



## THE INTERSECTION: WOKE BLACK FOLK

A PERFORMANCE BY  
**Funmilola Fagbamila**

Sunday, October 11, 2020, at 5 p.m. PT  
Live via Zoom  
University of Southern California

Organized by the USC Fisher Museum of Art. Co-sponsored by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs (CBCSA), and Black Student Assembly.

### WHAT TO KNOW

- *The Intersection: Woke Black Folk* is a one-woman play by Funmilola Fagbamila.
- It premiered at the Pan African Film and Arts Festival in L.A. in 2018 and has been performed around the world.
- The performance will be followed by a conversation between Fagbamila and Miki Turner, an award-winning photojournalist, producer, author, and USC professor.

### FUNMILOLA FAGBAMILA

Funmilola Fagbamila is a professor of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Fagbamila has been organizing with Black Lives Matter since its inception in 2013 and serves as the Arts and Culture director for the Los Angeles chapter. In 2015, Fagbamila was honored by the U.S. Congress and the Black Community, Clergy, and Labor Alliance for her activist scholarship and service. In 2017, she was awarded the inaugural activist-in-residence position at the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin. And in 2018, Amplify Africa and the U.S. Congress honored her with the African Excellence award in the field of education. Fagbamila's writing, political analyses, and social commentary have been featured in outlets including *The Guardian*, BBC, NPR, Blavity, *Le Monde* (France), *O Globo* (Brazil), Fox Soul, Netflix, and NowThis News.

### INTERSECTIONALITY

"A wide variety of definitions and conceptualizations of intersectionality is available on the Internet."—Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro, *Intersectionality: An Intellectual History*  
Merriam-Webster's dictionary: "the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination

(such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups”

Wikipedia: “a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of a person’s social and political identities (e.g., gender, sex, race, class, sexuality, religion, disability, physical appearance, height, etc.) combine to create unique modes of discrimination and privilege”

The term *intersectionality* is specifically traced to Black feminist scholar Kimberlé William Crenshaw, who in a 1989 legal article argued that policies and frameworks that treated race and gender as separate categories of experience and analysis failed to address the experiences of Black women: “Because the intersectional experience is greater than the sum of racism and sexism, any analysis that does not take intersectionality into account cannot sufficiently address the particular manner in which Black women are subordinated. Thus, for feminist theory and antiracist policy discourse to embrace the experiences and concerns of Black women, the entire framework that has been used as a basis for translating ‘women’s experience’ or ‘the Black experience’ into concrete policy demands must be rethought and recast.”

The concept has roots in Black feminism and women-of-color feminisms going back through the ideas voiced by the Combahee River Collective, Audre Lorde, Cherríe Moraga, Gloria Anzaldúa, bell hooks, Sojourner Truth, and many others who have articulated the complexities of identity and the understanding that systems of oppression are interconnected.

Since the term *intersectionality* gained mainstream attention circa 2015, a multiplicity of definitions, understandings, and arguments has abounded.

This event is part of [Foresight Is 2020: Racial Justice and the Arts](#). Over four evenings of performance and discussion, USC faculty, students, alumni, and guests from Los Angeles and beyond will ask: What does a nation free of institutional racism look like, and how can the arts provide a vehicle for reaching it?

#### RELATED EVENTS (all times are PT):

- 🕒 [New Leaders Now: Artists Advancing Racial Justice](#)  
Monday, October 12, at 5 p.m.
- 🕒 [Arts, Activism, and the Academy: Addressing Racism within Higher Education](#)  
Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m.
- 🕒 [Racial Radical: Generating New “Woke” Words](#)  
Wednesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m.



#BlackLivesMatter co-founders — Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi | Photo: Ben Baker for *Politico* Magazine

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

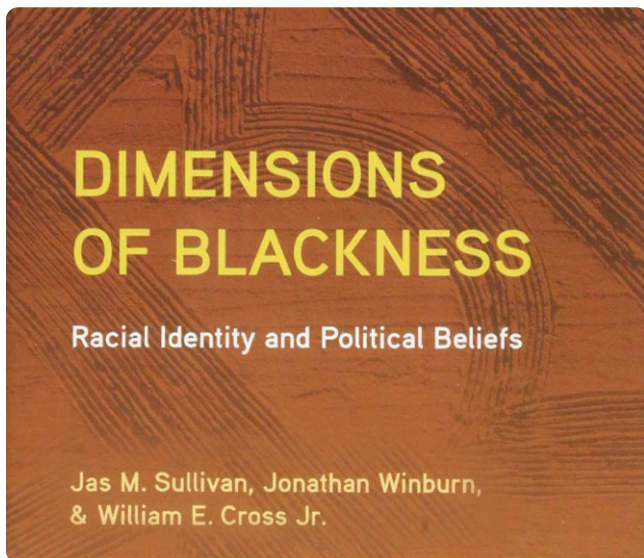
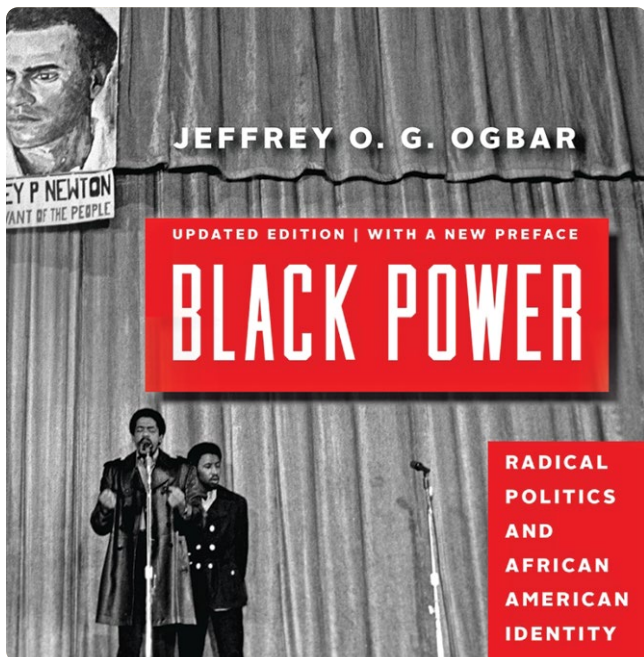
Black Lives Matter is a member-led global network of dozens of chapters working to eradicate white supremacy and “to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes.” It started in 2013 when organizers Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors (a USC alum), and Opal Tometi began using the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter after George Zimmermann was acquitted of the murder of Trayvon Martin.

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- 🕒 How do you perceive your own identity? How do you think this shapes your view or experience of society?
- 🕒 Did the multiple perspectives represented in *The Intersection* expand or complicate your prior conceptions in any way?
- 🕒 What is the role of art in social change?

## IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- 🕒 The Movement for Black Lives | [m4bl.org](http://m4bl.org)
- 🕒 Black Lives Matter Los Angeles | [blmla.org](http://blmla.org)
- 🕒 USC Arts in Action | [artsinaction.usc.edu](http://artsinaction.usc.edu)
- 🕒 USC Race and Equity Center | [race.usc.edu](http://race.usc.edu)
- 🕒 USC Race, Arts, and Place | [slab.today/2016/09/rap](http://slab.today/2016/09/rap)
- 🕒 USC Student Organizations
  - [American Studies and Ethnicity Club](#)
  - [Artemis at USC](#)



- [Asian Pacific American Student Assembly](#)
- [Black Student Assembly](#)
- [Brothers Breaking B.R.E.A.D.](#)
- [Latinx Student Assembly](#)
- [Mixed Student Community](#)
- [OUTreach](#)
- [Pan African Student Association](#)
- [Queer and Ally Student Assembly](#)
- [Queer People of Color](#)
- [Black Social Work Caucus](#)
- [Social Work and the Arts Caucus](#)
- [Student Assembly for Accessibility](#)
- [Student Assembly for Gender Empowerment](#)

☉ Upcoming Visions and Voices events:

**Oct. 23** [Kristina Wong for Public Office: Live from Her Home!](#)

**Nov. 6-7** [Live Artists Live III: Despair/Repair](#)

**Jan. 14** [Behind Bars: Life and Death for Inmates in the Age of COVID-19](#)

**Feb. 3** [Disclosure: A Screening and Discussion on Trans Lives \(On and Off Screen\)](#)

**Feb. 9** [The Just and the Blind](#)

## DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

**CHRISTY KANE** of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this evening's event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g. e-books, journals, and databases) are electronic resources, which are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at [libraries.usc.edu](http://libraries.usc.edu) but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

### BOOKS

- ☉ Jeffrey Ogbonna Green Ogbar, [Radical Politics and African American Identity](#) (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2019).
- ☉ Jas M. Sullivan, Jonathan Winburn and William E. Cross, [Dimensions of Blackness: Racial Identity and Political Beliefs](#) (Albany: State Univ. of New York Press, 2018)
- ☉ James Jennings, [The Politics of Black Empowerment: The Transformation of Black Activism in Urban America](#) (Detroit: Wayne State Univ. Press, 1992).

### DATABASES

- ☉ [Black Studies Center](#)  
The Black Studies Center provides access to several resources at once: Schomburg Studies on the Black Experience, International Index to Black Periodicals (IIBP), 10 historical African American newspapers, Black Literature Index, 100 oral history videos in History Makers, and Black Abolitionist Papers (1830-1865).

◉ [African American Studies Center \(Oxford\)](#)

The Oxford African American Studies Center provides access to more than 10,000 articles by top scholars in the field. Access to the database is limited to 3 users.

**JOURNALS**

◉ [Journal of Black Studies](#)

◉ [Callaloo](#)

**ARTICLES**

◉ Laura Visser-Maessen, “[Getting to That Promised Land: Reclaiming Martin Luther King, Jr. and 21st Century Black Activism in the United States and Western Europe](#),” *European Journal of American Studies* 14, no. 1 (2019).

◉ Chloe Banks, “[Disciplining Black Activism: Post-racial Rhetoric, Public Memory and Decorum in News Media Framing of the Black Lives Matter Movement](#),” *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies* 32, no. 6 (December 2018): 709-720.

◉ Rhonda Y. Williams, “[To the Front and Center of the Field: Recent Histories of Black Women, Gender, and Black Power](#),” *Journal of Women’s History* 32, no. 2 (Summer 2020): 118-127.

