

Dr. Makungu M. Akinyela is a longtime activist and organizer and founding member of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the New Afrikan People's Organization. Much of his early activist work was in Los Angeles, California where he was a cultural worker, and poet organizing street theater and community performances in support of local and national community struggles for self-determination. In Los Angeles he was a performance organizer for such groups as *Prophecy in Black*, *Griot* and *the Boogaloo Street Theater*.

Dr. Akinyela currently is an Associate professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Georgia State University. He is a licensed psychotherapist who continues to focus on the role of culture in liberation and healing. His Ph.D., from Emory University is in Culture, History and Theory. As a scholar and a therapist Dr. Akinyela has been a committed Social Justice organizer for over forty-years focused on struggles for human rights and justice for Black people in the United States and the African diaspora. His research and writing include such subjects as cultural democracy and mental health care; cultural domination and therapeutic resistance; reparations and the role of mental health workers in repairing oppressions wounds and African centered family therapy. He is the developer of a culturally specific approach to narrative called Testimony therapy which he has written about extensively.