

DIGITAL JOURNALISM BOOTCAMP

Tools for Newsgathering & Reporting Across Cultures

Participants Biographies

November 2012

Tunis, Tunisia



**BRAHIM TAKEROUBTE / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF L'EXPRESSION/
ALGERIA**



Brahim Takeroubte started his career as a geologist studying Petroleum Geology at the University of Bab Ezzouar in Algiers. His duties, however, required him to do a lot of writing which sparked his interest to look into other writing jobs until he eventually became a journalist. He started his career at the newspaper L'Expression in June 2001 as a contributor until 2002 when he became a full time journalist for them. He was assigned to cover political events in Algeria for four years before going to New York University in 2007 to pursue a degree in Journalism through MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiative), a U.S. government program. He also studied Business while at NYU with a focus on management and organization. Before returning to Algeria in September 2007, Brahim worked at the Seattle Times. He is now the Deputy Director of L'Expression.

**ABDERRAHMANE SEMMAR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ALGERIE-FOCUS.COM/ ALGERIA**



Abderrahmane Semmar is a 28-year-old Algerian journalist. After working in the print editions of several Algerian newspapers including El Watan, La Tribune, Le Temps, and Le Midi Libre, he has shifted his focus exclusively to web journalism. He started by writing for the web edition of El Watan, the largest paper in Algeria. Later, he co-founded the first citizen journalism portal in Algeria, NessNews.com to develop the concept of collective, citizen journalism in Algeria. He was a collaborator before becoming the editor-in-chief, the post he holds today, of the website Algerie-Focus.com, one of the most important information sites in Algeria.

**NEJMA RONDELEUX / JOURNALIST MAGHREB EMERGENT/
ALGERIA**



Nejma Rondeleux obtained her Master's in Journalism from the Bordeaux Journalism Institute of Aquitaine in France. She started her journalism career as a web journalist at Sud Ouest, a regional daily newspaper in Bordeaux, France. She then continued her journalistic career by becoming a web journalist at La Croix, a national daily newspaper in Paris, France. Her experience in these positions sparked her interest in social networks like Facebook, Twitter and Google+ and their applications in journalism. She is currently a journalist for the online newspaper Maghreb Emergent in Algeria where she incorporates various multimedia elements (video, audio, text and graphics) to provide more complete coverage.

WALID AIT SAID / JOURNALIST L'EXPRESSION/ ALGERIA



Walid Aït Saïd is part of the new generation of Algerian journalists. He began his career a little over two years ago and has since authored several studies and reports. In 2012, at the age of 24, he became the youngest journalist to receive a Nedjma Media Star for first prize in the print category. He specializes in reporting, and he has traveled all over Algeria to pass his passion onto his readers. He received training on interviewing and reporting skills in 2012 at the Centre de Formation et de Perfectionnement des Journalistes (CFPJ) in Paris. He was also selected for the regional training in investigation and production of surveys, a competitive program which he will complete in January 2013. He studied law and dentistry, something atypical for a journalist, to keep versatile and be able to tackle a wide variety of subjects in his writings.

SAID BENJEBLI / OWNER SCOUT NET, BLOGGER/ MOROCCO



Said Benjebli, is an activist, blogger, opinion writer, digital activist and new media specialist. He received a Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering and Software Development, and a degree in Islamic Studies from the Chouaib Doukkali University in El Jadida. He created of website "February 20 Movement" fighting for change in Morocco. He is the founder and president of the Association of Moroccan Bloggers, and the co-founder of the Union of Arab Bloggers. In 2010, Benjebli was classified by the French magazine L'Express among the 100 most influential people of Morocco, and appointed as a leader in the fight for digital freedom of expression. Currently he owns an Information Technology Company, Scout Net.



SALAH ALMHAMDI / JOURNALIST AL MOUATEN/ TUNISIA

Salah Almhamdi is a Tunisian blogger, a Global Voices author and Arabic translator and a reporter for the news website Al Mouaten. He earned a Bachelors degree in English from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Sousse (University of Sousse) in 2008. He has taught English in secondary schools in Tunisia since 2010 and He has blogged in English since 2009. Starting in 2012 he started contributing articles to Global Voices as well as translating articles from Arabic to English. He uses his linguistic skills to translate TED Talks from English to Arabic as well.



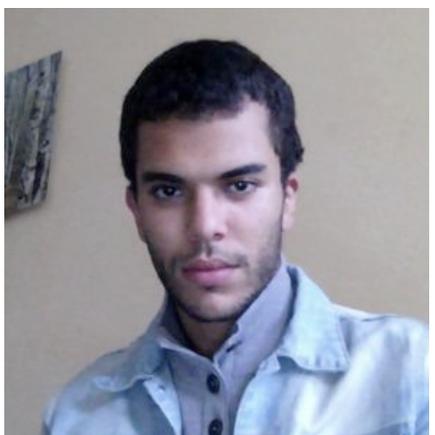
**RABIA EL KOTBI / NEWS EDITOR NORTH AFRICA POST/
MOROCCO**

Rabia El Kotbi is a Moroccan journalist. He studied at the King Fahd School of Translation, where he obtained a Master's degree in Translation and Journalism. He also holds a Bachelors degree in English studies from Mohammed V University. Currently, he focuses on new media and digital journalism. He authored a paper on "The Impact of Digital Journalism and New Media on Public Opinion in Morocco". He is a member of the Moroccan Association of Bloggers and a member of the Research Committee on Translation, Communication and Journalism at the King Fahd School of Translation. He is currently the news editor for the North Africa Post.



**NABILA ABID / JOURNALIST TUNISIAN NATIONAL RADIO/
TUNISIA**

Nabila Abid is a Tunisian writer, anchor and journalist who currently works in the Tunisian National Radio. She received her Master's degree in Press and Information Sciences, and then completed a Master's in Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology and a Master's in New Technologies of information and Communication. She is preparing for her PhD in Journalism. This year she taught radio journalism courses at IPSI for students in the Master's program. She aspires to be a foreign correspondent reporting on war issues abroad. She is currently compiling her reports in Gaza, Lampedusa, and Senegal into a book.



**TAREK BOURAQUE / JOURNALIST LE SOIR-ECHOES/
MOROCCO**

Tarek Bouraque is a journalist for the Moroccan daily Le Soir-Echos. He received his degree in Journalism and Communications from L'Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme et de Communication in Casablanca specializing in audiovisual reports and also holds a degree in Humanities and Literature. He is the co-founder of the first Moroccan online news broadcast called lesoir.tv which compiled more than 90 videos featuring special reports and profiles. He has also been involved in documentary and investigative journalism work. Before his post at Le Soir-Echos he completed an internship with the daily paper in Casablanca L'Economiste.



MOHAMMED JBILOU / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AL MAGHREB BI IKHTISSAR/ MOROCCO

Mohammed Jbilou is a journalist, blogger, activist, web designer and graphic designer who is interested in new communication technologies. He's a Master's student in Translation, Communication and Media Studies at the King Fahd Translation School. He helped pioneer the way Facebook is used in Morocco as a means to disseminate news by creating the Moroccan News Network Facebook page which updated its followers on the day-to-day issues of the country. He has vast experience working with communication agencies and web hosting companies, and he is the co-founder and vice-president of a youth journalism club. He is currently the editor-in-chief of an electronic newspaper in Morocco, Al Maghreb Bi Ikhtissar.



HANENE ZBISS / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, POLITICAL JOURNALIST REALITES/ TUNISIA

Hanene Zbiss started her career ten years ago as an economic journalist in the newspaper Le Temps. She later continued her career as a journalist for the Italian newspaper, published in Tunisia, Il Corriere di Tunisi. She is currently a political journalist and the editor-in-chief for the news magazine Realites. She is one of the first investigative journalists in Tunisia and served as an assistant in the televised political debates "The New Arab Debate", organized in Tunisia and Egypt by British journalist Tim Sebastian. She is also member of The National Union of Tunisian journalists, responsible for freedom of the press. She holds a Master's degree in Media Science and Technologies from the Mediterranean School for Advanced Studies, University of Pavia.



HATEM SALHI / REPORTER RADIO CHAMBI/ TUNISIA

Hatem Salhi is a journalist for Radio Chaambi in Tunisia. He was a freelance photographer for several Tunisian newspapers before he started blogging and anchoring for the online radio station Houna El Gassrine, which focuses on reporting issues of culture and media. He also has vast training in advocacy programs and other communication studies.



FARAH SAMTI / JOURNALIST TUNISIA LIVE/ TUNISIA

Farah Samti is a 24-year-old journalist at Tunisia Live -Tunisia's first news website in English. She writes mainly about politics and human rights. She is also a community manager at Tunisia Live (in charge of Tunisia Live's official Facebook and Twitter accounts.) Through her work at Tunisia Live, she has collaborated with many foreign media such as the New York Times, Thomson Reuters, NPR, and BBC. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in linguistics at the University of Arts and Humanities in Manouba and holds a Bachelors degree in British and American Literature and Civilization from the University of Manouba. She also studied at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA for a summer as a scholarship recipient. She is fluent in Arabic, French, and English, and conversational Italian.



ZOE DEBACK / JOURNALIST, WEB CHIEF EDITOR RADIO KALIMA/ TUNISIA

Zoe began her career as a science teacher, in France, and has experience teaching in Ecuador and Germany as well. In 2008 she moved to Morocco and became a journalist where she joined the TelQuel editorial staff, the first Moroccan Francophone weekly magazine. During the two years she worked for them she wrote extensively about a wide variety of issues in Morocco. She was also a freelance researcher for Reporters Without Borders. Later, she became the editor-in-chief of the magazine Zamane. In 2011 she moved to Tunisia where she began to work for Radio Kalima and several other European media outlets. She's responsible for Kalima's French speaking webpage and she continues to write mostly investigative reports.



RABII KALBOOUSSI / JOURNALIST TUNISIA LIVE/ TUNISIA

Since the revolution in Tunisia Rabii Kalbooussi has regularly acted as one of the leading researchers to prepare material for foreign correspondents and other media teams. He holds a Communication degree from the University of Carthage, with an interest in multimedia journalism. He is fluent in English, French, and Arabic. He currently works at Tunisia Live where he acts as a video and photojournalist as well as producer.



**AFIFA LTIFI /WEB WRITER & REPORTER TUNISIA LIVE/
TUNISIA**

Afifa Ltifi is a budding journalist that has been working with Tunisia Live, the first English media website established after the Tunisian revolution, for seven months. Before joining Tunisia Live she was an English radio program presenter for RTCI in Tunisia. She is also a youth activist, and a founding member of the first Black rights organization: ADAM for Equality and Development, the first of its kind to tackle the controversial subjects of social justice for Tunisia's black community. She is currently carrying her postgraduate studies as a Master's student in Cross Cultural Studies in the Higher Institute of Languages of Tunis.



**CHAMA DARCHOUL / MEDIA TRAINING COORDINATOR
DEUTCHE WELLE AKADEMY/ MOROCCO**

Chama Darchoul is the founder of a think tank in Morocco called "Development Media Academy", that trains journalists, citizens, and others to use media and information technology for participatory citizenship. She has experience as a project manager with several international institutions in different fields such as education, digital media, and social development. She started blogging in 2007 about politics and culture, particularly focusing on the connections between the Maghreb and the Middle East. She writes columns in English and Arabic for international online publications, and reports from Morocco about social issues. In 2009, she started lecturing about media and IT for democracy in the MENA region.



MARWEN BEN SGHAIER / MASTER'S STUDENT / TUNISIA

Marwen Ben Sghaier is a 23-year-old Masters student in Electronic Journalism. He graduated from the Institute of Press and Sciences in June 2011. He is interested in electronic journalism because of its significant impact on the media landscape, he believes that it can improve the quality of journalism in Tunisia and help attract more readers. He has worked for the newspaper Attounisia, and a communications agency, for six months while studying, He has also completed numerous internships which include WNYC, a radio station in New York and other communications agencies, as well as an internship at International Center For Journalists in Washington.



SOUMAYA BERJEB / PhD STUDENT/ TUNISIA

Soumaya Berjeb is a 26-year-old journalist working for Akademia Magazine, and she is the Press Officer at the University of Manouba. She is also a very active blogger at soumatv.blogpost.com, commenting on the news of the day and the happenings around Tunisia. She has been studying at the Institute of Press and Sciences since 2006. She is very interested in social networks and their implications on journalism, and after the completion of her PhD, she would like to go into teaching for higher education.



SANA SBOUAI / JOURNALIST NAWAAT/ TUNISIA

Sana Sbouai is a journalist, currently working for the Tunisian collective blog nawaat.org created in April 2004 that was blocked in Tunisia until January 13, 2011. She focuses her reports on society and media. She is also does freelance work for the French daily, Metro. She graduated with a degree in documentary filmmaking and began her career working as a journalist and camerawoman for a local TV channel in France, before moving to London. In the UK she worked as a journalist for French websites and served as a video editor for video production companies.



FRIDA DAHMANI / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EL WATANYA/ TUNISIA

Frida Dahmani is the editor-in-chief of the show Hadith El Saa on El Watanya. Although she obtained her degree in Animal Biology form L'Universite Louis Pasteur-Strasbourg, she has vast experience in journalism and many other areas of communications. In 2008, she became a correspondent for Jeune Afrique, in Tunisia. She also collaborates regularly with Italian, Swiss and Canadian media and analyzes, the local and regional current events in the wake of the Arab Spring. She has worked in both print and TV media at organizations like Afrique Magazine, Livret Sante, Realites, Skynews 24, and Nessma TV.



TALEL NACER / FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER/ TUNIS

Talel Nacer obtained his Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Political Sciences in Tunisia. Now, he is a freelance photographer, a post he took up shortly after the start of the revolution in Tunisia. Earlier this year he was selected for a training with Le Monde newspaper in Paris sponsored by Google and recently started video journalism with a three month training in ZDF, arte and 3sat in Mainz-Germany and Strasbourg. He is interested in following the aftermath of the revolution in Tunisia at the social, economic and political level and he is currently focusing on the theme of "Islamization of Democracy vs. the Democratization of Islam" in Tunisia. He also does some translation work for English and French media: Le Figaro, Le point, France 24, the National and Le Monde.



RABEB ALOUI / JOURNALIST EXPRESSFM.NET/ TUNISIA

Rabeb Aloui is a 23-year-old journalist at Expressfm.net, where she has worked for two years. Before that she was a radio emcee for blediradio.net and tbradio.net She has done extensive journalism trainings in the past: the New York Times training on how to cover elections, the Journalism Foundation on how to cover politics, the European Journalism Center on how to cover economics. She also has helped organize a TEDx talk. She is currently in her third year of pursuing a degree in public law and political science.



OMAR ALOUI / JOURNALIST LA PRESSE/ TUNISIA

Omar Aloui is currently a third year student at ICT in Tunisia, and studying multimedia in the Higher Institute in Manouba. He can speak Arabic, English, French, and Italian. He has been involved in freelance journalism work since the Tunisian Revolution. He is the head of the audio-visual department at I-Watch. There, he has worked on various projects mainly focusing on democratic transition, transparency and the youth's capacity towards rebuilding the state. He has vast training in leadership, communications, citizen journalism, the use of social media and advocacy through trainings with various NGOs in and out of Tunisia.



HAWAWA REBHI / JOURNALIST LE MAGHREB HEBDO

Hafawa is a young Tunisian journalist. She is currently working for the Maghreb Hebdo, an independent French-language newspaper. Hafawa is interested in political and economic issues and surveys the post-revolutionary institutional reforms. Formerly, she worked at l'Economistemaghrebin.com, a website that covers events in Tunisia and the MENA region. She was also trained by the network ARIJ (Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism). As an investigative reporter, she focuses on transitional justice affairs and on the fight against corruption. Recently, thanks to a scholarship offered by the World Bank Institute and Transparency International, she covered the 15th IACC that was held in Brazil on 7, 12 November.



SAID DJAAFER / EDITOR MAGHREB EMERGENT/ ALGERIA

Said Djafer received a degree in Political Science specializing in International Relations. He has worked in the media since 1984. He started his career as a journalist at Algerie Press Service where he was the editor-in-chief of the regional bureau. Later, he became the editor-in-chief of the international edition. He has also worked at the Quotidien d'Algerie, and La Nation. He became a collaborator with Quotidien d'Oran in 1996 before joining the online team at Maghreb Emergent.



RADHOUANE ADDALA / FREELANCE JOURNALIST/ TUNISIA

Radhouane Addala is a freelance journalist based in Tunisia that often contributes to international papers such as The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The National among others. He is currently in her third year at IHEC in Carthage, Tunisia studying Marketing. He also does freelance work as a journalist and news producer for various media organizations. Before, becoming a freelance journalist he was an editor and reporter at Radio Tunisia Live.