

Professor/Diversity Expert, Omekongo Dibinga, says if people are going to continue to share Dr. Seuss books, you have to share the **full story** later. Most people don't want to or are not equipped to do that.

- Disney, Warner Brothers and so many companies have worked to do better and they have more work to do so I can support them still.
- Dr. Seuss wasn't canceled. A private company made a private decision about the books they owned. They didn't cancel. They took accountability. That should be the American way of free enterprise right?
- If people are going to continue to share his work, I believe you also have to be committed to sharing the full story later. Most people don't want to or are not equipped to do that. I am.
- If I knew the full history of Dr. Seuss, I would not have bought the books.
- I didn't understand that the Cat in the Hat is based off of the minstrel shows of the past. I didn't understand how The Sneetches teaches to be colorblind and seeks for the oppressed to want to become like their oppressor instead of embracing their own culture. I didn't know about Seuss' history of using words like "N-word" "Jap" etc. which he did even AFTER he became a children's author.
- We don't know what we don't know - but what do we do AFTER we know?
- I have Dr. Seuss books and have read them to my kids, including in 2021. My youngest (6) watches the Cat in the Hat as recently as yesterday. My older kids (now 14 & 12) who also had these books read to them, now understand his past because I explained the history to them. When my son gets older, he will understand the history.
- I won't be passing these books on to future generations because I believe it's time to discover new authors who have a vested interest in promoting an anti-racist and pro-equity world.

Let me know if you'd like to hear more from Omekongo. Thanks

DR. OMÉKONGO DIBINGA PHD, MA, BS.  
Diversity Expert, Professor



Dr. Omékongo Dibinga is a motivational speaker, trilingual poet, TV talk show host, rapper, and professor of cross-cultural communication and faculty affiliate to the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University. As the UPstander, his life's mission is to inspire all across the globe to take a stand when they witness injustice, no matter how small or large. His Urban Music Award winning work has best been described by Nikki Giovanni as "outstanding, exciting, and new while being very old." His book, *From the Limbs of My Poetree* was described by Essence Magazine as "a remarkable and insightful collection of exquisite poetry" He was one of 5 international recipients to win the first ever "CNN iReport Spirit Award." Omékongo's writings and performances have appeared in O Magazine, as well as on TV and radio from CNN, BET, and the BBC to NPR, Music Choice, and Voice of America in millions of homes in over 150 countries. He has also written songs for major motion pictures as well as organizations such as NASA and the Enough! Project. He has spoken before the United Nations, partners with the State Department to

conduct youth leadership training overseas, and speaks to leadership and youth student conferences across the country. Omékongo's music and writings have appeared alongside artists such as Sheryl Crow, Angelina Jolie, Norah Jones, Damien Rice, Angelique Kidjo, Don Cheadle, and Mos Def. He has shared the stage with Wyclef Jean, OutKast, Sonia Sanchez, Dennis Brutus, Emmanuelle Chriqui, The Last Poets, and NFL great Aaron Rodgers. Internationally, he has shared his work in over 20 countries on 3 continents. Omékongo has studied at Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Georgetown, Morehouse, and The Fletcher School, where he earned his M.A. in Law & Diplomacy. He 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 also worked with the Southern Poverty Law Center's "Teaching Diverse Students Initiative." He worked for four years as the lead Teaching Assistant to Dr. Michael Eric Dyson at Georgetown University. He provides leadership, educational and diversity empowerment as a consultant and motivational speaker for organizations, associations and institutions. He has featured/lectured nationwide in venues from TEDx and Harvard to Russell Simmons' Hip-Hop Summit and the Nuyorican Poets Café. His rap mixtape series "Bootleg" promotes positive hip-hop with remixes of songs by Tupac, Notorious BIG, Jay Z, Nas, 50 Cent, and others. His 1,000,000 Youth Campaign has directly impacted more than 100,000 youth across the globe to date. He has also partnered with Intel on its campaign to make their computer processors free of minerals that come from the war in the Congo. Omékongo has published and produced 7 books, 7-fusion music and motivational CDs, and one independent DVD. His motivational book G.R.O.W. Towards Your Greatness! 10 Steps to Living Your Best Life has received praise from great motivational speakers such as Willie Jolley. His most recent book "The UPstander's Guide to an Outstanding Life" is a life balance book for students.

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