**Do Black People Really Do This?**

This was the very question that sparked the inception of B&P by founder, Ron Young. Coincidentally, this was also the first question ever asked in the group by one of the first members. Now that we have all found each other, we have a clear answer to this question. Today’s discussion will focus on that answer in an effort to help us feel not so marginalized this is wide world of Mononormativity.

* Exploring Polyamory in the Motherland- In African tribes it is not referred to as polyamory, yet polyamorous as well as polygamous practices exist.
* The Maasai Tribe-http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polyandry

 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtG9X38lvl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtG9X38lvlk)

* Wife Swapping Namibia- http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/world/2014/04/03/culture-clash-over-tribal-wife-swapping-in-namibia
* The Luo Tribe- Sexual Anthropologist, Leanne Wolfe lived among this polygynous tribe. Slide #12 from her talk on cheating vs.polyamory illustrates a polygynous family. Slide #13 illustrates how a Luo compound it set up. The main entrance is in front. There is also a private entrance in the back, in which the wives lovers are also able to discreetly enter the compound to engage in relations with these married women.

 <http://www.slideshare.net/drleapolyamorynna/are--and-cheating-all-that-different-14415072>

**Questions for discussion:**

1. The Maasai practice both polyandry and polygamy at the same time. The women have multiple partners and the men, multiple wives. Would you consider this polyamory?
2. MFF relationships seem to be more popular in the Black polyamorous community. Many men state that they have a one penis policy as if Black men are unable to deal with sharing their women. Yet the men in Namibia have the custom of offering up their wives to friends whether the women agree or not. What is the difference between these African men vs. African American men that make sharing so difficult for them here in America?
3. The set up of the Luo Tribe allows men to have multiple wives and wives to have multiple lovers. Would you consider this Polyamory?
* Polyamory Being Recognized in Black Media
* Ebony Articles-

<http://www.ebony.com/love-sex/you-me-and-he-does-polygamy-work-999#axzz3EvgYRYaS>

<http://www.ebony.com/love-sex/why-i-wont-bow-to-monogamy#axzz3EvgYRYaS>

* Poly Articles showing up on Black Websites

http://atlantablackstar.com/2012/09/23/polyamory-moving-toward-the-mainstream/

 **Questions for discussion:**

1. How do we change the the paradigm of having secret multiple families in our community being more accepted than honest and consensual non-monogamy?
2. Is religion the only reason monogamous people in the Black community find Polyamory so downright offensive?
3. Do you think Blacks will wait for polynormativity in the white community before it is able to be fully embraced in our community?
* Black Celebrities in Poly/Open Relationships
* T Pain & Amber Najm
* Will & Jada
* Mo’Nique & Sidney Hicks
* Ozzie Davis & Ruby Dee
* Akon
* Pitbull

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Why do you think these celebrities, although practicing consensual non-monogamy, are hesitant to come all the way out as polyamorous? Do you think they face a greater backlash to their celebrity status than their white counterparts?

So Black People DO do this. The Black & Poly FB group is at approximately 1700 members and growing. Requests pour in daily to join us. With the love and support of each other, we build a strong community armed with the information we need to help others gain a greater understanding of our way of being.