Student(s): Connell Charmaine;

Title: Dietary Profile of Antebellum Slaves and Neurodegeneration in African Americans;

Mentor(s): Gisele Casanova, Psychology.

Abstract:

Neurodegeneration is the progressive decay of the protective insolation of myelin and eventual erosion of the axon itself. This causes significant distress to the Central Nervous System (CNS), which limits those affected mentally and physically. Previous research within the past decade has noted iron toxicity as a significant catalyst in neurodegeneration. Recent studies like those conducted by Lisa Barnes and David Bennett (2014) have not only reiterated the underrepresentation of African Americans in neurodegenerative research but have projected that at least thirty-three (33) percent of Alzheimer's Disease patients in 2050 will be minorities.

However, the reasoning behind this mismanagement of resources in the brain remains undefined (Connell, 2019). What warrants equal concern is those of minority groups, particularly African Americans, are at a higher risk to develop neurodegenerative disorders. As such, it is important to consult both historical records and modern research to clarify feasible initiators for this phenomenon. This article seeks to explore the significance of the diets of slaves in the Antebellum South as a possible marker of neurodegenerative susceptibility in the African American community.