

Itto Outini

Website
datekeepers@gmail.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**
Supporting authors of literary fiction, creative nonfiction, journalistic nonfiction, and academic nonfiction as they brainstorm, develop and refine their ideas, navigate sensitive content issues, outline manuscripts, identify target audiences, develop and maintain writing routines, craft book proposals, find and apply for grants and fellowships, build personal brands, pitch to agents and publishers, create effective marketing campaigns, understand the publishing industry, flag bad actors, recognize problematic language in book deals, and develop negotiation skills.

Developing and implementing strategies social media, marketing, advertising, outreach, and promotion strategies, recruiting collaborators, and building strategic partnerships with individuals and organizations around the world.

2015 – Present

Author – Self-Employed

Writing short-form and book-length literary fiction and creative nonfiction, solo and in partnership with my wife, Itto Outini. For details, see publications.

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 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 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.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

April 2023

California Institute of Technology

Prepared and delivered an on-site talk to students, scholars, researchers, faculty, and community members.

February 2022

International Trade Center

Prepared and delivered a virtual talk to the Human Resources Department and organization personnel.

July 2021

Verizon Wireless

Prepared and delivered a virtual talk to company employees based around the world.

April 2018

North Seattle College

Prepared and delivered an on-site talk to students, scholars, researchers, faculty, and community members.

November 2017

Boston Polytechnic Institute

Prepared and delivered an on-site talk to students, scholars, researchers, faculty, and community members.

September 2016

English House Language Centre, Mèknes, Morocco

Prepared and delivered an on-site to students and instructors.

June 2014

Fluency Language Centre, Azrou, Morocco

Prepared and delivered an on-site to students and instructors.

July 2010

Ghaly Centre, Azrou, Morocco

Prepared and delivered an on-site to students and instructors.

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.

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)

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.