

Interview Professor, Author, Speaker, Rapper, Poet, Diversity Consultant and Racial Justice Advocate Dr. Omékongo Dibinga About
Lies About Black People: How to Combat Racist Stereotypes and Why It Matters

Meet Dr. Omékongo Dibinga

Dr. Omékongo Dibinga is an international speaker, trilingual poet, talk show host, rapper and professor of Intercultural Communication at American University, where he also serves as a faculty affiliate to the Antiracist Research & Policy Center. He has studied at Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Georgetown, Morehouse and The Fletcher School, where he earned his M.A. in Law & Diplomacy. He worked for four years as the lead Teaching Assistant to Dr. Michael Eric Dyson at Georgetown University. Dr. Dibinga earned his Ph.D. in International Education Policy at The University of Maryland (UMD) where his dissertation centered on the global hip-hop phenomenon and JAY-Z. At UMD, he worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Diverse Students initiative. Dr. Dibinga has also worked with school districts on culturally relevant instruction throughout the United States.

His Urban Music Award-winning work has best been described by poet Nikki Giovanni as "outstanding, exciting, and new while being very old." His first book, *From the Limbs of My Poetree* was lauded by *Essence* Magazine as "a remarkable and insightful collection of exquisite poetry that touches sacred places within your spirit." He was one of five international recipients out of 750,000 entrants to win the inaugural CNN iReport Spirit Award, receiving over 1 million views on CNN.com.

Dr. Dibinga's writings and performances have appeared in *O Magazine*, BET, NPR, Music Choice, Voice of America and the BBC. He has written songs for major motion pictures as well as organizations including NASA and the Enough! Project. He has spoken before the United Nations and conducts leadership training overseas for the State Department, as well as for corporate, government and educational organizations across the country on issues centered on leadership, antiracism, diversity and inclusion.



Connect with Dr. Omékongo Dibinga:

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"Dibinga brilliantly identifies stereotypes and then demolishes them with the facts." — Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

About *Lies About Black People: How to Combat Racist Stereotypes and Why It Matters*

Lies About Black People: How to Combat Racist Stereotypes and Why It Matters (July 15, 2023) demonstrates how the lies told about Black people have not only impacted the Black community, also all Americans—as well as the rest of the world. The book looks at lies told through America’s powerful media industry, school textbooks and more, while also giving powerful examples of what we can do to challenge those lies in our homes, schools, places of worship and workplaces.

Tackling themes including affirmative action, racial profiling, criminal justice, socioeconomics and more, *Lies About Black People* dissects tropes like the “Black buck” stereotype, Black people being unable to swim and Black people not feeling pain, exposing the roots and reasons for their proliferation as well as the actual truths that they obscure and the atrocities that they’ve been used to justify for centuries.

The book features interviews with everyday people on their own antiracist journeys, original poetry, a mini-glossary of terms for readers just starting out on their antiracism and pro-equity journey and spaces for written reflection and action-planning enables readers to write their ideas right as they think of them.

Drawing from his expertise and key themes in *Lies About Black People*, Dr. Omékongo Dibinga is available for interviews, articles and commentary and can discuss:

- Steps you can take *right now* to stop hate
- Why affirmative action *really* failed
- The false debate over Critical Race Theory
- How to challenge conscious and unconscious biases about the Black community
- How the “Black buck” stereotype leads to police brutality against people of color
- The truth about Black people’s historical respect for police
- How to create communities at work, school, or your communities where everyone can feel celebrated and not tolerated
- The history of black loyalty to the military dating back to the Civil War
- How stereotypes about “angry Black women” ultimately led to the death of Sandra Bland
- How stereotypes of Black people being intellectually inferior have impacted Black students
- Upgrading your racialized vocabulary
- The racialized politics of the 2024 election

Lies About Black People: How to Combat Racist Stereotypes and Why It Matters is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and wherever fine books are sold.

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