



Crossroads of Care

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Methods

Oral history

Using internet forums and groups

English speakers in the U.S./Canada

10 confidential interviews

A paper and a video



Research Questions

What ways can people who identify with a mental illness diagnosis be influenced by Vodou?

How does the Vodou cosmology and practice affect and expand an understanding of mental illness through Western Psychiatry?

What ways does Vodou support and heal people with identified mental illness?



*from home in the night. In the sky I saw angels
and demons. I was confused, & terrified of both*

Outcomes

A wealth of different perspectives, different paths

Definitions of mental illness

- Individual mental states or structural issues and trauma

Combinations of psychiatry and spirituality

Diagnosis

- Mental illness as distinct from spiritual problems, and spiritual tools can diagnose both mental illnesses and spiritual problems

Outcomes

Healing & support

- Medication and therapy
- Reciprocal relationships with the Lwa ex: Ezili Freda
- Community

Limits

- Weight of practice
- Spiritual solutions to spiritual problems