

Mekiya Outini

[Website](#)

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EDUCATION

- 2019** **Master's of Fine Arts in English – Fiction**
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- 2015** **Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Minor in Psychology, Certificate in Publishing**
University of North Carolina, Wilmington
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 – Present** **Co-Founder & Writer – The DateKeepers**
Interviewing and profiling people with disabilities, advocates, and allies around the world. Writing op-eds, essays, and articles. Soliciting and editing content from contributing writers and collaborators. Promoting content on social media.
- 2015 – Present** **Freelance Editor – Self-Employed**
Offering developmental and structural editing, copyediting, and proofreading for book-length manuscripts in multiple genres, academic articles, resumes, CVs, application essays, and other professional documents.
- 2021 – 2022** **Writer & Copyeditor – *ABILITY Magazine***
Interviewed persons with disabilities, advocates, and allies, editing interview transcripts, drafted profiles, copyedited content, and conducted other tasks (fact-checking, communications, etc.) as needed.
- 2016 – 2021** **Special Programs Staffer – Spring International Language Center**
Served as a cultural ambassador and chaperone for students and scholars with diverse degrees of English proficiency from over forty countries.
- 2018 – 2019** **Instructor – Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**
Developed two stand-alone lectures on the *Ramayana* and the *Thousand and One Nights*, respectively, and delivered these to small groups of senior citizens.
- 2015 – 2019** **Graduate Student Instructor – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English**

Taught fifteen undergraduate sections across four years as the instructor of record. Created original reading lists, lectures, exercises, and activities; conferenced with and mentored students; graded all assignments and papers.

2017 – 2018

Research Instructor's Assistant – Mullin's Library, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Assisted the research librarian for the English and Communications Departments at the U of A with special projects, data collection, analysis of library holdings, and development of supplemental instruction materials.

2015 – 2017

Writing Tutor – CLASS+ Writing Support, University of Arkansas

Helped students brainstorm, outline, draft, revise, and proofread a variety of documents, face-to-face and online. Gained experience with ESL and international students. Trained to tutor clients who are blind/visually impaired.

2013 – 2015

Writing Tutor – University Writing Center, UNC Wilmington

Helped students brainstorm, outline, draft, revise, and proofread academic papers, face-to-face and online. Mentored new tutors and offered pedagogical feedback.

2013 – 2015

Poetry Editor – *Atlantis Magazine*, UNCW Student Media Center

Reviewed all poetry submissions, selected poems for publication, solicited revisions, and offered feedback to poets. Organized events and fundraisers. Trained a replacement poetry editor before departure.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019

Creative Nonfiction Essay Writing (1 Section) – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English

Introduction to writing creative nonfiction: students read contemporary essays and analyzed them from a craft perspective, completed regular journaling assignments and writing exercises, and learned the workshop format for exchanging feedback. Major writing assignments: memoir, braided essay, collage/hermit crab essay, new journalism.

2018

World Literature II: 1650 – Present (2 Sections) – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English

Students read selected poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama with an emphasis on the literary legacies of racial ideology, European imperialism, and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Lectures synthesized historical, cultural, and literary perspectives. Students led discussions, maintained

reading journals, and performed role-playing exercises to deepen their understanding of the texts. Major writing assignments: translation comparison/adaptation comparison, research paper/closing arguments.

2017 – 2018

World Literature I: Antiquity – 1650 (3 Sections) – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English

Students read selected poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and drama with an emphasis on literary articulations of sex, gender, and heroic archetypes in long-form narratives. Original lectures introduced dominant and marginal perspectives to enrich student-led discussions. Students engaged with texts through a variety of interactive exercises. Major writing assignments: translation comparison/adaptation comparison, research paper/closing arguments.

2016 – 2017

Composition II (3 Sections) – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English

Introduction to meta-writing and ethnographic research: students read peer-reviewed articles, learned about rhetorical theory and procedures for ethnographic research, analyzed popular and academic texts, conducted interviews and field research, and presented their findings in oral and written formats. Major writing assignments: literacy critique, literacy study, rhetorical analysis, and analysis of a discourse community.

2015

Composition I (1 Section) – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Department of English

Introduction to academic writing, research, and critical thinking: students read articles from newspapers, magazines, and blogs, analyzed them rhetorically, and presented their findings in oral and written formats. Exercises familiarized them with MLA guidelines and basic grammatical principles as well as stylistic, organizational, and persuasive strategies. Major writing assignments: summary, synthesis, rhetorical analysis, and argumentative synthesis.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

May 2014 CRLA Master Tutor Certification
December 2013 CRLA Tutor Certification

PUBLICATIONS

Fiction

November 2022 “The Red Herring.” *The Madison Review Extended Cut*. 18.
<https://www.themadisonrevw.com/single-post/the-madison-review-extended-cut-no-18>.

- September 2022 Chapters I & II of *Ashes, Ashes: A Novel*. *West Trade Review*. 13 (Fall Edition). <https://westtradereview.com/onlineexclusivef22walters.html>.
- June 2021 “Lorelei’s Worm.” *Chautauqua Literary Journal*. Water Issue (18).
- July 2020 “Shibboleth.” *The Write Launch*. Long Short Story. 39. <https://thewritelaunch.com/2020/07/shibboleth/>.
- June 2020 “The Man Who Misspelled God.” *Sunspot Literary Magazine*. 2:1. <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/02648e54-da59-4f41-9110-a5be25d4dace/downloads/V2%20I2%20Rev%208-24-20.pdf?ver=1641831664174>
- April 2013 “They Named Her Blue.” *Atlantis Magazine*. 64.
- June 2020 “Stall.” *Diverse Voices Quarterly*. 13:4.

Creative Nonfiction

- December 2022 “A Christmas Krachel.” *The DateKeepers*. <https://medium.com/@mekiya/a-christmas-krachels-4f3673b64d52>
- July 2022 “The Title is Your Name.” *Michigan Quarterly Review*. 61:3.
- May 2022 “Ouroboros – An Anxious Person’s Guide.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/ouroboros-an-anxious-persons-guide/>.
- April 2014 “Goa.” *Atlantis Magazine*. 67.

Journalism

- January 2023 “Osama Shamallakh Says ‘I-CAN’: Elevating the Lives of People with Disabilities in Occupied Palestine.” *The DateKeepers*. Co-authored with Itto Outini. <https://thedatakeepers.medium.com/osama-shamallakh-says-i-can-elevating-the-lives-of-people-with-disabilities-in-occupied-ea5b86e52dad>.
- December 2022 “The Accessible Revolution: Vashkar Bhattacharjee and the Birth of an Inclusive Digital Bangladesh.” *The DateKeepers*. Co-authored with Itto Outini. <https://medium.com/@mekiya/the-accessible-revolution-vashkar-bhattacharjee-and-the-birth-of-an-inclusive-digital-bangladesh-5bacd050c39c>
- December 2022 “Couchsurfing While Deafblind.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/maria-bamford-digital-issue/>.

- December 2022 “The Ball’s in Our Court Now: David Wantuck on Sports and COVID-Era Access for the Deaf Community.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/maria-bamford-digital-issue/>.
- May 2022 “Offering New Tools.” *Ozark Farm & Neighbor*. <https://ozarksfn.com/2022/05/26/offering-new-tools/>.
- February 2022 Interview with Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/stephanie-ortoleva/>.
- February 2022 “Opening the Doors of Perception: A Young Deaf Woman Finds Her Calling through Technology, Community, and Education.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/opening-the-doors-of-perception/>.
- October 2021 “Deepening His Ag Knowledge.” *Ozark Farm & Neighbor*. <https://ozarksfn.com/2021/10/27/deepening-his-ag-knowledge/>.

Poetry

- March 2022 “Soon We’ll Sell Ourselves for Parts.” *Willow Springs Magazine*. 89.
- August 2014 “Alice.” “City of You.” *Actual Paper Magazine*.
- April 2014 “Impersonal Birds.” “The Jackhammers.” *Middle Gray Magazine*. 4.
- April 2014 “Wind Will Be Wind.” “The Jackhammers.” *Episodic Magazine*. 5.
- January 2014 “Subject Permanence.” “Personal Birds.” “Chariot.” *Howl*.
- April 2013 “Island Hoppers.” “Only One.” “Buoy.” “Remember.” “Imaginary Love.” *Atlantis Magazine*. 64.
- April 2012 “We Are from the Sea.” “Strange Kitchen.” *Gulf Stream Magazine*. 7.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- May 2016 “The Masala Complex: Rape-Revenge Cinema, Grassroots Feminism, and the Collision of Gazes in *Mardaani*.” *Film Matters*. 7:1.
- April 2014 “Revising Revisionist Herstory: Reconstructing Gender Narratives Before, During, and After the Partition of India.” *Palaver Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Blog Posts

- September 2022 “FORWARD: Fulbrighters with Disabilities Breaks New Ground, Leaves No One Behind.” Fulbright Association Blog.
<https://fulbright.org/2022/09/12/forward-fulbrighters-with-disabilities-breaks-new-ground-leaves-no-one-behind/>.
- August 2022 “Fulbrighters with Disabilities Launch.” Fulbright Association Blog.
<https://fulbright.org/2022/08/02/fulbrighters-with-disabilities-launch/>.

Book Reviews

- May 2019 Review of *Triangulum: A Novel*, by Masande Ntshanga. Published by Two Dollar Radio. *Arkansas International*.
- April 2019 Review of *Rough Magic: Riding the World’s Loneliest Horse Race*, by Lara Prior-Palmer. Published by Catapult. *Arkansas International*.
- March 2019 Review of *The Archive of Alternate Endings*, by Lindsey Drager. Published by Dzanc Books. *Arkansas International*.
- February 2019 Review of *Companions in Conflict: Animals in Occupied Palestine*, by Penny Johnson. Published by Melville House. *Arkansas International*.
- January 2019 Review of *Night School: A Reader for Grownups*, by Zsófia Bán, translated by Jim Tucker. Published by Open Letter. *Arkansas International*.
- November 2018 Review of *The Females: A Novel*, by Wolfgang Hilbig, translated by Isabel Fargo Cole. Published by Two Lines Press. *Arkansas International*.
- September 2018 Review of *American Fictionary*, by Dubravka Ugrešić, translated by Celia Hawkesworth and Ellen Elias-Bursac. Published by Open Letter. *Arkansas International*.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- November 2022 Honorable Mention for the 2022 Leapfrog Press Global Fiction Prize (*Bathwater, or, The Miseducation of Ness Chairmonte*)
- September 2022 Semi-Finalist for the 2022 Marianne Russo Emerging Writer’s Awards (“The Red Herring”)
- April 2022 Semi-Finalist for the 2021 Chanticleer Somerset Awards (*Ashes, Ashes: A Novel*)
- May 2022 Finalist for the 2021 Chanticleer Awards for Short Stories, Novelettes, and Novellas (*Bathwater, or, The Miseducation of Ness Chairmonte*)
- November 2021 Wait-Listed for the UCross Foundation 2022 Spring Residency Program
- September 2021 Semi-Finalist for the 2021 Marianne Russo Emerging Writer’s Awards (*Ashes, Ashes: A Novel*)

December 2020	Winner of <i>Sunspot Literary Magazine</i> 's 2020 Editor's Prize ("The Man Who Misspelled God")
September 2020	Honorable Mention for the Miami Book Fair's 2020 Emerging Writer's Fellowship (<i>Ashes, Ashes: A Novel</i>)
March 2020	Finalist for the <i>Texas Review</i> 's 2020 George Garret Fiction Prize (<i>Shibboleth: Stories</i>)
2012	Chancellor's List at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington
2011 – 2014	Dean's List at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington
May 2011	Best Creative Writing Student Departmental Award from Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

2015 – 2019	Graduate Fellowship – University of Arkansas
2018	Study Abroad Grant – African American Studies Department <i>3-week educational trip to Ghana in summer, 2018</i>
2013	Stella Doran International Student Travel Award – UNCW <i>Studied at the University of Hyderabad, India in spring, 2013</i>

PUBLIC SPEAKING

August 2022	Delivered the Keynote Speech in the General Lecture for Freshmen, Faculty of Humanities, Jenderal Soedirman University. Indonesia.
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

March 2015	"Revising Revisionist Herstory: Reconstructing Gender Narratives Before, During, and After the Partition of India." The Southeast Women's Studies Association (SEWSA). Annual Conference: The Ebb and Flow of Feminism. University of North Carolina, Wilmington.
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CONFERENCES ATTENDED

June 2022	15th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. New York City, New York.
March 2022	Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference & Book Fair. Philadelphia, PA.
March 2018	Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference & Book Fair. Tampa, FL.
February 2017	Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference & Book Fair. Washington DC.
March 2016	Association of Writers & Writing Programs Annual Conference & Book Fair. Los Angeles, CA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2017 – Present	Golden Key Society
2013 – Present	Phi Eta Sigma
2012 – Present	Honors Society
2011 – Present	Phi Beta Kappa
2011 – Present	National Society of High School Honors

VOLUNTEER

2022 – Present	Communications Specialist – Fulbrighters with Disabilities Reviewing digital content (promotional materials, blogs, newsletters, etc.), copyediting written content, making recommendations for the chapter’s digital content strategy, and ensuring that digital content is accessible in accord with WCAG guidelines.
2020	Grocery Delivery Driver – Canopy Northwest Arkansas Delivered fresh produce from the local farmer’s market to refugee households.
2018 – 2020	Area Representative – Youth for Understanding Interviewed American families interested in hosting exchange students and students interested in going abroad. Monitored participating households, mediated conflicts, and assessed scholarship applications.
2018	Conversation Group Leader – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville’s International Students Office Led discussions with international students practicing their English speaking and listening skills.
2017	Ambassador – Afghan Fulbright Conference on Social Movements at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Welcomed Afghan students to Fayetteville, shuttled them to and from the airport, engaged in discussions regarding cultural exchange, American-Afghan relations, and graduate student life with participants.
2016 – 2018	Conversation Partner – Spring International Language Center Met weekly with international students practicing their English speaking and listening skills.