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SHODWE

THE ART OF POSSIBILITY IN TECHNO SPIRITUALITY

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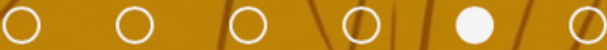
CONNECTED FAITH SURVEY

2024 Connected Faith Survey Report

How Digital Technology is Shaping Religious Belief and Practices

GET THE REPORT

THE PEOPLE'S REPORT²⁰²⁴



www.digitalblackreligionsurvey.com



WHAT IF?

A Post Election Salon Story & The 92%

“One thing about Black folk, especially Black women, the 92% said, ‘We tired.’ The 92% said ‘The rest of y’all figure this out.’ But here’s the reality. The 92% have always carried this country. And while we [Black women] may be tired, I can tell you that the 92% and everybody else is about to be in this fight!”

-Rep. Jasmine Crockett, 60th Anniversary Commemoration
for El Hajj Malik Shabazz, February 21, 2025







IMAGINING POSSIBILITY

By examining both online and offline spaces and ways Black women read and write, I want to emphasize the networks of resistance that arise between Black women who build salons or gathering places in person to strategize and black women's responses regarding rest online in the aftermath of the elections. Around these sites of possibility, I examine shifting networks of in-person and digitally located hush harbors.





CURRENT TERMS

Digital Black Religion & Digital Womanist Approaches

Black people's digital pathways to healing and wholeness (freedom) and their religious contribution to the development of digital technology

Technology

Spirit-centered techniques, skills, and processes (i.e., laying on of hands, prophecy, conjuring, etc.) used as tools in producing liberation within Black religious traditions (i.e. ancestral intelligence)

Hush Harbors

a shifting technology, a system or network of codes, subversive activities and locations designed to liberate oppressed groups





WHY IT MATTERS



Alternative models for religious education

From their inception salons were considered sites of white women intellectualism. Co-existing alongside them and remaining today are Black women's sites of intellectual meaning making. These hush harbors offer rich sites for understanding Black networks of learning and resistance.

A Reclamation of the human in technology (is womanist work).

Black women's creation and use of technology for spiritual and religious purposes are often oriented around her community and her personhood. This offers a needful model for reflection and critique of existing technologies that decenter the human in its development, analysis, and/or implementation.





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BLACK WOMEN: READING & WRITING

Three Examples



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I. SALONS

Centering Freedom
& Wellbeing

Multifaithed





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II. THE CONNECTED FAITH SURVEY



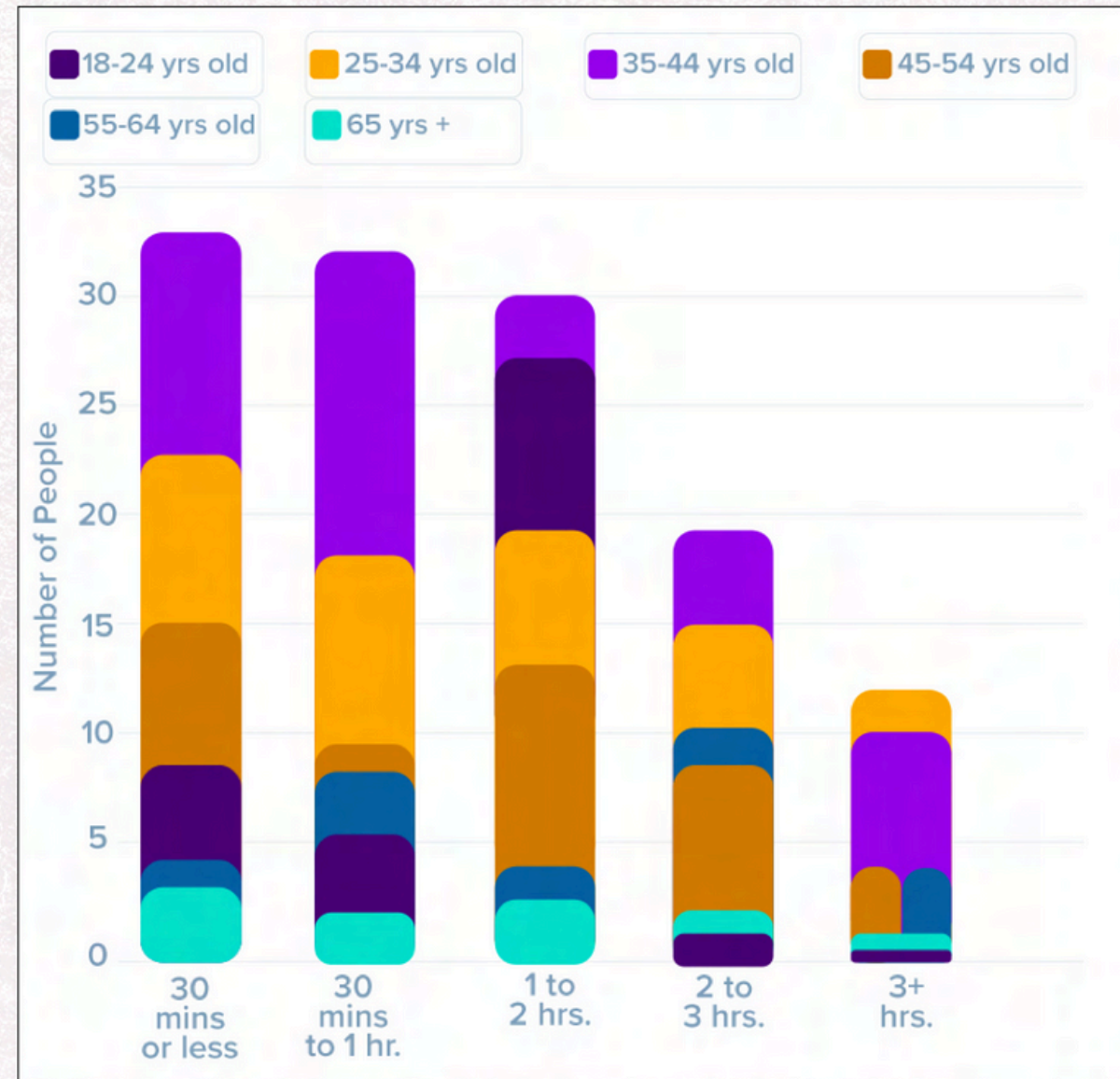
About

The Connected Faith Survey consists of a 48-questions focused on the digital religious beliefs and practices of those who self-identify as Black. Between November 22-March 2023 roughly 400 participants took the survey.

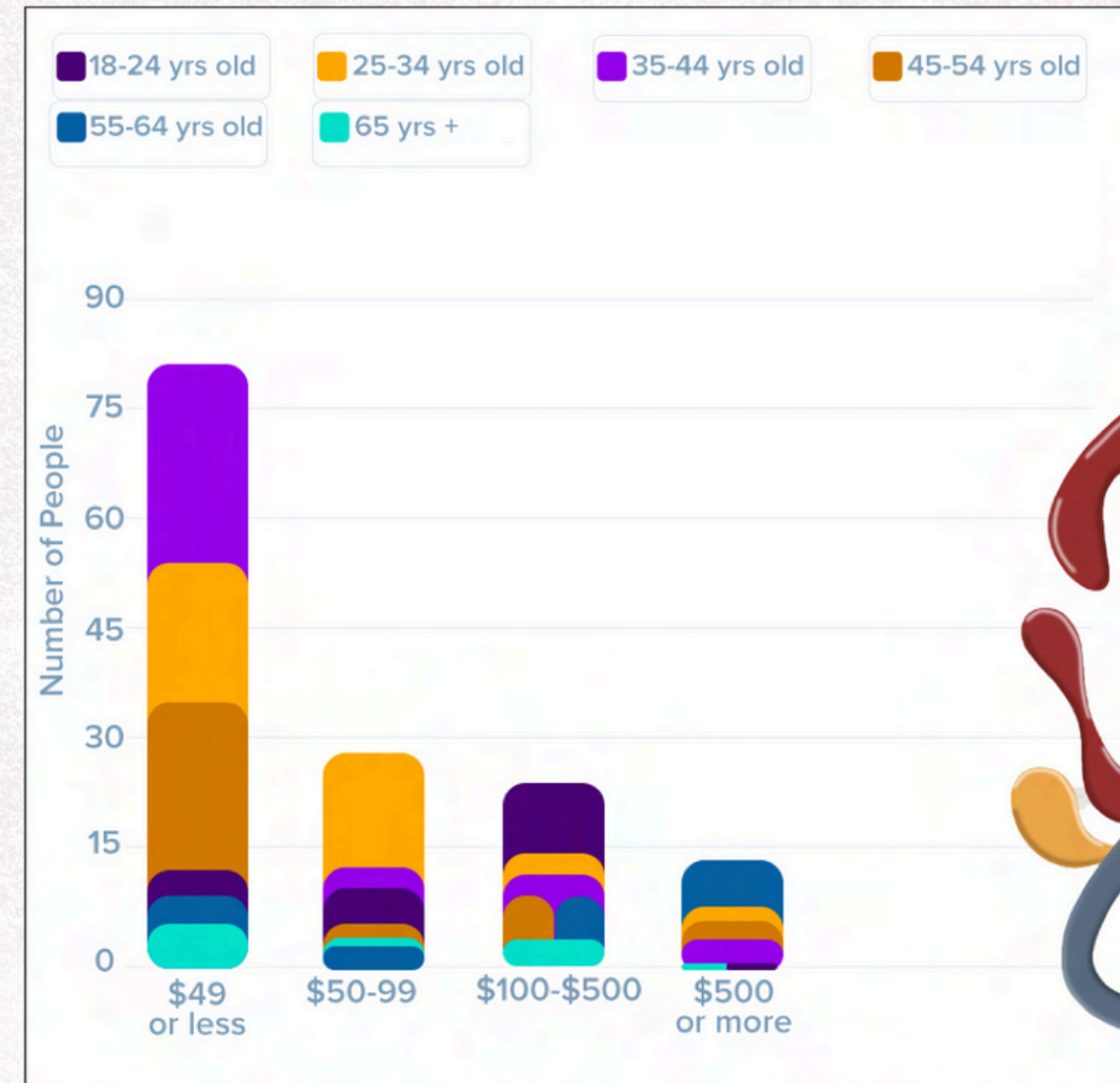


SOCIAL V. SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

Younger participants are more likely to emphasize the use of technology as important for spiritual encounters, while older participants prioritize the use of technology for social connection and cohesion.⁴



Important Digitally Mediated Religious/Spiritual Exchange or Experiences



Who Gives the Most Online?

KEY POINT:

Among all religious affiliation groups, those who identified as Protestant Christians were most likely to spend time online participating in religious or spiritual exchanges.



Quality of Life	
Essential	Digital technology is essential for my religious/spiritual participation
Cohesion	Digital technology provides cohesion for my religious/spiritual communities
Change	My religious/spiritual life would drastically change without digital technology
CurrentLifeSatisfy	Overall, how would you rate the way things are going in your life today?



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III. READINGS



6 A G E
1 0 / 1 5

*This Here
Flesh*

Cole Arthur Riley

*Rest As
Resistance*

Tricia Hersey

*Parable of
the Sower*

Octavia Butler





POSSIBILITY

"I found a place of sanctuary in
"theorizing," in making sense out of
what was happening. I found a place
where I could imagine possible
futures, a place where life could be
lived differently."

-bell hooks, Theory as Liberatory
Praxis, 1991





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TECHNOLOGIES OF RESISTANCE: CONJURING POSSIBILITY

"I DON'T EVER WANT TO FORGET THAT RESISTANCE MUST BE ITS OWN REWARD, SINCE RESISTANCE, AT LEAST WITHIN THE LIFE SPAN OF THE RESISTORS, ALMOST ALWAYS FAILS." -TA-NEHISI COATES

IMAGINATION

HOPE

HUMAN

It is the vocation of [Black women] to keep alive the ministry of imagination, to keep on conjuring and proposing futures alternative to the single one the king wants to urge as the only thinkable one." -Walter Bruggemann

HOPE CALLS THE PRESENT INTO QUESTION

TOR'S always rescue the human from the automated





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FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

PART 2:

LLM'S, TECHNOCRATS, AND DOGE

VS.

WHAT IF SHE DID WIN?





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THANK YOU!

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