

# FUNMILOLA FAGBAMILA

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## EDUCATION

### University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

M.A. African American Studies

Thesis research on political identity formation and cultural production.

### California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA)

B.A. Sociology

Minor: Pan African Studies

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## PLAYWRITING & THEATER WORK

### Full-Length Plays

#### **The Underbelly** (2024–2026)

Writer & Performer

One-woman play exploring contemporary gender discourse, relational power, and ideological formation shaped by online culture. Featured by [UCLA Newsroom](#).

#### **The Intersection** (2016–2025)

Writer, Director, Performer

Internationally touring one-woman production examining Black political identity, internal community conflict, and sociopolitical nuance.

Praise from Dr. Angela Davis (“timely, brilliant, necessary”) and Jane Fonda (“absolutely astonishing”). Featured in 2017 [Netflix documentary](#).

**Selected performances:** Stanford University; Dartmouth College; Oxford University (Oxford Africa Conference); USC; Skirball Cultural Center; Pan African Film Festival (featured theatrical production); Paris; Amsterdam; Rio de Janeiro, Ibiza.

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## SELECTED PERFORMANCES & FESTIVALS

**B3 Biennial of the Moving Image** (Frankfurt, Germany)

Performance Artist, 2021

**FLUP (Festa Literária das Periferias) Art & Music Festival** (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Performance Artist, 2019

**Gang of Witches** (Paris, France)

Featured Performer, 2019

**Pan African Film Festival** (Los Angeles, CA)

Featured Performer, 2019

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## SELECTED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & COMMISSIONS

**Office of the President of France (Emmanuel Macron)** – Paris

Invited Contributor, 2020

Invited to contribute to high-level discussions on relations between France and Francophone African nations after President Macron viewed my written work in *Le Monde*.

**Yolanda King (Granddaughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)**

Commissioned Writer, 2021

Commissioned to create a speech on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered by his granddaughter Yolanda King.

**Conversation on Diaspora and National Politics with Nigerian Presidential Candidate Omoyele Sowore**

Featured speaker, Los Angeles, 2018

**UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy**

Inaugural Artist-in-Residence, 2017

Public dialogue on the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement, *The Makings of a Movement*.

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## SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

**U.S. Congress Recognition** – Excellence in the field of Education, 2018

**U.S. Congress & Black Clergy & Labor Alliance** – Award for Scholarship, 2015

**Amplify Africa** – Excellence in Education Award, 2018

**Pan African Film Festival** – Featured Theatrical Production, 2018  
**Artist-in-Residence, UCLA Luskin Institute**, 2017

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## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA**

**The Guardian** – [“The Myth of Meritocracy in the Era of Black Lives Matter”](#)  
Featured commentary on anti blackness and popular notion of cultural pathology (2017).

**Le Monde** – [“Thoughts of Africa”](#) Series  
Featured cultural commentary on African diasporic identity and political history (2019).

**TNT** – [“Black Girl Fly”](#)  
Poem viewed over 4 million times; adapted into a national feature by TNT (2021).

Writing, work, and commentary featured in:  
**BBC, NPR, NowThis, Blavity, FOX TV, Netflix**, and international press.

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## **SELECTED TALKS, LECTURES & KEYNOTES**

Perspektywy Women In Tech (Warsaw, Poland) — Keynote (2023)

HSBC Bank (Toronto, Canada) — Technology Conference, Keynote (2023)

Harvard University — Speaker, Ethics and Practice of Dissent Symposium (2020)

Oxford University — Speaker, Oxford Africa Conference (2019)

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## **TEACHING**

**California State University, Los Angeles**

Lecturer, Pan-African Studies Department (2016–2023)

Courses include Black political thought, Black feminism and womanism, African literature.