

Thank you for participating in this study. All the information obtained during this interview will be made available to you once completed. Once again, I want to assure you that the information obtained from this interview will be kept safe and confidential. If you are satisfied with the interview process, this interview ends today at (Time:_____).