

Walid El Hour, PhD

Editor, Researcher, Consultant

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Accomplished expert in editorial and strategic communications with over 15 years of experience. I hold a PhD in Media Studies focusing on fostering a critical understanding of global issues through both academic research and practical application. I am an expert in independent journalism and media development and specialize in synthesizing complex scientific and political information into accessible, engaging, high quality content. My focus on cross-cultural storytelling has led successful initiatives to empower and train academics, activists, and journalists, enhancing their global impact by crafting engaging narratives and leading innovative media strategies.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Editorial Leadership: Proven track record in leading and managing international, remote editorial teams, producing high-quality, multilingual content aligned with strategic goals.

Digital Content Strategy and Media Development: Expert in creating and implementing strategies that enhance the reach and effectiveness of journalism projects globally.

Research and Knowledge Synthesis: Strong academic background and hands-on experience in transforming complex data into clear, impactful communication.

Strategic Communication: Proficient in adapting communication strategies to bridge cultural divides, ensuring complex information is accessible and engaging to diverse global audiences.

Educational Leadership: Extensive experience in crafting and leading training programs for academics, activists, and journalists, aimed at enhancing strategic impact and audience engagement capabilities.

Language Proficiency: Fluent in **English, Arabic, and French**; intermediate in **German and Spanish**.

EDUCATION

PhD 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

EXPERIENCE

Collaborative Director, UntoldStories.media - November 2024 - Present

- Lead the strategic development and operational management of UntoldStories, overseeing journalistic projects that highlight underreported narratives.
- Drive fundraising initiatives, secure financial support, and manage organizational resources to sustain and expand impact.

Co-founder & Editor in Chief, UntoldMag.org - February 2023 - Present

- Launched and managed an online bilingual magazine dedicated to showcasing underrepresented perspectives from the Global South.
- Oversee editorial strategies and coordinate a network of volunteer editors, harnessing digital tools to captivate and engage international audiences.

West Asia & North Africa Editor, Global Voices - August 2024 - Present

- Lead coverage across West Asia & North Africa and grow a contributor network with a focus on digital, political, and human rights stories.
- Write and edit content, while strategically growing a network of local and international media partners to enhance outreach and impact.

Senior Media & Communications Specialist, Centre for Lebanese Studies, University of Cambridge
- April 2022 – Present

- Develop and implement comprehensive media strategies both online and offline to elevate the visibility of pivotal research.
- Manage digital campaigns targeting enhanced policy influence and public engagement on issues such as migration, disability, education, and social movements.

Projects Manager, Febrayer Network of Independent Arab Media Organizations - June 2022 - July 2024

- Lead EU-funded projects to promote independent media growth and strengthen collaborative networks across MENA and Europe. Focus on enhancing media independence and inter-regional cooperation.

Head of Operations, Egab.co - June 2022 – Dec 2022

- Directed operations for producing and distributing journalistic content focused on solutions in Africa and the Middle East to top-tier news organizations, including CNN, The Guardian, and The New Humanitarian.
- Supported and mentored freelance journalists in these regions, enhancing their capabilities to effectively pitch and publish impactful stories.

Lead Editor, North Africa West Asia, openDemocracy.net - October 2016 – April 2022

- Supervised a dynamic editorial team in a fast-paced environment, expanding our coverage of critical issues like political movements, human rights, conflicts, and freedom of expression across North Africa and West Asia.
- Initiated and led cross-border projects that included journalist training, investigative reporting, and multimedia content development, significantly increasing regional engagement.

Partnerships Editor, openDemocracy - August 2019 – April 2022

- Developed and nurtured media and academic partnerships, enhancing collaborative efforts to meet common dissemination and impact goals.
- Edited and coordinated special coverage on global issues such as migration and the COVID-19 pandemic, and facilitated training sessions to improve research accessibility and policy impact.

Managing Editor, Jeem.me - March 2018 – July 2019

- Led the editorial team of a trilingual digital platform focused on gender, sex, and sexuality issues in the Middle East & North Africa.
 - Optimized team workflows and content strategies, significantly boosting reach and user engagement.
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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

OTHER POSITIONS

English Editor, Raseef22.net - *September 2016 – January 2017*

Edited impactful political, social, and cultural content, focusing on critical issues in the MENA region, enhancing public understanding and engagement.

Project Manager, AltCity Media - *March 2013 – October 2013*

Led projects aimed at promoting digital rights and social impact, developing initiatives that leveraged technology to address civic and social challenges.

Managing Editor, Al-Akhbar Online - *September 2012 – December 2012*

Managed editorial operations with a focus on maintaining high standards of journalistic accuracy and integrity in reporting.

Managing Editor, Menassat.com - *December 2008 – September 2009*

Directed editorial operations, with a focus on Arab media, championing freedom of expression and supporting voices at risk in politically volatile environments.

Consultant and Opinion Editor, Menassat.com - *May 2008 – December 2008*

Provided strategic guidance and curated opinion pieces that spotlighted critical issues in Arab media, enhancing dialogue on freedom of expression.

Translator (Arabic/English/French) - *2006 – 2016*

Translated a broad spectrum of political, cultural, and academic content, facilitating clearer communication across language barriers in diverse international contexts.

Radio Journalist, Radio France International (RFI) - *June – July 2005*

Produced special reports on cultural events in Lebanon, highlighting the region's dynamic cultural landscape to an international audience.

Filmmaker / Photographer - *2002-2005*

Directed "REALIS," a short film that won Best Short Film at the 2005 European Film Festival in Beirut, demonstrating a keen ability to convey powerful stories through visual media.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

El Hour, W. **"What the US Election Means for the Middle-East and North Africa,"** *Policy and Practice: A Development Education Review*, Vol. 32, Spring 2021, pp. 139-146.

El Hour, W. **"Beyond failure and success: Revolutions and the politics of endurance,"** *Radical Philosophy*, 2.02, June 2018.

El Hour, W. **"Whose Space Is It Anyway? Practices of Protest and Strategies of Authority in Egypt."** In Peeren, Esther (et al.) *Global Cultures of Contestation: Mobility, Sustainability, Aesthetics & Connectivity*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

El Hour, W. **"Revolutions Beyond Failure and Success,"** *Hypotheses*, TRAFO, May 2, 2014.

El Hour W., Saber D. **"Prier pour la Révolution: le Rôle Politique de la Prière dans le Récit de la Révolution de Janvier 2011 en Égypte."** In Lambert Frédéric (dir.), *Prières et Propagandes. Études sur la prière dans les arènes publiques*. Paris: Éditions Hermann, coll. "Cultures numériques", 2013.

El Hour W., Saber D. **"Dire la Guerre en Chansons: Nasser et la Nation sur les Ondes de la Voix des Arabes."** *Temps de la guerre versus temps de la paix: l'expression musicale comme agent du lien social*. CTHS Paris, 2013.

El Hour, W. ***The Meaning of Resistance: Hezbollah's Media Strategies and the Articulation of a People***. Amsterdam: Rozenberg Publishers, 2012.

El Hour, W. **"Hezbollah: From Nasser to Nasrallah, a Historical Context,"** *Rozenberg Quarterly*, 2012.

El Hour W., Saber D. **"Filming Resistance: A Hezbollah Strategy,"** *Radical History Review*, 106: 70-85, 2010.