Abstract
The authors of this chapter acknowledge the growing research on "the important role that family communication plays in America's problems concerning race." The research suggests differentiating factors between Black and White family communication. We see the particular need to contribute scholarship that blurs the demarcation between Black and White family communication. Such research crosses borders of distinction by coalescing and reducing racial and ethnic difference into shared cultural truths. Capitalizing on our common geographical and cultural background as men "born and reared" in southern Louisiana, we ground our research and theorizing in lived experience. The depth and scope of our interest is reflected in the following four chapter goals: (a) to survey briefly a cultural history of southern Louisiana moving towards the development of a definition of family in the region; (b) to demonstrate commonality in cultural experiences centered in the dissemination of family cultural values; (c) to examine how the common cultural mix of southern Louisiana is demonstrated within family through family rituals, myths, and storytelling; and (d) to develop a recipe for examining cultural family dialogue. The chapter concludes with a synthesis of the results and some closing comments on the future of family communication research.