

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
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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).
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 – Present** **Co-Founder & Book Coach – The DateKeepers**
Guiding and supporting authors of literary fiction and memoir 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, *Living Blind in the Age of Technology*, using Logic Pro X software.
- 2016** **Reporter – Radio Medina FM, Mèknes, Morocco**
Hosted radio programs on topics of national and international interest. Wrote articles and conducted on-site radio interviews.
- 2016** **Reporter & Producer – SNRT National Radio & Television Broadcasting Network, Rabat, Morocco**
Hosted radio programs, conducted on-site television interviews, and managed broadcast schedules for radio and television.

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/>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & RESIDENCIES

Mar – Apr 2024 **MacDowell Fellowship (Spring/Summer Residency)**
While in residence at MacDowell, I completed my memoir.

2023 – 2024 **Steinbeck Fellows Program**
I was selected as a fellow by the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at San José University to support the completion of my memoir.

2022 **Fulbright in the Classroom Award**
As a recipient of this competitive grant, designed to expand interest in and access to grants and scholarships awarded by the Fulbright Program, I created and hosted a series of virtual information sessions for students and prospective scholars all around the world.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2019 – 2022 **Linda K. Overstreet Scholarship**
This scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to University of Arkansas students with physical disabilities, demonstrated financial need, and good academic standing.

2017 – 2020 **Fulbright Scholarship (AMIDEAST)**
As a Fulbright scholar, I completed my MA in Journalism and Strategic Media at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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 and policymakers.

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 **Reader – *The Harvard Review***
Reading fiction and nonfiction submissions to *The Harvard Review*, contributing comments, voting to accept or reject submissions.