

Itto Outini

Website
datekeepers@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
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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** **Founding Editor – The DateKeepers**
Develop and implement strategies for social media, marketing, advertising, outreach, and promotion; recruit writers and collaborators; brainstorm with graphic and web designers; build strategic partnerships

with individuals and organizations around the world; recruit and interview subjects for profiles; write profiles, essays, op-eds, and commentaries; and provide writers and collaborators with constructive feedback, professional mentorship, editorial services, and more.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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

- January 2024** ***SheSight Magazine***
Interviewed by Natalie Frine for her profile “How Itto Outini Empowered Herself through Hard Work, Self-Love, and Belief in Her Dreams.”
- January 2024** **Master Your Sea with Stefano Calvetti**
Interviewed by Stefano Calvetti for the episode “From Ashes to Success: Creativity, Resilience, Love, and Leadership.”
- 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*.
- 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*.
- March 2021** **KMBC Channel 9 – News at Noon**

Interviewed about my life story, my passion for learning, and my love of technology.

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

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 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

- March 2024 “Extremophilia: Ligia Fonseca Coelho is Shaping the Future of Astrobiology.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/extremophilia-ligia-fonseca-coelho-is-shaping-the-future-of-astrobiology>
- February 2024 “What Do We Valorize? Alpha Ousmane Toure Turns Pollution into Opportunity.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/what-do-we-valorize-alpha-ousmane-toure-turns-pollution-into-opportunity>
- January 2024 “Overwatch: Arjun Bisen Assesses Risk, Strives to Stabilize the World.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/overwatch-arjun-bisen-assesses-risk-strives-to-stabilize-to-the-world>
- December 2023 “Mark Bookman: We Miss Knowing That You’re There.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/mark-bookman-we-miss-knowing-that-you-re-there>
- November 2023 “The Perennial Life: For Kate Swaffer, Dementia was Just Another Chance to Reinvent Herself.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-perennial-life-for-kate-swaffer-dementia-was-just-another-chance-to-reinvent-herself>
- October 2023 “A Middle Way: Social Entrepreneur Leila Ben Gacem Revives Tunisia’s Confidence & Economic Vibrancy.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/a-middle-way-social-entrepreneur-leila-ben-gacem-revives-tunisia-s-confidence-economic-vibrancy>

- 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>
- 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/>

Essays, Monographs & Commentaries

- March 2024 “Dating for Journalists?” *The Relatable Voice Magazine*. 19. Pp. 20–1.
<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/7273332dc3.html#page/21>
- December 2023 “The Nerve That Makes You Remember: Physical Pain, Emotional Pain, and Why They Matter.” *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/the-nerve-that-makes-you-remember-physical-pain-emotional-pain-and-why-they-matter>
- October 2023 “Hope, However Chill the Land and Sore the Storm.” Co-authored with Mekiya Outini. *The DateKeepers*.
<https://www.thedatekeepers.com/post/hope-however-chill-the-land-and-sore-the-storm>
- 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://www.chicagotribune.com/2020/02/28/commentary-a-moroccan-orphan-finds-the-american-dream-is-also-accessible/>

Blog Posts

- January 2024 “Journalism is the Tool I Used to Change My World.” Desert Winds.
<https://stevebey.wordpress.com/2024/01/09/one-march-from-the-atlas-mountains-onward/#like-594>
- 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

- 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)