

Itto Outini

Website

itto@thedatekeepers.com

EDUCATION

- 2020** **MA in Journalism and Strategic Media**
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA
- 2016** **BA with Distinction in English, Applied Linguistics, Pedagogy, & Methods of Teaching**
Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco
- 2015** **Associate's Degree with Distinction in English Literature**
University of Moulay Ismail, Meknes, Morocco
-

SKILLS

- Languages** Fluent English, Arabic (Standard + all vernaculars), and Tamazight. Conversational French.
- Hard Skills** Proficient in Microsoft Office 365, Google Suite products, and LinkedIn.
- Soft Skills** Public speaking, written & verbal communication, grant-writing, text & audio editing, storytelling, social media management, publicity, outreach, marketing, networking, strategic development, creative problem-solving, market research, leadership, business counseling.
- Certifications** TOEFL (2016). IELTS (2016). GRE (2016). Certificate in the Art of Debate from the American Language Centre in Rabat (2016). Certificate in the Art of Arguing from the American Language Centre in Rabat (2016). Certificates in Public Speaking from the American Language Centres in Rabat (2016) and Mèknes (2014).
-

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present** **Co-Founder & Book Coach – The DateKeepers**
Guiding and supporting authors of literary fiction, memoir, scholarship, and journalism as they craft their manuscripts, research and apply for opportunities and funding, generate book proposals, develop publicity, outreach, and marketing strategies, build industry-critical skills, and define their personal brands to ensure the long-term sustainability of their artistic careers.

- 2015 – Present** **Author – Self-Employed**
Writing short-form and book-length literary fiction and creative nonfiction, solo and in partnership with my husband, Mekiya Outini.
- 2021 – 2022** **Journalist – *ABILITY Magazine***
Interviewed subjects and produced interview transcripts and profiles for publication. Developed and implemented promotional campaigns to raise the magazine’s visibility internationally.
- 2021 – 2022** **Intern – United Nations Development Programme**
Contributed to the development of proposals, strategies, and promotional material. Tested digital systems.
- 2021** **Interpreter – Olathe Public School District, Kansas City, MO**
Provided Tamazight-to-English and English-to-Tamazight interpretation for students, parents, and educators in the school district.
- 2021** **Producer – KKFI 90.1 FM, Kansas City, MO**
Produced and hosted shows for *Radio Active Magazine*. Conducted outreach, and interviewed subjects live on air.
- 2019** **International Scholars & Students Office Intern – University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**
Interviewed subjects and reported on efforts to expand cross-cultural understanding on campus. Participated in the Human Library Program.
- 2018** **Journalism Intern – KUAF 91.3 Public Radio, Fayetteville, AR**
Pitched, interviewed subjects for, and produced a podcast using Logic Pro X software.
- 2016** **Reporter – Radio Medina FM, Mèknes, Morocco**
Hosted radio programs covering topics of national and international interest. Wrote articles and conducted on-site interviews for radio broadcasts.
- 2016** **Reporter & Producer – SNRT National Radio & Television Broadcasting Network, Rabat, Morocco**
Hosted radio programs in English and Arabic. Conducted on-site interviews to be aired on television. Scheduled radio and television programs to be broadcast on-air.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming “Chapter 9: English” Memoir excerpt co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The North American Review*. 310.1.
- April 2023 “How Fulbright Believed in Me When No One Else Did, and How I had to Break the Mold to Pass this Gift On.” *The Fulbright Chronicle*
<https://fulbright-chronicles.com/issues/2-1/how-fulbright-believed-in-me/>
- February 2020 “A Moroccan Orphan Finds the American Dream is Also Accessible.” Op-Ed. *The Chicago Tribune*.
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2020/02/28/commentary-a-moroccan-orphan-finds-the-american-dream-is-also-accessible/>

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2024 MacDowell Fellowship (Spring/Summer Residency)
- 2023 Steinbeck Fellowship
- 2022 Fulbright in the Classroom Award
- 2019 – 2022 Linda K. Overstreet Scholarship
- 2019 Team Media Award, International Culture Center, University of Arkansas
- 2019 Certificate of Appreciation, International Culture Center, University of Arkansas
- 2019 Arkansas Traveler Award, Governor of Arkansas
- 2017 Fulbright Scholarship (AMIDEAST) to earn an MA in Journalism and Strategic Media at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- 2017 Honor Certificate, American Language Centre, Rabat, Morocco
- 2016 Honor Certificate, American Language Centre, Rabat, Morocco
- 2015 – 2016 Scholarship, Moroccan Foundation for Excellent Students (FME)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- April 2023 California Institute of Technology
- February 2022 International Trade Center
- July 2021 Verizon Wireless
- April 2018 North Seattle College
- November 2017 Boston Polytechnic Institute
- September 2016 English House Language Centre, Mèknes, Morocco
- June 2014 Fluency Language Centre, Azrou, Morocco
- July 2010 Ghaly Centre, Azrou, Morocco

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- December 2022** **The United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
Networked with stakeholders, policymakers, and decision-makers.
- June 2022** **15th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
Co-chaired Roundtable 2: Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship of Persons with Disabilities.
- July 2018 – 2020** **Spring International Pre-Academic Orientation**
Participated in a series of panels welcoming incoming cohorts of Fulbright scholars.

VOLUNTEER

- 2024** **Grant Committee Member – ArtsKC**
Reading, evaluating, commenting on, and making decision recommendations regarding grant applications from applicants based in the Kansas City metropolitan area.
- 2024** **Reader – *The Harvard Review***
Read fiction and nonfiction submissions to *The Harvard Review*, contributed comments, voted to accept or reject submissions.