

Mark P. Orbe, Ph.D.

A native of New London, Connecticut and a product of New London Public Schools, Dr. Orbe is a internationally known educator, author, and consultant/trainer. With a bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication (Ohio University, 1986) and a master's degree in Higher Education Administration (University of Connecticut, 1989), Dr. Orbe has worked as a student affairs administrator at several colleges and universities. In 1993, he received his doctoral degree in Interpersonal/Intercultural Communication from Ohio University and began teaching full-time faculty member.

Dr. Orbe's teaching and research interests center on the inextricable relationship between culture and communication as played out in a number of contexts (intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, mass media). He teaches a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses (interpersonal communication, interracial/intercultural communication, communication theory, critical research methods, and communicating about taboo topics) and is actively involved in numerous research projects. He has presented over 150 papers at regional, national, and international academic conferences, and published close to 150 peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals and chapters in edited books.

To date, he also has published more than 15 books including: *Constructing Co-Cultural Theory: An Explication of Culture, Power, and Communication* (Sage Publications, 1998); *Interracial Communication: Theory Into Practice* (with T. Harris, Wadsworth Publishing, 2001; 2e, Sage Publications, 2007; 3e, Sage Publications 2015; 4e, Waveland Press, 2023); *Building Diverse Communities: Applications of Communication Research* (with T. McDonald and T. Ford-Ahmed, Hampton Press, 2003); *Contemporary Issues in Interpersonal Communication* (with C. Bruess, Oxford University Press, 2005); *The Same and Different: Acknowledging the Diversity Within and Between Cultural Groups*, (with B. Allen and L. Flores, NCA Press, 2006); *Communicating Within/Across Organizational Contexts* (with B. Allen and L. Flores, NCA Press, 2007); and *Intercultural Communication in a Transnational World* (with L. Flores and B. Allen, NCA Press, 2009); *Communication Realities in a 'Post-Racial' Society: What the US Public Really Thinks about President Obama* (Lexington Books, 2011); *Identity Research and Communication: Intercultural Reflections and Future Directions* (with N. Bardhan, Lexington Books, 2012); *Communication Training and Development: Exploring the Cutting Edge* (with S. Camara, K. Makai, and L. Gilinets, Kendall Hunt, 2017); and *Critical Autoethnography: Intersecting Cultural Identities in Everyday Life, 2e* (with R. Boylorn, Routledge, 2021). His latest book project was published recently: *Communication Theory: Racially Diverse and Inclusive Perspectives* (with J. Austin and J. Sims, Cognella, 2023).

In addition to his award-winning teaching, research, and service accomplishments, Dr. Orbe has actively sought out opportunities – across the U.S. and abroad – to utilize his expertise beyond the walls of the university. Through his consulting company, *Dumela Communications*, he has worked with a number of corporate, educational, health-care and community-based organizations in terms of promoting communication competence in an increasingly diverse society. His range of expertise includes communication and diversity, community building, strategic planning, mentoring, and academic writing/publishing. For the past 15+ years, he has facilitated a *Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Competencies Institute*, an intensive 30-hour professional development curriculum that provides a theoretical, conceptual, and experiential “train the trainers” opportunity for communities across the U.S.

At present, Dr. Orbe is Professor of Communication & Diversity in the School of Communication at Western Michigan University where he also serves as a Faculty Fellow in the Office of Institutional Equity and Faculty Lead for the Kalamazoo Promise Scholars Program in the Office of Multicultural Affairs for Students. In 2017, he was honored as the first Intercultural Communication Research Fellow in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University. He is also the past Secretary-General for the World Communication Association and past Editor of *The Journal of Intergroup Relations* and *The International and Intercultural Communication Annual*.