

Walid El Houri

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Location: Berlin, Germany

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Objective

Dynamic and accomplished media and communications professional with a Ph.D. in Media Studies and over 15 years of diverse experience spanning journalism, strategic communications, and digital engagement. Specializing in human rights advocacy and the amplification of marginalized voices, I seek opportunities to leverage my expertise in crafting impactful narratives and leading innovative media strategies. With a proven track record in managing cross-functional teams and executing successful campaigns across various cultural and geopolitical landscapes, my goal is to contribute to an organization's mission to promote social justice, equity, and freedom of expression globally. Fluent in English, French, and Arabic, with intermediate proficiency in German and Spanish, I am poised to make a significant impact in a dynamic, multicultural environment.

Education

- **Ph.D. in Media Studies**, University of Amsterdam, 2012
 - **MA in Film and Media Studies**, University of Amsterdam, 2006
 - **MA in Journalism**, Lebanese University, Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II, Institut Français de Presse (IFP), CFPJ, 2005
 - **BA in Audiovisual Studies**, St-Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon, 2005
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Skills and Certifications

- **Strategic Media and Communications Planning**: Advanced expertise in crafting and executing media strategies focused on advocacy and policy impact.
- **Digital Proficiency**: Competent in CMS (WordPress, Drupal, Wagtail), digital tools for newsletters, social media, and monitoring. Certification in Social Media Marketing, HubSpot Academy, 2024.
- **Project Management and Leadership**: Proven ability to lead and manage cross-functional, remote teams. Demonstrated success in project delivery and team development.
- **Analytical Skills**: Proficient in data analysis and report writing, showcasing the ability to translate complex information into actionable strategies.
- **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**: Exceptional ability in engaging with diverse stakeholders, facilitating workshops, and presenting at international forums.

- **Languages:** Fluent in English, French, and Arabic; intermediate in German and Spanish; basic Dutch.
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Professional Experience

Senior Media & Communications Specialist, Centre for Lebanese Studies, University of Cambridge

April 2022 – Present

- Orchestrated online and offline media strategies to boost visibility of research and advocacy on key human rights issues including migration, disability, education, and social movements.
- Directed digital engagement efforts, including newsletters, press and social media campaigns, aiming for outreach and policy impact.

Projects Manager, Febrayer Network of Independent Arab Media Organizations

June 2022 - Present

- Led EU-funded cross-border projects, enhancing collaboration among independent Arab media entities and advocating for media freedoms.
- Developed and managed projects serving journalists in the Arab speaking region.
- Established and managed the organization's mailing lists and outreach.

Co-founder & Co-editor, UntoldMag.org

February 2023 - Present

- Initiated a digital bilingual magazine focusing on perspectives from the Global South, covering human rights and justice struggles.
- Managed editorial strategy and a network of editors, utilizing digital tools to engage diverse international audiences effectively.

Head of Operations, Egab.co

June 2022 – Dec 2022

- Managed the production, outreach, and sales of solution journalism stories from Africa and the Middle East for major news outlets (CNN, The Guardian, The New Humanitarian).
- Provided coaching and editing support to freelance journalists in Africa and the Middle East aiming to pitch and publish their stories in major news outlets.

Lead Editor, North Africa West Asia, openDemocracy.net

October 2016 – April 2022

- Oversaw a fast-paced editorial process, expanding a network of journalists and activists covering critical areas, focusing on political movements, human rights struggles, conflicts, and freedom of expression.
- Conceptualized and executed cross-border projects, including training programs for journalists and activists, investigative journalism, and multimedia productions.
- Crafted outreach strategies leveraging social media, newsletters, and CMS for wider engagement.

Partnerships Editor, openDemocracy

August 2019 – April 2022

- Cultivated media and academic partnerships, coordinating outreach to support partners' dissemination goals.
- Edited special coverage in collaboration with research groups on topics like global migration, COVID-19 pandemic impacts, and the rise of far-right movements globally.
- Delivered coaching and training to researchers to enhance the accessibility of their work and its impact on policy.

Managing Editor, Jeem.me

March 2018 – July 2019

- Led a trilingual platform on gender, sex, and sexuality, tackling sensitive subjects with cultural sensitivity.
- Managed a remote team, streamlining workflows to maximize content reach and engagement.

Managing Editor, Menassat.com

December 2008 – September 2009

- Led editorial operations, focusing on Arab media, freedom of expression, and supporting voices at risk.

Additional Roles

- **English Editor**, Raseef22.net, September 2016 – January 2017: Enhanced the platform's visibility by editing impactful political, social, and cultural content.
- **Project Manager**, AltCity Media, March 2013 – October 2013: Directed projects emphasizing on digital rights and social impact.
- **Managing Editor**, Al-Akhbar Online, September 2012 – December 2012: Oversaw editorial operations, ensuring content accuracy and quality.
- **Consultant and Opinion Editor**, Menassat.com, May 2008 – December 2008: Advised on strategic direction and curated opinion pieces spotlighting Arab media and freedom of expression issues.

Other Journalistic and Creative Contributions

- **Journalist and Translator** (Arabic/English/French), 2006 – 2016: Produced content on a broad spectrum of topics for an international audience.
- **Radio Journalist**, Radio France International (RFI), June – July 2005: Produced special reports on cultural events in Lebanon.
- **Filmmaker / Photographer**, 2002-2005: Directed "REALIS," awarded Best Short Film, showcasing storytelling through visual media.

Academic Positions

- **Associated Fellow**, Forum Transregionale Studien zu Berlin December 2021 – Present
- **Lecturer in Media and Cultural Studies**, Bard College Berlin January 2018 – May 2019
- **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin 2014 – 2016
- **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Forum Transregionale Studien zu Berlin 2013 – 2014
- **Lecturer in Media and Political Communication**, American University of Beirut Spring 2013
- **Lecturer in Media and Communication**, University of Balamand Spring 2009

Languages

- **English**: Fluent
 - **French**: Fluent
 - **Arabic**: Fluent
 - **German**: Intermediate
 - **Spanish**: Intermediate
 - **Dutch**: Basic
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