

# Itto Outini

[Website](#)

---

## 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 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**

**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**

***Fiction***

Forthcoming

“The Full Package.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Hidden Peaks*.

Forthcoming

“Old Meats and No Service.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Stonecoast Review Literary Journal*.

- Forthcoming “Johnny, From Another World.” Short Fiction. Co-Authored with Mekiya Outini. *Literally Stories*.
- Forthcoming “How to Make Your Man Smile.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *DarkWinter*.
- Forthcoming “The New Sufyan.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Gargoyle*.
- Forthcoming “For the Sake of Truth and Beauty.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Rundelania*. Issue 17.
- Forthcoming “The Breadwinner.” Short fiction. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Fine Lines*. 34.1.
- Forthcoming “To the Island and Halfway Back.” Short story. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Sortes*.
- April 2025 “Ten Years.” Short story. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *Modern Literature*. <https://modernliterature.org/ten-years-by-itto-mekiya-outini/>

### ***Nonfiction***

- Forthcoming “Neutral Territory.” Essay. *Silk Road Review*.
- Forthcoming “I Stepped in Benjamin Franklin’s Poo.” Essay. *Southland Alibi*.
- Forthcoming “Who Watches the Witches.” Essay. *Good River Review*.
- Forthcoming “Over the Counter, Under the Toilet Seat.” Essay. *Lowestoft Chronicle*. Issue 62.
- Forthcoming “Child of the Book.” Essay. *Jewish Life*.
- April 2025 “Cost-Benefit Analysis.” Essay. *Emerge Literary Journal*. Issue 33 | 34. <https://emrgeliteraryjournal.com/cost-benefit-analysis/>
- February 2025 “Chapter 9: English” Memoir excerpt. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The North American Review*. 310.1. <https://northamericanreview.org/node/18248>
- February 2025 “The Lazy Angel.” Essay. *Corporeal*. Vol. XVII. <https://www.corporeallitmag.com/volume-xvii/ittooutini>
- 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**            **15<sup>th</sup> 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 – 2025**            **Reader – *The Review***  
Read fiction and nonfiction submissions to *The Harvard Review*,  
contributed comments, voted to accept or reject submissions.