**Bio**

Ernest O. Ògúnyẹmí is the author of the chapbook, *A Pocket of Genesis* (Variant Literature, 2023). A writer, literary journalist, and editor from Nigeria, Ògúnyẹmí’s work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in AGNI*, the Sun*, *Hopkins Review, Kenyon Review,* AGNI Online, the Poetry Foundation, *Cincinnati Review, the Moth, Poetry Ireland Review, the minnesota review, Joyland, SAND, Down River Road, 20.35 Africa, Agbowó*, *the Dark, Fantasy*, *Asimov’s*, *Mooncalves: An Anthology of Weird Fiction*, and elsewhere. Among other honors, he is the winner of the Miracle Monocle Award for Young Black Writers from the University of Louisville; he won second place in the No Tokens Young Poets’ Prize; and was a finalist for the Alpine Fellowship Poetry Prize 2022.

He has worked as a writer for Creative Writing News. Up until October 2021, he was a staff writer at *Open Country Mag* where his work included a profile of TJ Benson, author of *The Madhouse*; reviews of Cheswayo Mphanza’s *The Rinehart Frames* and Chibundu Onuzo’s novel, *Sankofa*; an interview on linking Sierra Leonean literature; as well as features on Logan February, winner of The Future Award Africa, and Arinze Ifeakandu, author of *God’s Children Are Little Broken Things*.

Ògúnyemí served as a 2022 Visiting Teaching Artist with the Poetry Foundation: his workshop revolved around the lively possibilities of glossolalia as a poetic form. In 2021, he served as a poetry facilitator with the Nairobi Writing Academy (NaiWa), teaching an extensive workshop. He curated *The Fire That Is Dreamed Of: The Young African Poets Anthology* (*Agbowó*, 2020), the first anthology of poems by teenage African poets in the continent and its diaspora. He currently studies for a BA in History and International Studies at Lagos State University. He edits for *Counterclock Journal*.

Selected Publications (Poetry)

* Acumen Poetry Journal: [*rebirth*](https://www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/acumen-91-may-2018/?doing_wp_cron=1583654408.3522689342498779296875) (Print)
* Agbowó Limits Issue: [*a conversation with my father*](https://agbowo.org/a-conversation-with-my-father-ernest-o-ogunyemi/)
* Canvas Lit, Summer 2019: [*how we love in the place where I come from*](https://www.canvasliteraryjournal.com/summer-2019) (Print)
* Mineral Lit: [*of my love’s signature*](https://www.minerallitmag.com/of-my-loves-signature.html#/)
* Counterclock Journal: [*two poems*](https://counterclock.org/cac19-lagos-is-a-metaphor)
* Mementos: An Anthology of Contemporary Nigerian Poetry: *maybe I killed you, maybe I didn’t* (Print)
* The Indianapolis Review: [*the unbottling of hunger*](https://theindianapolisreview.com/the-unbottling-of-hunger/)
* 20.35 Africa Issue III: [*impossible* & *on miracles*](https://2035africa.org/anthology/anthology-volume-3/)
* Tinderbox: *dear c*, and *the inhaling*
* Isele: [*four poems*](https://iselemagazine.com/2020/10/22/four-poems-ernest-o-ogunyemi/)
* The West Review: [*electric hymn*](https://www.westreview.org/electric-hymn.html)
* Miracle Monocle: [*tilt*](https://louisville.edu/miraclemonocle/issue-15/ernest-ogunyemi)
* Journal Nine: *a visit from my ghost-mother*
* The Lit Quarterly: *hunger* (Print)
* No Tokens: [*a littering*](http://notokensjournal.com/poetry/no-tokens-young-poets-prize/) (second place winner, No Tokens Young Poets’ Prize)
* Mud Season Review: [*four poems*](https://mudseasonreview.com/2020/12/poetry-issue-53/)
* Capsule Stories: *chrysanthemums* (Print)
* Fiyah: *a poem in which Ṣàngó hangs lightening & lullabies his children*
* Southern Humanities Review: [*naming*](http://www.southernhumanitiesreview.com/naming-ernest-ogunyemi.html)
* The Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Prize: [*bipolar*](https://dibiasepoetry.com/2021-winners/ernest-ogunyemi/)
* Poetry Column-ND: [*poem in which my mother never died*](https://nigeriannewsdirect.com/poem-in-which-my-mother-never-died/)
* The McNeese Review: *searching* (Print)
* Olongo Africa: [*hay*](https://olongoafrica.com/hay/)
* Poetry Online: [*àbíkú*](https://www.poetry.onl/read/ernest-ogunyemi)
* trampset: [*Need for Speed*](https://trampset.org/need-for-speed-cc1d34ed56fc)
* Frontier: [*song*](https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2021/10/01/poetry-song-by-ernest-ogunyemi/)
* Sierra Nevada Review: *two poems* (Print)
* The Rush: [*tabernacle of longing*](https://www.rushmagazine.org/ernest-gnym-poetry)
* Olongo Africa: [*two poems*](https://olongoafrica.com/lonely-night-the-poet-sells-himself-as-lover-to-dream/)
* In Parentheses: [*three poems*](https://inparentheses.art/2021/09/04/these-days-by-e-o-ogunyemi/)
* SAND Journal: *delicate abecedarian* (Print)
* Bath Magg: [*Broken*](https://www.bathmagg.com/ernestoogunyemi/)
* Chestnut Review: [*Glory*](https://chestnutreview.com/cr_v3_n3/ernest-ogunyemi-glory/)
* Pepper Coast: [*Song, (un)declared*](https://peppercoastlit.weebly.com/ernest-o-ograveguacuteny7865miacute-song-undeclared.html)
* Sheila-Na-Gig Online: [*[I want to tell you]*](https://sheilanagigblog.wordpress.com/volume-6-3-spring-2022/ernest-o-ogunyemi/?preview_id=12795&preview_nonce=0f9ebe6449&_thumbnail_id=-1&preview=true)
* Thuya Poetry Review: *I bind longing in Jesus’ name*
* Rust + Moth: [*Shrubs, Blackbirds, Silence*](https://rustandmoth.com/work/shrub-blackbirds-silence/)
* Poetry Ireland Review: *Dream Song, Slow Dance with an Ache* (Print)
* AGNI: *look, Lord* (Print)
* The Journal: [*15721*](http://thejournalmag.org/archives/20411)
* Bodega: [*Lay Me Down*](http://www.bodegamag.com/articles/573-lay-me-down)
* Ghost City Press: [*my mother died & I became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*](https://ghostcitypress.com/2020-summer-series/my-mother-died-amp-i-became-) (a microchap)
* Oxidant|Engine Box Set Series, Volume 4: [*I call too many things by the name of goodbye*](https://www.oxidantengine.com/order)(a microchap)
* West Trade Review: *[who knows where God]* (Print); *Starry, Starry Night*
* the minnesota review: *Gee* (Print)
* Cincinnati Review: *elegy* (Print)
* The Worcester Review: *Wild, Wild Love* (Print)
* The Beautyful Ones: *Impossible* (Print)
* Harbor Review: [*Ghazal for the Galloping Horses* and *Sit Inside the Grief, Man*](https://www.harbor-review.com/issue-9-forgotten-body)
* Banshee: *“I hear the field say things I can’t bear without a friend”* (Print)
* Fantasy: [*The Road*](https://www.fantasy-magazine.com/fm/poetry/the-road/)
* Arc Poetry: *Sleep, Sleep, Do Not Sleep* (Print)
* Delmarva Review: *Cracked Psalm*; *Glossolalia I* (Print)
* The Moth: *Poem Written on a Mirror* (Print)
* Group Chat Review: *it is mourning again* (forthcoming)
* Kenyon Review: *After the Laying* (Print)
* The South Carolina Review: *About Weaving* (Print)
* Common Ground Review: [*Sèance*](https://www.cgreview.org/magazine/s%C3%A9ance)
* The Sun: *The Dream* (forthcoming)
* Asimov’s: *A Night in Ibadan* (forthcoming)
* Efiko Mag: [*Three poems*](https://efikomag.com/little-inhabitants/)
* disquieting muses quarterly review: *Wednesday Poem* (forthcoming)
* Bayou Magazine: *Book of Poems* (forthcoming, Print)

Selected Publications (Fiction)

* Litro UK: *The New Messiah’s Son* (Print)
* Erotic Africa: The Sex Anthology: [*The S-Word*](https://brittlepaper.com/2018/12/erotic-africa-the-sex-anthology-read-e-book-exploring-millennial-sex-culture-and-romance-in-african-cities/)
* Lucent Dreaming: [*The Days that Came before the Days that Took All that Was Beautiful*](https://lucentdreaming.com/the-days-that-came-before-the-days-that-took-all-that-was-beautiful-by-ernest-o-ogunyemi-lucent-dreaming-issue-6/) (Print)
* 34 Orchards: [*Christmas Chicken*](https://34orchard.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/34-orchard-issue-1-spring-2020.pdf)
* Down River Road: [*How We Remember*](https://downriverroad.org/2020/08/10/how-we-remember-ernest-ogunyemi/) (Print)
* Joyland: [*Mercy*](https://joylandmagazine.com/fiction/mercy/)
* The Dark: [*My Wife*](https://www.thedarkmagazine.com/my-wife/)
* The Maine Review: [*Birdboy*](https://mainereview.com/birdboy/)
* Agbowó: [*The Thing Called Grief*](https://agbowo.org/the-thing-called-grief-ernest-o-ogunyemi/)
* The Dark: [*Yahoo Plus*](https://www.thedarkmagazine.com/yahoo-plus/)
* Litro Nature Issue: [*Eliza*](https://www.litromagazine.com/nature-issue/eliza/)
* Mooncalves: An Anthology of Weird Fiction: *The Tomato* (Print)
* 34 Orchards: *The Flute* (forthcoming)

Selected Essays/Reviews:

* The Poetry Foundation: “[The Poetry of Glossolalia](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/158696/the-poetry-of-glossolalia)”
* AGNI Online: “[The Beating Field: On Reading Poetry Out Loud](https://agnionline.bu.edu/blog/the-beating-field-on-reading-poetry-out-loud/)”
* Efiko Mag: “Reading Clark—“A Decade of Tongues”” (forthcoming)
* Hopkins Review: “A Shifting Portrait” (forthcoming, Print)
* [Songs from a Garden of Ghosts](https://ernestogun.substack.com/p/songs-from-a-garden-of-ghosts-on?s=w)
* [Of Pain and Poetry: A Review of Ricky Ray’s *Quiet, Grit, Glory*](https://ernestogun.substack.com/p/of-pain-and-poetry-a-review-of-ricky?s=w)

Selected Work, *Open Country Mag*

* [TJ Benson Holds History and Hope](https://opencountrymag.com/tj-benson-holds-history-and-hope/)
* [*The Origin of Name* by Adedayo Agarau Review—Narrating Grief](https://opencountrymag.com/the-origin-of-name-by-adedayo-agarau-review-narrating-grief/)
* [*The Rinehart Frames* by Cheswayo Mphanza—An Exciting Achievement in Intertextual Poetry](https://opencountrymag.com/the-rinehart-frames-by-cheswayo-mphanza-an-exciting-achievement-in-intertextual-poetry/)
* [In Fierce Essay, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on Broken Friendships and “Ideological Orthodoxy”](https://opencountrymag.com/in-fierce-essay-chimamanda-ngozi-adichie-on-broken-friendships-and-social-media-ideological-orthodoxy/)
* [Revel, Again, in the Beautiful Absurd](https://opencountrymag.com/revel-again-in-the-beautiful-absurd/)
* [52 Books in 64 Years: Your Guide to Wole Soyinka’s Body of Work](https://opencountrymag.com/52-books-in-64-years-your-guide-to-all-work-by-wole-soyinka/)
* [Linking Sierra Leonean Literature](https://opencountrymag.com/linking-sierra-leonean-literature/).
* [Sankofa by Chibundu Onuzo Review—What Does It Mean for a Woman to Reclaim Herself?](https://opencountrymag.com/sankofa-by-chibundu-onuzo-review-what-does-it-mean-for-a-woman-to-reclaim-herself/)

Read more [here](https://opencountrymag.com/author/ernest-ogunyemi/).

Projects:

* Chapbook, *A Pocket of Genesis* (Variant Literature, 2023)
* Curator, [*The Fire That Is Dreamed Of: the Young African Poets Anthology*](https://agbowo.org/The%20Young%20African%20Poets%20Anthology-Ernest%20Ogunyemi.pdf)

Interviews/ Features:

* Frontier’s Exceptional Poetry from Around the Web: MAY / JUNE 2022: [*Song, (Un)declared*](https://www.frontierpoetry.com/2022/06/27/exceptional-poetry-from-around-the-web-may-june-2022/)
* Daily Trust: [*My Experience Curating an Anthology*](https://content.dailytrust.com.ng/my-experience-curating-anthology-ernest-ogunyemi)
* Brittle Paper: [*Inside Nigerian Literature’s Sponsorship Problem and the Worsening Struggle Between Prizes and Defaulting Funders*](https://brittlepaper.com/2019/10/report-inside-nigerian-literatures-sponsorship-problem-and-the-worsening-struggle-between-prizes-and-defaulting-funders/)
* Lucent Dreaming: [*Ernest O. Ògúnyẹmí in the Spotlight*](https://lucentdreaming.com/ernest-o-ogunyemi-in-the-spotlight/)
* Quick Sip Reviews: [*The Dark #67*](https://quicksipreviews.blogspot.com/2020/12/quick-sips.html?m=1)
* [DIANA MULLINS INTERVIEWS POET ERNEST OGUNYEMI ABOUT THE DEEPEST YEARNINGS TO MANIFEST WHAT IS POSSIBLE](https://mudseasonreview.com/2020/12/diana-mullins-interviews-poet-ernest-ogunyemi-about-the-deepest-yearnings-to-manifest-what-is-possible/).
* a poem in which Ṣàngó hangs lightening & lullabies his children, [starred review](http://quicksipreviews.blogspot.com/2021/01/quick-sips-01152021.html?m=1)
* [Interview with Ernest Ògúnyẹmí | By Onyinyechi Okorie](https://artsloungenyc.com/2021/01/23/interview-with-ernest-ogunyemi-by-onyinyechi-okorie/).
* [World Book Day Recommendations: “Five Books I Love” — Ernest O. Ògúnyẹmí](https://medium.com/@bookoclock/world-book-day-recommendations-five-books-i-love-ernest-o-%C3%B2g%C3%BAny%E1%BA%B9m%C3%AD-cccf467c8797).
* [Craft Book Recommendations from The Masters Review’s Readers](https://mastersreview.com/craft-book-recommendations-from-the-masters-reviews-readers/).
* [ERNEST OGUNYEMI: A QUINTESSENTIAL EXPRESSION OF CONTEMPORARY POETRY](https://litintelligence.org/poetic-conversations-with-ernest-ogunyemi/)

Selected Awards:

* Shortlisted, Alpine Fellowship Poetry Prize 2022
* Finalist, 2022 Gerald Kraak Prize
* Finalist, the 2021 Dan Veach Prize for Younger Poets
* Finalist, the 2021 Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Prize
* A Strange Tools Workshop Fellow, 2021
* Second Place, No Tokens Young Poets’ Prize 2020
* Winner, the Miracle Monocle Award for Young Black Writers (inaugural)
* Finalist, the 2020 Dan Veach Prize for Younger Poets
* Longlisted, Awele Creative Trust Award 2020
* Second Place, Kreative Diadem Writing Contest 2019
* Counterclock Arts Collective Grant Winner, 2019
* Counterclock Arts Collective Independent Fellow, 2019

Editorial/ Educational Experience

* 2021—2025: BA, History and International Studies, Lagos State University
* Mentor: Adroit Summer Mentorship Program, 2023
* 2022 Forms and Features Library Visiting Teaching Artist, the Poetry Foundation
* Mentor: Adroit Summer Mentorship Program, 2022
* Poetry Facilitator: Introduction to Poetry Writing, Nairobi Writing Academy, 2021
* 2020—: Assistant Editor, *Counterclock Journal*
* 2020—2021: Poetry Reader, *Palette Poetry*
* 2020—2021: Fiction Reader, *The Masters Review*
* Mentee: Adroit Summer Mentorship Program, 2019
* Society of Books and Magazines Editors of Nigeria: Editing Workshop, 2019
* Workshop Participant: Goethe Institute Afro YA Workshop, Lagos, 2019
* Write With Style Workshop: Oris Aigbokhaevbolo, 2019