

Itto Outini

Website

(479) 502-3244

itto.outini@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- 2020** **MA in Journalism and Strategic Media**
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA
Thesis: *The Impact of Social Media on the Lives of Blind People: Facebook Groups as a Case Study.*
- 2016** **BA with Distinction in English, Applied Linguistics, Pedagogy, & Methods of Teaching**
Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco
Thesis: *The Impacts of Information Communication Technologies on the Lives of Blind People and English as a foreign language (EFL) learners as a case study.*
- 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 Braille (standard & contracted, English, Arabic, & French), JAWS, Apple Voiceover and other screen readers and assistive technologies, Microsoft Office products, Google Suite Products, Apple products, audio editing & production software.
- Soft Skills** Public speaking, leadership, written and verbal communication, interviewing, advocacy, creativity, storytelling, independence, collaboration, self-teaching, problem-solving, self-direction, self-motivation.
- Certifications** TOEFL (2016). IELTS (2016). TKT (Modules 1 – 3) (2016). GRE (2016). TOEC (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

- 2020 – Present** **Consultant & Public Speaker – Self-Employed**
Offering consultations on a suite of topics including, but not limited to, how to find and apply for study abroad programs, how to practice effective self-advocacy, how to start a business, and how to write a memoir. Available to speak on a range of topics including my life story, overcoming adversity, education, technology, and more.
- 2022 – Present** **Co-Founder | Editor-in-Chief | Journalist – The DateKeepers**
Co-founded an international media platform dedicated to telling untold stories, promoting nuanced journalism, and spotlighting well-lived lives. Duties include conducting interviews; writing profiles, op-eds, commentaries, essays, and articles; soliciting content from contributing writers; coordinating activities with collaborators; and organizing outreach and social media marketing campaigns.
- 2021 – 2023** **Representative – Fulbrighters with Disabilities**
Represented Fulbrighters with Disabilities within the Fulbright community and to external partners. Hosted and speaking at virtual events and webinars.
- 2021 – 2022** **Founder & President – Fulbrighters with Disabilities**
Founded FWD under the auspices of the Fulbright Association. Established the mission of supporting scholars with disabilities around the world. Assembled and led a diverse team of Fulbright scholars with disabilities and allies.
- 2021 – 2022** **Journalist – *ABILITY Magazine***
Interviewed people with disabilities, advocates, and allies around the world. Produced polished interview transcripts and profiles. Promoted the magazine's content on social media and other virtual community forums.
- 2021 – 2022** **Diversity and Inclusion Intern – United Nations Development Programme**
Worked on diverse teams developing strategies to advance the inclusion of young professionals with disabilities in the workplace and across the development sector. Conducted accessibility testing on the Quantum system. Contributed to communications and promotional material, particularly during the 2021 International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- 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 participants in campus events such as iFriend and Campus Cousin and reported on efforts to expand cultural understanding through education and relationship-building. Participated in the Human Library event as a human book, sharing my story face-to-face with students, staff, and faculty. Prepared and delivered a speech on the rights of women in developing country during an International Women’s Day event.
- 2018** **Journalism Intern – KUAF 91.3 Public Radio, Fayetteville, AR**
Pitched and produced *Living Blind in the Age of Technology*, a podcast exploring how technology can enable blind and visually impaired individuals to live independently, communicate, build relationships, form communities, succeed academically, and navigate the sighted world. Interviewed subjects, virtually and in person, about their use of apps, electronic and printed Braille, and screen reading technology. Used Logic Pro X software to edit and produce the podcast.
- 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.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- April 2023** **California Institute of Technology**
Spoke in person to students, scholars, researchers, faculty, and community members about the positive impact that technology has had on my life and how it has empowered me to be the successful blind woman I am today.
- March 2022** **Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind**
Spoke virtually to the administration about my journey from homelessness in Morocco to success in America and the importance of accessibility.
- February 2022** **International Trade Center**
Spoke virtually about the intersection of disability, technology, social attitudes, employment, and immigration.

- July 2021** **Verizon Wireless**
Spoke virtually to employees about the importance of digital accessibility.
- July 2020** **Canopy Northwest Arkansas**
Spoke virtually about the intersection of immigration and disability, the dearth of accessible services available to immigrants with disabilities, and what must be done to help immigrants with disabilities assimilate into their host communities.
- April 2018** **North Seattle College**
Spoke in person about the intersection of immigration and disability and the importance of accessible educational resources.
- November 2017** **Boston Polytechnic Institute**
Spoke in person about the intersection of immigration and disability and the importance of accessible educational resources.
- February 2017** **School for the Blind in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
Spoke in person about my life story and overcoming adversity.
- September 2016** **English House Language Centre, Mèknes, Morocco**
Spoke in person about my methods of achieving fluency in English and shared tips to support other blind learners.
- June 2014** **Fluency Language Centre, Azrou, Morocco**
Spoke in person about how to succeed as a blind student in the Moroccan mainstream education system.
- February 2013** **Rashad Association, Mèknes, Morocco**
Spoke in person about my life story and overcoming adversity.
- March 2012** **Homti Association, Azrou, Morocco**
Spoke in person about my method of preparing for the high school exams as a blind student and what sighted students can do to support their blind and visually impaired peers.
- July 2010** **Ghaly Centre, Azrou, Morocco**
Spoke in person about my study methods and how blind learners can overcome the challenges we face in the Moroccan education system.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- May 2023** **The Caring Economy Podcast with Toby Usnik.**
Interviewed by Toby Usnik for the episode “Itto & Mekiya Outini: Disability Advocates, Journalists, Co-Founders of The DateKeepers.”
- November 2022** **Talk Radio Europe – The Lifestyles Show**
Interviewed by Selina Mackenzie about my life story and forthcoming memoir, *Blindness is the Light of My Life*.
- October 2022** **RNIB – Tracks of My Life**
Interviewed by Toby Davey about my life story, relationship to music, and forthcoming memoir, *Blindness is the Light of My Life*.
- August 2022** **BBC World Radio – Lives Less Ordinary**
Interviewed by Jo Fidgen about my life story and forthcoming memoir, *Blindness is the Light of My Life*.
- November 2021** **Blind Abilities Podcast**
Interviewed by Jeff Thompson about my life story, professional accomplishments, and forthcoming memoir, *Blindness is the Light of My Life*.
- November 2021** **ABILITY Magazine**
Interviewed by Chet Cooper about my life story, professional accomplishments, including founding Fulbrighters with Disabilities and serving as a disability inclusion intern with UNDP.
- March 2021** **KMBC Channel 9 – News at Noon**
Interviewed about my life story, my passion for learning, and my love of technology.
- March 2021** **Authority Magazine**
Interviewed by Vicky Culas and profiled under the title “Fulbright Alumna, Journalist, and Feminist Itto Outini: I Am Living Proof of the American Dream.”
- January 2021** **KKFI 90.1 Kansas City, MO**
Interviewed by Bill Schwab about my life story.
- January 2018** **KUAF 91.3 Fayetteville, AR**
Interviewed by Jacqueline Froelich about my life in Morocco and getting the Fulbright scholarship.

- October 2017** **UA TV, Fayetteville, AR**
Interviewed by Wendy Naomi about my life in Morocco and getting the Fulbright scholarship.
- July 2017** **Hespress, Rabat, Morocco**
Interviewed by Hassan Ali about my life story, overcoming adversity, earning the Fulbright, and going to America.
- October 2016** **Radio Medina FM, Mèknes, Morocco**
Interviewed by Abdullah Khalid about my life story and dreams of going to America and working for the UN.
- July 2016** **SNRT National Radio & Television Broadcasting Network, Rabat, Morocco**
Interviewed by Jihan Mynah about my life story, goals and dreams, and relationship to education.
- September 2015** **SNRT Local Radio & Television Broadcasting Network, Mèknes, Morocco**
Interviewed by Rik Goverde about my decision not to join protests led by other blind university students, my goals and dreams, and the importance of education.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- March 2023** **Finalsite University Conference**
Gave a talk on disability, digital accessibility, and education, highlighting the impact that technology has had on my life and how it expands opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 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 2020** **Mobility International – Conference on International Education for Persons with Disabilities – Panel on Middle East and North African Exchange Programs**
Spoke virtually about my experiences as a blind Fulbright scholar and the importance of international exchange programs for people with disabilities.
- July 2018 – 2020** **Spring International Pre-Academic Orientation**

Participated in a series of in-person and virtual panels, welcoming incoming cohorts of Fulbright scholars, speaking about my experiences as a Fulbright scholar, and helping to guide incoming Fulbrighters as they navigated academic, social, and cultural challenges.

PUBLICATIONS

Interviews & Profiles

- September 2023 “The Chorus: Through Literature and Dramaturgy, Alan Robinson Unchains Himself.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-chorus-through-literature-and-dramaturgy-alan-robinson-unchains-himself>.
- July 2023 “Soukra: An E-Commerce Platform Showcases Tunisian Artists and Artisans Post-Arab Spring.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/soukra-an-e-commerce-platform-showcases-tunisian-artists-and-artisans-post-arab-spring>.
- June 2023 “To Make a Difference in This Life: A Mother is Outlived by Her Investment in Her Son.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/to-make-a-difference-in-this-life-a-mother-is-survived-by-her-investment-in-her-son>.
- May 2023 “Thinker, Toiler, Sportsman Spry: Blind Cricketer Sonu Golkar is Changing India and the World.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/thinker-toiler-sportsman-spry-blind-cricketer-sonu-golkar-is-changing-india-and-the-world>.
- April 2023 “A New Vision for Sri Lanka: Manique Gunaratne was almost a Doctor. Now She’s Healing Other Wounds.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/a-new-vision-for-sri-lanka-manique-gunaratne-was-almost-a-doctor-now-she-s-healing-other-wounds>.
- March 2023 “At the Nexus: Helen Burge Incorporates Accessibility Across Her Life.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/at-the-nexus-helen-burge-incorporates-accessibility-across-her-life>.
- February 2023 “Advocacy in the Balance: Ben VanHook Gives Gratitude its Due without Denying Loss.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.

<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/advocacy-in-the-balance-ben-vanhook-gives-gratitude-its-due-without-denying-loss>.

- January 2023 “The Heroine with a Thousand Interfaces: Amy Pedid Weaves a Story of a World that Can Work for Us All.” *The DateKeepers*. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-heroine-with-a-thousand-interfaces-amy-pedid-weaves-a-story-of-a-world-that-can-work-for-us-all>.
- January 2023 “Osama Shamallakh Says ‘I-CAN’: Elevating the Lives of People with Disabilities in Occupied Palestine.” *The DateKeepers*. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/osama-shamallakh-elevate>.
- December 2022 “The Accessible Revolution: Vashkar Bhattacharjee and the Birth of an Inclusive Digital Bangladesh.” *The DateKeepers*. Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-accessible-revolution-vashkar-bhattacharjee-and-the-birth-of-an-inclusive-digital-bangladesh>.
- December 2022 “Interview with Professor Arlene S. Kanter.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/interview-with-professor-arlene-s-kanter/>.
- December 2022 “Tricia Malowney – Now My Journey’s About Empowering Others.” *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/tricia-malowney-now-my-journeys-about-empowering-others/>.
- April 2022 “Maria Teresa Lago – Laying Foundations for the Next Generation.” Profile. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/maria-teresa-lago-laying-foundations-for-the-next-generation/>.
- April 2022 “Hannah Orban – Equalizing Opportunities.” Interview. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/interview-with-hannah-orban/>.
- March 2022 “Interview with Cortney Radocaj.” Interview. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/cortney-radocaj-intersectionality-publishing-and-diverse-literature/>.
- March 2022 “Interview with Elizabeth Sammons – Citizen of the World.” Interview. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/elizabeth-sammons-citizen-of-the-world/>.
- February 2022 “Interview with Lu Randall.” Interview. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/lu-randall/>.

Essays, Monographs, Op-Eds & Commentaries

- September 2023 “The Witches Within.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-witches-within>.
- August 2023 “ChatGPT is Here, and We are Not Afraid.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*. <https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/chatgpt-is-here-and-we-are-not-afraid>.
- June 2023 “Banking on a Myth.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/banking-on-myths>.
- May 2023 “The Eyes of the Beholder.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/in-the-eyes-of-the-beholder>.
- 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/>.
- March 2023 “Ignorance Isn’t Always Bliss, but Neither is it Shame.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/ignorance-isn-t-always-bliss-but-neither-is-it-shame>.
- February 2023 “When There’s No Such Thing as Trust.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/when-there-s-no-such-thing-as-trust>.
- December 2022 “Coronavirus, Kelly Clarkson, Coffee, and Me.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/coronavirus-kelly-clarkson-coffee-and-me>.
- April 2022 “Do We Really Have to Go with the Flow – The Reality Behind Remittances.” Op-Ed. *ABILITY Magazine*. <https://abilitymagazine.com/do-we-really-have-to-go-with-the-flow-the-reality-behind-remittances/>.
- March 2022 “The Pandemic is Accessible, Too.” Op-Ed. *ABILITY Magazine*.
<https://abilitymagazine.com/the-pandemic-is-accessible-too/>.
- February 2020 “A Moroccan Orphan Finds the American Dream is Also Accessible.” Op-Ed. *The Chicago Tribune*.
<https://medium.com/authority-magazine/fulbright-alumni-journalist-feminist-itto-outini-i-am-living-proof-of-the-american-dream-2ef476d11924>.

Blog Posts

- October 2022 “How the Fulbright Gave Me Access to the World.” Fulbright Association Blog. <https://fulbright.org/2022/10/14/how-the-fulbright-gave-me-access-to-the-world/>

November 2021 “From Homelessness in the Atlas Mountains to the Headquarters of the UN.” UNDP People for 2030 Blog. <https://peoplefor2030.medium.com/from-homelessness-in-the-atlas-mountains-to-the-undp-headquarters-a1f83d4bd1ae>.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023	Elizabeth George Foundation Grant – currently accepted to Stage II of the application
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)