

MACECE NEWSLETTER

2022

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SPECIAL 40TH
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Message from the Executive Director

To the MACECE Community – current Fulbrighters, alumni, colleagues, partners and friends:

It feels much better to be writing in 2022, a year that seems more like a renewal after two years of challenging times with the pandemic. It seems fitting that this is also the year that the Commission is celebrating its 40th anniversary. In February 1982, the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE) was created through a binational agreement between our two governments, who, for the last 40 years have steadfastly supported us through generous financial contributions.

2022 has been a celebration of many highlights. First, Morocco was a semi-finalist in the World Cup in Qatar, making the first African team since 2010 to make it to this stage of the competition. Dima Maghrib!

At the Commission, we were able to successfully welcome a new, but abbreviated cohort of US grantees to Morocco in February 2022 after some programs were paused due to the COVID pandemic and the subsequent border closures.

This cohort brought grantees such as Student Researcher Katie Hicks, a fluent Tashelhit speaker, who went on a music tour around Morocco playing the traditional ribab and Reagan Miller, an English Teaching Assistant who started the Ben M'Singers Choir at Hassan II University in Casablanca.

In September of 2022, a larger cohort of almost 30 US grantees arrived! We were grateful to have Ms. Aimee Cutrona, the new Chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Rabat, welcome the new grantees at orientation, along with MACECE's Board Chair, Dr. Wail Benjelloun.

These grantees are teaching and conducting research on a range of topics including embedded systems and the internet of things, storytelling traditions of the Moroccan Hakawatiin, Moroccan Sufi orders and traditional agricultural cultivation methods.

Their research spans from Oujda to Sidi Ifni to El Jadida to Ouarzazate and everywhere in between. The 10 ETAs who are part of this group are teaching English at public universities in Tangier, Tetouan, Casablanca, Settlat, Meknes, Essaouira, Rabat and Marrakech.



Following a grant received from the US Department of Education, in partnership with Boston University, MACECE delivered a four-week seminar for American high school teachers on the Education System in Morocco. This seminar was a superb opportunity for our current grantees and alumni to help these teachers experience all that Morocco has to offer from historical, cultural, economic, social, and political perspectives. MACECE also joined the Spanish Commission for a new edition of the joint Crossing the Straits program in Cordoba, Spain in the spring. The US Ambassador to Spain and the Mayor of Cordoba welcomed our researchers and scholars from both Commissions to a three-day seminar of research and workshops that centered on shared experiences between the two countries. It was an amazing celebration of cross border collaboration, following the long pandemic years of no travel!

We are also celebrating the successes of our Moroccan grantees in the United States. This year, we had grantees at institutions such as Columbia University, Vanderbilt, University of Cincinnati, Northeastern, Texas A&M, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Mayo Clinic, among others. Some are in master's programs in disciplines such as business, computer science, supply chain, architecture and agri-business. Our scholars and doctoral students are involved in joint research collaborations spanning from entrepreneurship to energy to crop sciences to linguistics.

You will see in our alumni achievements section of the newsletter the list of our Joint Supervision alumni who successfully defended their theses this year, others who have been actively publishing in the international research community, and other career milestones such as new jobs and high-level appointments.

MACECE launched a new partnership with the Lois Roth Foundation, an organization that commemorates the life of Lois Wersba Roth, a Cultural Affairs Officer with the US Foreign Service and Fulbright alumna, which supports scholars and artists in the field of sociology. US researcher, Dr. Ryan Milov-Cordoba, was the first recipient of the award to support his field work in Morocco this year.

We also celebrate the arrival of two new staff members to the Commission. Ikram Boukhari, the US Programs Officer, joins us following experience at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and an educational background from Al Akhawayn University and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Meryem Hammam, the Community Engagement Officer, is an ENCG Kenitra graduate and proud alumna of the US Department of State YES program.

And finally, we celebrate the 40 years of MACECE's history of advancing knowledge and transforming lives. In February 2022, MACECE launched a yearlong virtual celebration of these 40 years – through testimonials, research webinars, and videos of alumni sharing their cultural and educational exchange stories and memories. All of these can be found on our website and through our social media pages. I encourage you to add your voice and story to this virtual commemoration of our past and the celebration of the many more MACECE stories yet to be written.

**Wishing you a safe and peaceful new year.
All the best,**

Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner

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Introducing our newest team members



Ikram Boukhari

US Programs Officer

I have always dreamt of a position where I'd be surrounded by smart individuals, learn from them, and get inspired by them. My workdays at MACECE are everything but static. Every day is a new journey, a new opportunity to excel and evolve. Working in the cultural diplomacy field, building bridges between our two nations, and promoting educational opportunities is such a gratifying mission and I couldn't be prouder of being part of such a heartening institution

Meryem Hammam

Community Engagement Officer

It has been an honor and a pleasure to join MACECE and my first few months couldn't have been any better. My job is very fulfilling and allows me to work on things I am passionate about and to meet great people whom I have always admired. I look forward to continuing my work alongside my colleagues and to having a lasting positive impact on the Commission and its alumni and to reshaping the Fulbright Morocco brand.





A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIFE OF A MOROCCAN STUDY GRANTEE IN THE US

Rania Benkhedda

I was very lucky being part of Fulbright! Not only did I have the chance to study public policy; which I loved and enjoyed to the fullest; I had also the chance to do that in an Ivy League and in New York City. What surprised me the most was how little I knew about other cultures. I decided then to take this chance to understand and enjoy diversity in one of the best places I could learn from: New York City. During my stay, I learned Spanish to get to know more about the experience of people from Latin America in the U.S. I attended all the holidays from Thanksgiving to Fourth of July. I didn't miss the Chinese New Year, nor did I miss the occasion to spend Ramadan with my Arab friends in Astoria. I know now more about food in various parts of the world, than I ever knew in the past twenty years.

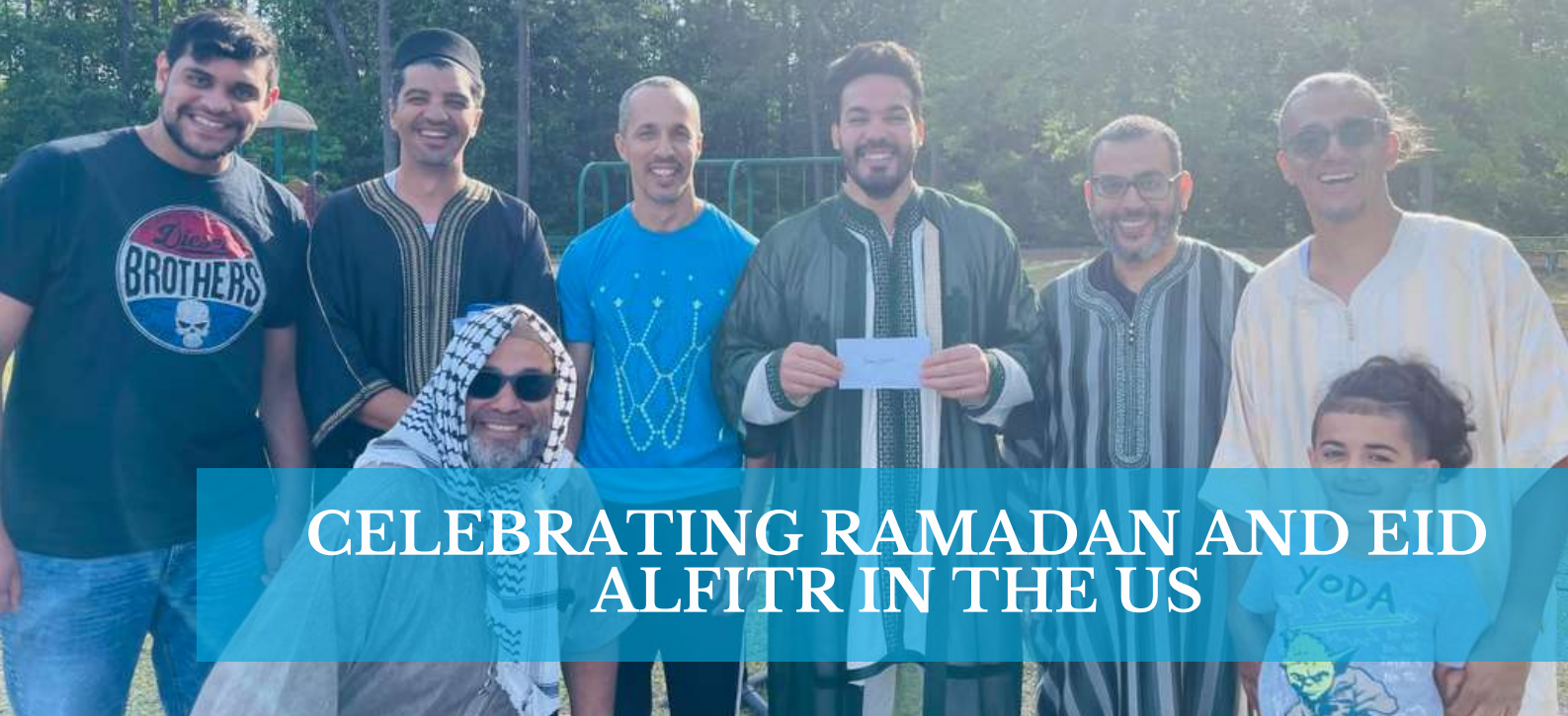
I finally reconnected with my lifetime hobby and made my inner child fulfilled by spending time doing what I love the most: theatre. I went to Broadway shows twice every month and got to watch all the classics: from Hamilton, to Moulin Rouge, to Wicked; The Lehman Trilogy was my favorite by far.

They say New York is harsh, cold and rude. However, my experience was the complete opposite. From day one, people were helpful, cheerful, and eager to know more about you and the world. My experience was good thanks to the people I met. My biggest source of inspiration, learning, and motivation was the people I met in classes but also those I met in coffee shops and parks; everyone was trying to achieve something and everyone has a wonderful storyline they are pursuing.

Being a Fulbrighter is much more than being a student in a classroom. It is the opportunity to allow yourself to learn about the world, about others, but mostly about yourself. It is a chance to try hobbies you have always wanted to try, and work on goals you have always planned. By the time your two years are over, you realize the impact of the experience on you was much greater than what you imagined.

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CELEBRATING RAMADAN AND EID ALFITR IN THE US

Mahmoud Lakkiba with his peers in the US

Cultural exchange is an integral part of the Fulbright Program. Our Moroccan grantees shared the Ramadan and Eid customs with their American counterparts through organizing f'tours, presentations and Eid celebrations!



Mehdi El Bouzkri - FLTA 2022



Mohammed Abouzaid and Balkis Boum - Study Grant 2022



"I have spent the holy month of Ramadan in the best way possible. I went to the mosque everyday where we had congregational prayers and collective meals (Iftar). From time to time, I was asked to lead the prayers. It was a new and unforgettable experience leading the prayers in front of Muslims from all walks of life. Eid Alfitr in the US was also an experience that will be engraved on my memory. We prayed together, ate together, played games together, organized competitions, and received several invitations from various friends there."

Mahmoud Lakkiba

FLTA- 2021-2022

**University of North Carolina
Wilmington**



The Ben M'singers CHOIR

Reagan Miller

English Teaching Assistant 2022



I would integrate my musical training to promote language comprehension through creative methods

In my Fulbright application, which I submitted nearly two years ago, I wrote the following:

“Virtually everything I know about math and language, I learned sitting on a piano bench. I recognize the role creativity plays in confidence, engagement, and retention. As an ETA, I would integrate my musical training to promote language comprehension through creative methods.”

When I wrote these words, the idea of teaching through music in Morocco was a lofty goal - an almost impossible dream. I never imagined that I would soon be directing a sea of Moroccan college students singing “Umbrella” by Rihanna.

While my primary responsibility as an ETA is to teach in the classroom, my affiliate institution FLSH Ben M’Sik encouraged me to develop a club that would engage students out of the classroom. My supervisor permitted me to organize a singing group, and she encouraged me to only take 25 students maximum. Expecting a far lower number of participants, I remember thinking that I would be thrilled if 25 students even showed up. To my surprise, word of the singing club, which I dubbed the “Ben M’Singers,” spread like wildfire. Today, I have 78 regular club attendees.

Each week, the students and I meet in the campus auditorium for an hour and a half. We spend our first hour practicing an original arrangement. The arrangement combines 5 songs: Man in the Mirror (Michael Jackson), Lean on Me (Bill Withers), Imagine (John Lennon), Umbrella (Rihanna), and We are the World (Michael Jackson).



I play the piano while we work through each note and lyric. With our remaining 30 minutes, we do free-for-all karaoke. Students request English pop songs, and I play the requested songs on the piano while group members come up to the stage to sing for their peers. From Adele, Green Day, Akon, and Cindi Lauper to Ariana Grande, Coldplay, Drake, and Justin Bieber, we hit nearly every genre.

The Ben M'Singers had the great privilege of performing at Ben M'Sik's annual Culture Day. We sang our rehearsed arrangement, sharing songs about friendship, peace, and change. Of the 18 performers who participated in the event, not one had ever sung in front of an audience before. The group members celebrated and profusely thanked me after the show for giving them this opportunity, but I was a thousand times more grateful for the joy they've given me. Several of my students have full-time jobs, high-level exams, strained financial circumstances, and physical disabilities; however, rather than focusing on their adversity, they let go of their stress each Thursday and bond through their unifying interest: the language of music.





A Fulbright journey through Amazigh music

Katie Hicks

US Student Researcher 2022

When I waved goodbye to my California coastal home and stepped on the plane that would take me to Morocco, my mind was filled with imaginations of where my Fulbright project to study Amazigh music would take me.

For five years in California I had been under the tutelage of master Amazigh musician Fattah Abbou studying the song and drumming of Tirruysa music—one of Morocco's many diverse music traditions. For three of those years I was dedicated to learning the single-stringed horsehair fiddle used in Tirruysa called the ribab.

As a semi-accomplished ribab player and a moderate-level speaker of a dialect of the Amazigh language—Tachelhit—I felt well-equipped to tackle my project. I had ambitious goals for my six month stay that ranged from interviews to instrument study to performance, but at the heart of my project was the desire to have an immersive experience of Amazigh music in its original context. This immersion, I hoped, would be the next pivotal step in my development as an Amazigh musician and advocate as well as allow me to fulfill the Fulbright mission to build mutual understanding between Moroccan culture and my own. All of my music study had been in structured lessons 6,000 miles from its birthplace and in the comfort of my own culture and home. What pieces of the music was I missing being so isolated from the people, the smells, the landscapes, the rhythms, and the social structure of its origin?

As my plane closed the gap of the Strait of Gibraltar and lowered into the Rabat airport, I could feel my deep desire to bridge the gap between my Western self and the Amazigh people. But what would this truly take? How far would I have to stretch myself to reach the deepened connection I desired? There was only one way to find out and that was to jump in.



Ahwash Village Visits

One key goal of this immersion was to experience Ahwash—the hundreds of years old communal village music which pre-dates the more modern ribab-centric music of Tirruysa which developed in the 1800s. Historically, all ribab players started out immersed in their villages' Ahwash tradition and the rhythms and melodies were a vital foundation to the Tirruysa music they would later create. So, naturally, as a ribab player myself I wanted to follow in their footsteps and experience as much Ahwash as possible. Because Ahwash exists today in hundreds of distinct forms in hundreds of villages scattered throughout the entirety of southern Morocco, this meant for me getting accustomed to life on the road. I spent many days driving long distances across southern Morocco—from as far north as Marrakech and as far south as Tiznit—in search of getting at least a taste of the music, places, and people of Ahwash.

On one such day, I set out from Marrakech to interview an elder leader of Ahwash in a village deep in the High Atlas mountains. When I pulled up, the Ahwash leader—named Houssaine—with whom I would interview was perched on the side of one such house. In Tachelhit I asked, “Where should we do the interview?” and with his hand he beckoned me to follow him as he set off into the terraced, green barley fields. He picked a spot that not only escaped the strong spring winds, but also allowed for a beautiful backdrop of the vast mountain range behind him. As he spoke, I felt overwhelmed by the beauty of it all: All around us the walnut trees donned their newly sprouted leaves and the almond trees bloomed.

Towards the end of the interview, I could hear the distant sound of drums and women trilling their voices in high pitched tones. I knew from previous experience that this meant the Ahwash would begin soon. As we reached the dirt road again, Houssaine led me toward the sounds of the drums where the men and women and children were gathering in a large, open, dirt area. A couple men were making a huge pile of dry branches (ikhshoden) and lit it to flames over which the Ahwash troupe gathered, holding their drums to the heat to tighten them to the correct pitch. When their drums were tuned, the men—dressed like Houssaine in all-white except for their silver ceremonial daggers dangling from green sashes—lined up, drums in hand, with the mountains at their back. A group of young women, not in special uniform, but brightly colored nonetheless, formed a less-organized line on the side that bled into the audience of villagers. This is where I felt most comfortable: standing amongst the observers, close to the women dancing, but set back enough to where I could take in everything that was happening.



Just as I was settling in, one young woman broke away from the dancers and beelined for me. Before I could have a say in the matter, she grabbed my hand and pulled me into the line with the rest of the women. With her to my right and another young girl to my left—both gripping my hands firmly—I was now a part of their organism. When they bent their knees so did I. When their hands raised, so did mine. I was now one woman among many who bounced vigorously to the beat of the drums. When the men sang a line, we sang back. I didn't know the words, so I watched the women's lips and imitated them as best I could at the top of my lungs. Upon my departure, the women gathered around me with huge smiles, still not letting go of my hands. Each woman filtered through and one by one I kissed and hugged and shook hands with each one of them until I finally peeled away. "Bislama!" "Goodbye!" I yelled as I drove away. But I heard a voice: "Showr, blaati,!" ("Hold on, wait!"). It was Houssaine yelling at me as he ran into his house and came out with his wife and a giant bag of walnuts which he handed me through the window. "Come back soon," they said, "and bring your musician friends and we will share music together." "Of course I will," I responded. And I truly meant it. I felt bonded to this man and his village and there was no doubt in my mind that I would return someday.

As I drove away, I was overwhelmed with a feeling of arrival—that all the work I had put into this project was leading me to the experience I just had—a moment of feeling that I was not an observer, but a welcomed participant in the heart of Amazigh culture.

Tirruysa Music Sessions

In contrast to the long drives and isolated village visits necessary to see Ahwash, Tirruysa music led me into living rooms and basements in urban areas where musicians would pack in with ribabs, lotars (like a primitive banjo), banjos, and drums to fill the space with music and song for the the music session (igiwr).

About halfway through my project, one of my music mentors gathered together a special igiwr with a group of master musicians in his countryside home about an hour south of Agadir. We sat for an hour or two around low, round tables chatting, drinking tea, eating nuts and cookies and enjoying each other's company until at a certain moment I noticed that the master ribab player had stopped engaging in conversation and instead seemed to be observing the room as if he was listening or waiting for something. I looked around to the others to see if anyone else was noticing this, but as far as I could tell, everyone else was carrying on with their conversations as usual. After a minute or two of the ribab player in quiet observation, he subtly unzipped his ribab case and like a herd of deer attuned to the subtle signals of one another, the other musicians in-turn brought their conversations to a close and reached for their instruments as well. In a matter of about a few minutes the whole room had transitioned from full of chatter to only the sound of strings tuning to one another.

I had experienced dozens of casual Tirruysa music sessions up to this point, but I had never been in the presence of seasoned musicians with such attunement to one another. Instead of a fun music jam, the whole evening felt like a carefully-led ceremony. Instead of a random order of songs, there appeared to be a certain order to everything, all directed by the master ribab player. Each instrument was tuned to perfection—some to high octaves and some low, creating a full orchestral-like sound, creating an atmosphere where all of us were connected to another.

The sounds and atmosphere put me into an altered state: I felt somehow spiritually elevated, as if some deep message was being transferred to me through music.



In addition to understanding the present context of Tirruysa music, it also felt important to understand the historical context of the music by listening to old recordings. From what I could gather, there was no conveniently-organized Tirruysa music collection in any library or university. Instead, most of these precious and rare recordings, some dating as far back as early as the 1920s, could only be found in the homes of a few private collectors. To even have access to these collections requires knowing the right people, getting an invitation, and being willing to make the trek to wherever they are.

It was deep in summer when I finally got word that I had been invited to music-collector Mohamed's house in a village about thirty minutes from Taroudant. It was a sweltering day, so after my two-and-a-half hour drive from Agadir, I was eager to get right to it and start listening to the recordings. Oh, yes, but of course first tea and snacks per the Moroccan custom. But then after tea, we had lunch and after lunch there was dessert. When a giant plate of fruit for dessert was brought out, a group of women neighbors appeared and joined Mohamed's family and me on the floor. "They came to hear you play," Mohamed told me. So I got out my ribab and sang and played for them while they sang along and masterfully tapped polyrhythms on the table using their hands and tea glasses. By the time this had finished, it was early evening and I was utterly exhausted. "Achkid," ("come here") Mohamed said at the door of his collections room. Finally, I could begin my listening session.

The room was filled with treasures. The far back wall held shelves stacked high with dozens of cassettes, CDs, records, and photographs of Tirruysa artists. Countless records stood in piles on the floor. One large table sat in the middle with a handsome original gramophone and every other kind of player you could want—reel to reel, tape cassette, record player, you name it. As I picked up my first record to examine, Mohamed handed me a rag, like his, to protect the records from the constant sweat pouring off my face.

My main mission was to listen to women Tirruysa artists, but before I could make my request, Mohamed began zooming about the room like a bee from one pile of records to another. He selected a handful of records from one pile and brought them over, describing each one without pause—me struggling valiantly to understand his rapid-fire speech—and, before I could begin to clarify what he had said, he was up again to zoom to another pile and get more.

I was hot, tired, and incredibly frustrated with Mohamed who, instead of letting me listen to records, was just running around explaining things to me that I couldn't understand. Just when I felt like leaving and giving up, he finally stopped buzzing around and sat down next to me in front of the gramophone. "Hatinn," ("Here it is") he said, with a child-like grin. In his hands, I later put together, he held the oldest record in his collection—a record of the first-ever recorded ribab player named Lhaj Belaid. As he carefully placed the record on the gramophone player and gently dropped the needle down on the spinning disc, the room fell still. When the record began, he sat erect with his eyebrows lifted in rapt attention. Like a robin listening for a worm, he cocked his head toward the machine and together we listened to every nuance of this precious recording.

The melodies from the player transported me to another place and time. For these few minutes I forgot about the sweat accumulating on my face or my deep exhaustion from too many days on the road and instead was intoxicated with other-worldly sounds of bow strokes, lamenting song melodies, and trance-like drum rhythms from nearly a century before. After a few minutes of attentive listening, Mohamed abruptly swiped the record from the player and went back to darting around the room as busy as ever to find the next gem to which we would listen.



Struggle for the Gems

To have the experiences for which I was looking—those moments of integration into Ahwash and Tirruysa music— I had to push myself beyond my imagined limits time and time again. In order to attempt to feel the music from the inside meant un-doing my Western sense of comfort and needs in a very real way: Ahwash made me road-weary and Tirruysa music kept me up late. Searching out old recordings sent me to villages where I had to invest a day or two socializing with village people just to have access to recordings. The discomfort and weariness was not just a side effect of my project, but an absolute necessity. I sometimes would go weeks and weeks of feeling like I wasn't accomplishing anything: not receiving calls back, traveling far distances to find out that the people weren't available, digging through archives without finding what I was looking for. Time and time again I thought of giving up, but right before I did I would have a huge breakthrough experience like the ones I describe above.

As a result, when my journey finally came to a close and I boarded the plane again for home, I was tired—really tired. I was drained from sleepless nights and hopping from town to town. I was incredibly eager to get back to the cozy familiarity of home and rest. But, amidst my excitement for home, there was another feeling that nagged at me. There was an ache in my heart that told me I was not just leaving behind a project. I was leaving behind life-long friendships—family even— and life-changing experiences of feeling truly a part of the Amazigh music traditions and culture. I got what I asked for and now, with my deepened connection, I feel a deepened responsibility to start the next chapter: bringing to life the gifts I received in the context of my home.





A glimpse into the life of a US grantee in Morocco

Austin Bodetti
US Student Researcher 2022

What does it mean to be a researcher in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program?

This was the question put to me in June by Meryem Hammam, the new community engagement officer at the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange.

I came to Morocco for the first time in September 2019. In accordance with the unique structure of the grant that MACECE awards young researchers, I was slated to take six months of Arabic classes under the Critical Language Enhancement Award before embarking on my nine-month Fulbright project: a review of Islam's impact on Morocco's environmental policy. When I finished my Arabic courses in March 2020, however, the COVID-19 pandemic had reached Morocco, and MACECE had to cancel all its programming.

I spent the next two years wandering between Morocco and the United States—working remotely for an American think tank and writing articles about French tacos and the theme songs of mattress retailers—before I started another Fulbright grant in February 2022. It was the very same Fulbright grant, in fact. In other words, I would finally be conducting the research that had convinced MACECE to bring me to Morocco in the first place, but only after I survived another six months of CLEA-funded Arabic classes.

The day I was asked to write a piece for the MACECE annual newsletter about the day in the life of a Fulbright researcher, I was still two months away from beginning my research. But I'll never turn down an opportunity to have my name in the MACECE newsletter, and, luckily, I knew a number of people who had already conducted research in Morocco.

I first reached out to my friend Catherine Cartier, a Fulbright researcher from the 2020-2021 cycle who, in a move she would perhaps come to regret, had invited me on a trip to the middle of the Moroccan desert last year. Catherine's research focused on the work of female poets writing in Darija, the Moroccan dialect of Arabic—a style of poetry known as “zajal.”

“My typical week looked like three to four hours of Arabic class in the morning, a chill afternoon, and then interviews by phone a few nights a week from my apartment in Tétouan,” Catherine told me over WhatsApp, our preferred method of communication when I'm not bombarding her with postcards. “When I didn't have interviews, I'd spend the afternoon at the beach in M'diq, take a long walk in the Tétouan medina, or watch the sunset over the Rif mountains on my balcony and do some Arabic homework!”

My days in Rabat during CLEA more or less paralleled Catherine's, even if I didn't share her apparent enthusiasm for Arabic homework. While we came to Morocco as researchers, a key aspect of the Fulbright grant—perhaps the most important part—has been making connections with Moroccans outside the framework of our projects.

I've made my dearest Moroccan friends by accepting invitations to vegan dinners, crashing medical students' graduation ceremonies, and attending raves in far-flung corners of the country. While MACECE selects researchers whose projects will bring Morocco and the United States closer, the strongest bonds between Americans and Moroccans tend to be the most personal ones.

Jackson Bennett, a researcher from the 2019-2020 cycle and my former roommate in Rabat, echoed this sentiment. His project used predictive modeling to help Morocco address water scarcity.

"Some typical activities were meeting my faculty advisor in Casablanca, reviewing and researching relevant methods and articles, and writing code to do data analysis," Jackson told me in an email, having declined my postcard entreaties. "I also spent a lot of time getting to know the people I was working with over couscous, tagines, and tacos!"



At the same time, pursuing our Fulbright projects has enabled us to build professional relationships that complement these cross-border friendships. Jack Carew, a researcher from Catherine's cohort and my favorite person named Jack, became a critical member of a Moroccan-led research group in Casablanca. He analyzed the impact of climate change on the spread of tropic disease in Morocco.

"After arriving in Casablanca, I would speedily walk to the Pasteur Institute, where I would chat with my colleagues before beginning lab work for the day," Jack said in an email. "Typically, I assisted the medical students at the Institute with their research projects, which usually involved running traditional PCRs of leishmania samples to determine which species of parasite was contained in a sample. In addition to working in the laboratory, I might be assisting my supervisor, Dr. Meryem Lemrani, in editing grant applications or public-facing communications describing her lab's work combatting leishmaniasis in Morocco."

Jack noted that he and his colleagues often discussed "the differences between medical education in the U.S. and Morocco, and the relative positives and negatives of each," an example of how professional settings can facilitate casual but crucial cultural exchanges.

My relationship with my own affiliate, Dr. Samira Idllalène, has allowed me to build similar relationships in Morocco and beyond. Dr. Idllalène, a professor of law at Cadi Ayyad University's satellite campus in Safi, invited me to participate in the sixth edition of the Ocean Sciences Forum at her faculty in May. While I know little about the ocean or science, I did have the chance to give a presentation on the relationship between Islam and environmentalism and meet scholars from Morocco and the United States. I also got to talk with Dr. Idllalène's students about the ways in which Fulbright grants could, in turn, help them facilitate cultural diplomacy in the coming years. On that note, I look forward to joining Dr. Idllalène at the next iteration of the Ocean Sciences Forum in 2023.

Whether a Fulbright researcher is attending an academic conference on oceanography in Safi, working at a lab in Casablanca, relaxing on a beach in M'diq, or hunting for the best taco in Rabat, every day is an opportunity to learn something new about Moroccan culture and share a piece of our own.

"I don't know if I accomplished the mission of cultural exchange," reflected Catherine, "but I do feel like I carry that knowledge with me and have been able to share it in very small ways."



Fulbright-Hays HAS COME TO MOROCCO



EDUCATION IN MOROCCO: AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

This US Department of Education funded program provided short-term study and travel seminars abroad for U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities for the purpose of improving their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries. For this MACECE-led program, 16 US teachers (working at the 9-12 grade level in US high schools) arrived to Morocco in June to participate in the four week program under the theme “Education in Morocco – An Evolving Landscape.” The program aimed to expand each participant’s understanding of the Moroccan educational system and, at the same time, to provide a glimpse into Morocco’s diverse culture and history.



The hope is that these teachers will infuse some of what they learnt and experienced back in their home institution in the United States and also establish some new relationships with their Moroccan counterparts.



For this seminar, MACECE partnered with the African Studies Center at Boston University which worked closely with participants on their curriculum projects and also organized the pre-departure orientation in the US.

Fulbright-Hays

REFLECTIONS OF A FH GRANTEE



" Thanks to stories shared in class by my college French professor, I have known for a long time that Morocco is a crossroads of cultures. Before coming on this trip, I was prepared to encounter elements of African, Middle Eastern and French cultures. After just a couple days in Morocco, I am surprised to find elements of home here, as well.

Perhaps some of the sense of familiarity comes from my experience with France and the French language. While walking down the streets in Rabat, I often feel like I am walking down an avenue in Paris. I see store names in French, walk past adorable boulangeries full of baguettes and delicious pastries, and hear the French language. But then I turn another direction and see breathtaking minarets, gorgeous trees and flowers I have never seen in my life and hear the powerful call to prayer echoing throughout the streets, and I am reminded that I am definitely in a new place I have never been to before. "

ALECIA PASDERA

FULBRIGHT-HAYS STATS



9

CITIES

17

SITES

25

LECTURES

With the participation of

19

ALUMNI

4

BOARD
MEMBERS

6

CURRENT
FULBRIGHTERS



Fulbright-Hays

A CULINARY JOURNEY



One of the best ways to discover a culture is through its cuisine. The Fulbright-Hays group was able to experience different types of traditional Moroccan food like couscous, tanjia and rfissa throughout their stay in the country.



Fulbright-Hays

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



WOMEN, ART AND DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY MOROCCO

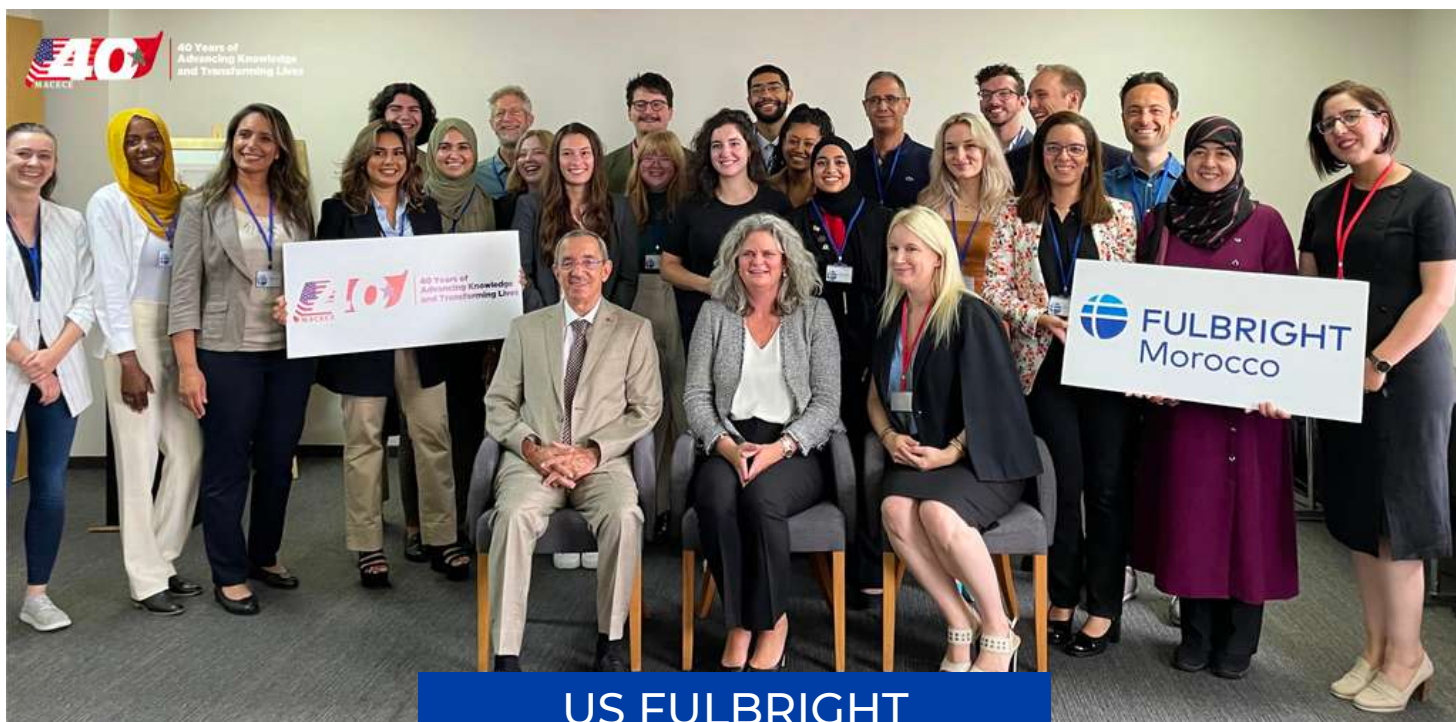
The Metropolitan State University of Denver in Colorado partnered with MACECE to bring American seminar grantees to Morocco under the Fulbright Group Project Abroad Program funded by the US Department of Education in collaboration with the US Department of State.



The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program provides U.S. secondary educators in the social sciences and humanities with opportunities to participate in short-term seminars abroad to improve their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries.



The theme of this particular program was Women, Art and Development in Contemporary Morocco. The program aimed to strengthen faculty members' and student teachers' expertise and competence about contemporary Morocco; enhance the quality of instruction about Morocco and Islamic civilizations; expand teachers' knowledge about the traditional and modern arts in Morocco; acquire relevant teaching materials that only an on-site experience could provide; amongst several other objectives. For this area studies-focused seminar, 12 participants including faculty and pre-service teachers from MSU Denver and classroom teachers from the Denver Center for International Studies (DCIS), traveled in many cities in Morocco including Casablanca, Rabat, Tangier, Chefchaouen, Fes, Safi and Marrakech.



US FULBRIGHT ORIENTATION

In September this, MACECE organized, in Rabat, the US grantee Orientation for US scholars, Student Researchers and English Teaching Assistants (ETAs). The event was followed by an intensive training week exclusively intended for the ETAs to equip them with the necessary tools for a successful academic year of teaching at the University level.

The general orientation was the largest one MACECE was able to organize since before the pandemic. Ms. Aimee Cutrona, the US Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires, attended the event and welcomed the grantees to Morocco. She reflected on the Moroccan American diplomatic relations and how cultural and educational exchanges build bridges between our two nations. Dr. Wail Benjelloun, Chair of the MACECE Board, also gave welcome remarks to the American grantees for the occasion and highlighted the significance of such educational initiatives in transmitting values and fostering the relationship between the United States and Morocco. Both emphasized the idea that cultural diplomacy is not an isolated compartment from economics or politics, but rather another extension of foreign policy and consequently, needs to get the attention it deserves.

The US Embassy in Rabat sent the Regional Security Officer for a security briefing session. Our grantees had the chance to ask the questions they had as American citizens adapting to a new cultural setting and to share their concerns. They also benefited from Darija crash courses to initiate them to the language and to interactions with Moroccans and to help them navigate their daily tasks.

The continuing US grantees participated in several panels revolving around the specificities of life as a Fulbrighter in Morocco, sharing their experiences navigating cultural norms, building a social life, and overcoming the challenges of adapting to a new setting. Researchers also discussed the research clearance procedure, working with affiliates, doing fieldwork, accessing archives and navigating the Moroccan academic environment.

Orientation culminated with an insightful panel presenting MACECE's partners: Dar America, CLLC Program, US Embassy, American citizens services, US Consulate, and the Moroccan Fulbright Alumni Association.

ETA training week was especially interesting thanks to our strong collaboration with the RELO's office. Sessions were not only intended to give the grantees an overview of the Moroccan education system but also to provide them with English teaching resources to help prepare for their classes. Representatives from the ETA host institutions attended the opening of the event and introduced their departments to the attendees. From the educational reforms in Morocco to how to navigate their new role and classrooms as teachers and Fulbrighters, MACECE made sure to offer as many resources as possible to the grantees who also had the chance to be part of a networking reception with Moroccan teachers, Fulbright Alumni from FLTA, DAI and TCLP programs. The ETA in-country teacher training ended with a farewell lunch with MACECE staff, US scholars, student researchers and of course the ETAs, who traveled to their host cities the following day to prepare for their exciting new teaching journey in Morocco.



Fulbright Orientation

DINNER AT MACECE



To bring the new American grantees closer to Moroccan culture, MACECE hosted a BBQ complete with traditional Moroccan music and food and invited members of the US Embassy to join the festivities.





**LOIS ROTH
FOUNDATION**
FOR CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

LOIS ROTH FOUNDATION AWARD



"A big congratulations to Dr. Ryan Milov-Cordoba, the winner of our inaugural Lois Roth Foundation Award for Morocco! Ryan will use this award to support his Fulbright project: Streaming the Soq: Presents, Futures, and Pasts of the Moroccan Darija Hakawati Tradition. After Fulbright, he plans to explore postdocs and assistant professorships at American and Moroccan universities to develop his research into a first book. It's such pleasure to work with the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE) Fulbright Morocco to make this selection! "

Lois Roth foundation



Dr. Ryan Milov-Cordoba
US Fulbright Researcher



FULBRIGHT Morocco-Spain

CROSSING THE STRAITS

On April 21-23, 2022, The Moroccan-American and the Spanish-American Fulbright Commissions co-organized an exceptional seminar themed: 'Crossing the Straits' that took place in the historical city of Cordoba, in the Spanish province of Andalucia in Spain. The aim of this seminar was to provide U.S. Researchers to Morocco and to Spain with the opportunity to share their rich experiences, to develop an understanding of the shared past, present, and future of their two host countries and to offer a glimpse into the constant exchange between these two cultures throughout centuries. The seminar structure allowed for both guided workshops and individual presentations on a topic related to the theme of the seminar. The presentations ranged from topics on Ecosystems, Climate Change, and Sustainability to Amazigh/Spain Connections and more. The group also enjoyed a musical performance of the Amazigh Ribab and guided tours of the historic Cordoba Mosque and Cathedral and the magic site of Madinat Al Zahra.



The two days of interactions and exchanges allowed the participants to gain further insights into the region and many developed new interests in advanced research in collaborative topics, common pasts and collective memories. MACECE Executive Director, Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Moroccan Programs Officer, Hafsa Kanoubi, accompanied the Morocco group for the seminar.



CLLC, Companionship through Language, Language through Companionship

by ETA Alia Mnayer



On the weekend of November 4th, I was fortunate enough to work with dozens of Moroccan teens at the 17th CLLC (Companionship through Language, Language through Companionship) English language training session. Co-founded by Dr. Said Naqchi, this program aims to engage English-speaking teenagers in meaningful conversation while also providing practical teaching experience to Moroccans studying for their TESOL certification. I and other Fulbrighters (Clara Sherwood, Rachida Parks) were there to support the teachers in their first classroom experience and provide the added knowledge of a native speaker.

Throughout the five ninety-minute sessions we had with the students, we were able to connect with them on their thoughts on the session topic, Our Youth: The Essential Foundation for Ensuring Water Security. In my session, we used music (Michael Jackson's "Earth Song") to stir conversation and engage the students in rhetorical analysis. Our discussions ranged from the disparities in water availability across the globe and the efficacy of Michael Jackson's melodic screaming to our favorite foods and ideal destinations for travel.

Being able to interact with Moroccan young people in this way was a joy, largely due to their across-the-board exceptional English skills. We were able to engage in nuanced conversations about global issues, exchange stories and jokes, and push back against disparate ideas. At the question-and-answer session within the closing ceremony, several students discussed the importance of debate—the importance of an environment that allows them to challenge the word of authority—to their personal and linguistic development.



We were able to engage in nuanced conversations about global issues, exchange stories and jokes, and push back against disparate ideas.



Uncovering pieces of Moroccan culture through the eyes of its youth was a beautiful experience, and I am eager to continue navigating language, culture, and innovation throughout my time in Morocco.



Testimonial



MOHAMED AMINE KALAKHI

Fulbright Study Grantee

**MA, Comparative Literature
& Intercultural Studies,**
University of Georgia, Athens

Since the start of my higher education, I knew I wanted to apply to the Fulbright program. I rightfully thought it would be a life-changing journey, and it surely was.

I started my online application with some doubts but a lot of enthusiasm. I was fortunate to be called for the interview and eventually got selected. Due to my background in languages and literature, I decided to pursue an M.A in Comparative Literature at the University of Georgia. My university was a welcoming environment despite the challenges I faced.

I would say that being a Fulbrighter means having a great deal of privilege, even vis-à-vis some local students.

I surely faced some challenges given my visual impairment such as getting to know the campus and having the necessary accommodations, but I was lucky to have many resources that Fulbright and my university provided.

Both the Amideast team in the U.S as well as MACECE in Morocco were quite responsive to all my concerns. This allowed me to pursue my degree in the U.S which was one of my main goals in life.

I always wanted to study at an American university because not only does it provide one with all the resources to pursue scholarship, but it is also a fact that the U.S is the best country when it comes to providing the necessary accommodations for students with disabilities.

I urge anyone interested in studying in the U.S to consider applying to the Fulbright program. It will be a turning point in both your academic and professional career.

Dr. Yassine Mekdad

Yassine Mekdad (2020-2021) defended his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Sciences, Moulay Ismail University in Meknes. Yassine conducted his research project on Security Investigation of Critical Infrastructures against Industrial Cyber Attacks at Florida International University, Miami, FL.



Dr. Saad Alami Merrouni

Saad Alami Merrouni (2020-2021) defended his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Letters, Mohammed 1st University in Oujda. Saad spent one academic year conducting research on Migrants and Urban Public Space in Morocco at Utah State University, Logan, Utah.



Dr. Abdessamad Belgada

Abdessamad Belgada (2019-2020) defended his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Mohammedia. He spent a year researching Desalination of brackish water and sea water by membrane distillation and pervaporation techniques using zeolitic and novel materials membranes at Yale University, New Haven, CT.



Dr. Zoubida Ziani

Zoubida Ziani (2017-2018), defended her PhD thesis at English Department of Mohammed V University in Rabat. She spent one academic year conducting research on Issues in the Morphology of Loanwords in Moroccan Arabic at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.



MACECE congratulates our Joint Supervision Grantees who defended this year

Dr. Chafik Graiguer

Chafik Graiguer (2019-2020) defended his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Letters Ben Msik, Hassan II University in Casablanca. Chafik conducted his research project on Ethics, Religion and the Self: Controversies about Moral Values in Classical Islam at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.



Dr. Maryem Larhmaid

Maryem Larhmaid (2018-2019) defended her PhD thesis at the Faculty of Education Sciences in Rabat.

Maryem spent one academic year conducting research on Educational Psychology at the University of Maryland.



Dr. Soumaya Nabih

Soumaya Nabih (2019-2020) defended her PhD thesis at the Faculty of Sciences and Techniques in Fes.

She spent a year researching Assessment of climate change impacts on hydrological regime of a Mediterranean watershed at the The University of Oklahoma and NOAA.



Dr. Laila El Ghazouani

Laila El Ghazouani (2020-2021), defended her PhD thesis at the National School of Architecture, Rabat. She conducted her research on the phenomenon of Urban Heat Islands at the Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA, Greenbelt, Maryland



MACECE congratulates our Joint Supervision and FLTA Grantees who defended this year

Dr. Zineb Aoullay

Zineb Aoullay (2015-2016) defended her PhD thesis at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy in Rabat, Mohammed V University. Zineb conducted her research project on Microbial Biotechnology at the University of California, San Francisco, CA.



Dr. Abdelmoula El Khdar

Abdelmoula El Khdar. (2007-2008) defended his PhD thesis at Hassan II University in Casablanca. He was an FLTA in the US and upon his return to Morocco, he conducted his PhD research on "Investigating Moroccan EFL Teachers' Perceptions and Practices of Differentiated Instruction in Secondary Education"



Dr. Chaymae Halime

Chaymae Halime (2021-2022) defended her PhD thesis at Mohammed V University in Rabat. She was a FLTA in the US which inspired her PhD research. Her topic was "Teaching Arabic Language to Non-Native Learners in Higher Education"



Fulbright Study Grant Cohort 2022



Salma Haoudi,
MS in Urban Planning
University of Maryland



Nada Mouatakif,
MBA, Syracuse University



Ali Gharbi,
MBA, Arizona State university



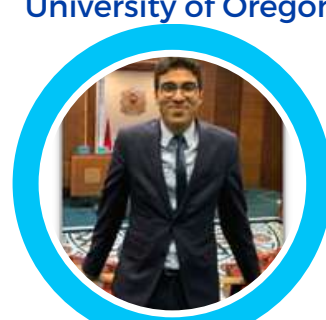
Leila Ouazzani,
MS in Architecture
University of Oregon



Anas Akherraz,
M.S., Finance, University of
Cincinnati



Awatif El Abdellaouy,
M.M.S., Master of Agribusiness
Texas A & M University



Fouad Laajin,
MBA, The State University
of New York



Mouad Maarouf,
Master of Engineering management
Rochester institute of technology



Fatima Zahra Hamdi,
MA in Interaction Design,
University of North Texas



Abdelmoula Bounakaya,
MBA, Babson College



Khalil El Hafi,
MS in Business Analytics, University of
Minnesota

Fulbright Joint- Supervision Cohort 2021



Safiya El Ghmari,
University of Chicago



Siham Boumhaouad,
Columbia University



Hajar Ouknider,
Kennesaw State University



Islam El Jaddaoui,
Rutgers University-New Brunswick



Imane Aboutajeddyne,
Arizona State University



Halima Malal,
University of California-
Davis

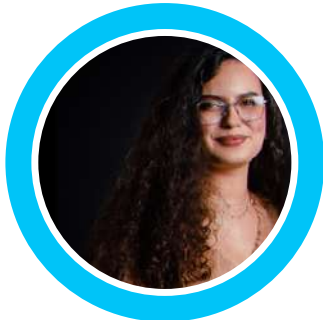


Smahane El Halouy,
Kent State University



Yahiya Akalay,
Yale University

Fulbright Joint- Supervision Cohort 2022



Nihal Bouabida,
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette



Aicha Adoui,
Georgetown University



Ikbale Bouziane,
University of California,
Los Angeles



Mohammed Hicham Nejma,
University of California Irvine



Mounia El Jaouhari,
Lehman College, NY



Ahmed Alalou,
Missouri University of Science
and Technology



Rafik Er-rabit,
Louisiana State University



Hasna El Haji,
Arizona State University



Loubna El Ouardi,
University of Maryland,
College Park

Fulbright Joint- Supervision Cohort 2022



Ahmed Zahlan,
Columbia Business School, NY



Hajar El Gadi,
University of Houston



Soumaya El Merzougui,
University of Florida



Badr El Hajouji,
University of Kentucky

Fulbright Post-Doc Cohort 2022



Ahmed Alami Merrouni,
University of California,
Merced, CA



Driss Cherqaoui,
Miller School of
Medicine, University of
Miami



Karim Bejjit,
Morgan State
University, Baltimore,
Maryland

Fulbright Post-Doc Cohort 2022

(continued)



Rihab Abba,
Georgia State University



Asmae El Mokrini,
Ross School of Business, Michigan



Hajar El Hammouti,
Virginia Tech, Arlington



Abdelhamid El Kaaouachi,
University of New Mexico, Center
for High Technology Materials,



Alae Azouzoute,
NREL of the US Department of
Energy, Golden, CO



Hajar El Talibi,
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology



Meriem Bouhbou,
University of California,
Santa Barbara

Humphrey Fellow 2022



Zineb Ouaaba,
American University, Washington DC



Samira Bahadi,
Mercyhurst University, PA



Soukaina Bakhout,
Bennett College, NC



Ibtissam Kassimi,
Bloomsburg University of
Pennsylvania, PA



Mohammed Bouknify,
Bluefield State College, WV



Mohamed Bouaissane,
Duke University, NC



Zaina Dali, Hobart and William Smith
Colleges, NY



Salah-Eddine Oukhssane,
Lincoln University, PA



Dounia Mansouri
University of Georgia, GA



Dayaa Jabbar,
Catholic University of America, DC



Taoufik Amri,
Jarvis Christian
University, TX

DAI Cohort 2022



Aziz Maruan,
Indiana University of Pennsylvania



Hicham Isha,
Arizona State University



Hamid Meziane,
Arizona State University

TCLP Cohort 2022



Abdelkrim Hayab,
Twinfield Union School, Plainfield,
Vermont



Moulay Tahar Kettani,
Maple Street Magnet School for
the Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan



Bouslam Abaid,
Seventy-First High School, Fayetteville, North
Carolina

U.S. Student Researchers 2022



Austin Bodetti
Relationship between environmental and religious law in Morocco



Rachael Diniega
How people's migration experience can influence implementation of agricultural and forest conservation policies.



Katie Hicks
Ribab and singing styles of the Tirroysa tradition



Emily Hayes-Rich
The khattara traditional irrigation system



Brittany Landorf
Moroccan Sufi orders



Djelimory Diabate
Islamic reformist political thought in West Africa, and the proliferation of Ajami and West African Muslim diasporas across the Sahara and Atlantic

U.S. Student Researchers 2022-2023



Salwa Najmi
Public health research project focused on maternal health



Jamie Fico
How local agricultural practices can inform sustainability efforts



Lloyd Farley
How locally cherished plants evolve in their importance relative to environmental and social change



Tartil Ali
The quality of prenatal care in urban versus rural areas



Madeline Turner
Climate change-driven land degradation, rural development, and food insecurity



Dr. Ryan Milov-Cordoba
Oral Darija storytelling traditions of the Moroccan Hakawatiin

U.S. ETAs 2022



Caroline Baum

Ben M'Sik Faculty of Letters, Hassan II
University, Casablanca



Cindy Wu

Ecole Normale Supérieure, Rabat



Claire Gothard

Ben M'Sik Faculty of Letters, Hassan II
University, Casablanca



Reagan Miller

Ben M'Sik Faculty of Letters,
Hassan II University,
Casablanca

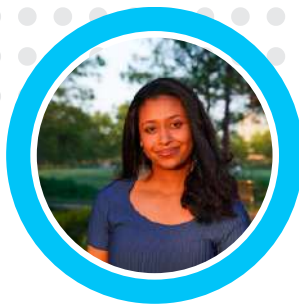
U.S. Flex Scholar 2022



Dr. David Packer

Contemporary Moroccan ceramics in a historic and traditional context.

U.S. ETAs 2022-2023



Priya Canzius
Université Hassan II, Faculté des Lettres
et des Sciences Humaines, Ben M'sik,
Casablanca



Micah
Ecole Supérieure de Technologie, Essaouira



Mariam Sayed
Faculté de médecine et de
pharmacie de Marrakech,
Université Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech



Clara Sherwood
Ecole Supérieure Roi Fahd de
Traduction, Université
Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Tangier



Christopher Pumford
Institut Agronomique et
Vétérinaire Hassan II Rabat



Josie Adolf
Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines,
Université Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Tetouan



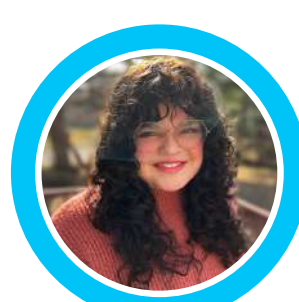
Ethan Kostishak
Ecole Nationale des Sciences
Appliquées, Université
Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Tetouan



Cutty Ashley
Faculté des Langues, Arts et
Sciences Humaines, Université
Hassan 1er, Settat



Claire Smith
Split. placement: ENSAM and FLSH,
Université Moulay Ismail, Meknes



Alia Mnayer
ENS and Institut Supérieur de
l'Information et de la
Communication, Rabat

U.S. Global Scholar 2022-2023



Dr. William Miles

Comparative study of public and private efforts to attract the return, or at least reengagement, of high-value expatriates from three representative countries over the last four decades: Morocco, India, and Israel, with special attention to their respective Jewish diasporas

U.S. Scholars 2022-2023



Dr. Kristin Hickman
Representations of Black migrants
in the Moroccan national
imagination



Dr. James Peyton-Jones
Embedded Systems and Internet
of Things: Teaching, Teacher
Training, and Research
Applications



Dr. Majid Hannoum
Ethnographic study of African
migrants in Moroccan cities, the
border with Spain, and the
Spanish enclaves



Dr. Kirsten Beck
Adab Interventions in Medieval
Anthologies: Approaches to
Knowledge in Isfahani's Book of
Songs



Dr. Rachida Parks
The intersection of healthcare,
digitization, and data analytics



Dr. Thomas L. Crisman
Water-energy-food nexus and
sustainability of MENA and the
Caribbean in the face of urbanization
and climate change



Dr. Diana Wylie
Urban history with special
reference to historic
preservation and public space

Morocco-Spain Joint Teaching/Research Award 2022-2023



Dr. Paul Mann
Integrated marine geophysical and
geological study of the active
tectonics of the Strait of Gibraltar

40th Anniversary

SUMMARY

Throughout 2022, MACECE led a campaign to celebrate a major milestone, the Commission's 40th Anniversary. For this occasion, we produced a lot of content including videos and testimonials from Fulbright Morocco alumni, Moroccans and Americans alike. Here are a few of the testimonials and videos:

 40 Years of Advancing Knowledge and Transforming Lives

“ I have always believed that travel is essential to expanding one's knowledge of our world. Fulbright in collaboration with MACECE opened a rich and immersive opportunity for me to live, learn, and collaborate with Moroccan nationals and institutions during my scholarship period. That transformative experience informs the passionate work I do as President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Fulbright Association serving Kansas and Missouri (USA).



Z. Hall, Esq., PhD
Private practice attorney specializing in wills, trusts, estates, and real and intellectual property law.
Fulbright US Student Researcher, 2019-2020

 40 Years of Advancing Knowledge and Transforming Lives

“ The cultural awareness, connections all over the globe and personal development that I enjoy today would not have possible without Fulbright and MACECE. Both have provided the optimal locus for personal growth, professional development and, above all, cultural awareness.



Sofyan Essarraoui
Phd candidate - Eötvös Loránd University
FLTA - 2019-2020

 40 Years of Advancing Knowledge and Transforming Lives

“ Without the time I spent in Morocco through MACECE and Fulbright's support, first in 2011 and then in 2017, I can safely say that much about my life and work would be very different today. Personally, professionally, and everything in between. Friends have become like family, and projects and collaborations that took root over a decade ago are still bearing fruit and teaching me new things today.



Dr. A. George Bajalia
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Wesleyan University.
Fulbright Student Researcher - 2011; Fulbright Hays-DDRA - 2017

 40 Years of Advancing Knowledge and Transforming Lives

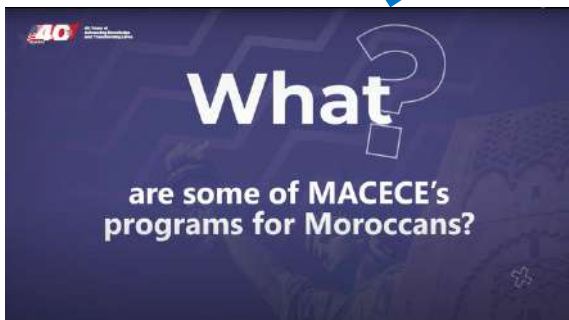
“ MACECE and Fulbright changed my life! it's one of the best professional and personal experiences I ever had and I can proudly say I belong to the Fulbright community since 2021. I found a family away from my own family beyond cultural and social differences and I am glad I was able to -and still continue- contribute to this cultural exchange and awareness among communities. Simply, an experience one can never regret.



Khaoula Bouti
Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina- Greensboro
FLTA - 2021-2022

ANNIVERSARY VIDEOS

TAP TO PLAY



What is MACECE and what is our mission?



MACECE achievements



Let's spend a day with a Fulbright ETA!



Fulbright Morocco: Sharing cultures

Building Connections



MACECE and US Embassy organized an outreach trip to universities in Tangier and Tetouan to give info sessions on US Dept Exchange programs.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner met with Fulbright Directors from around the world at the International Campus of Excellence Conference.



Visit to the London Academy with the Fulbright-Hays group.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner met with Dr. Younes Sekkouri, the Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills.



MACECE met with the Head and members of the English Department at Faculté des Sciences Semlalia-Marrakech and gave an information session at the Faculty.



Executive and Deputy Directors, respectively, Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Hafsa El Bastami, and US Programs Officer Ikram Boukhari met with the Curator and staff of Fondation Mosquée Hassan II to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

Building Connections



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Officers Ikram Boukhari and Meryem Hammam visited our partners at the US Department of Education in Washington DC.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Officers Ikram Boukhari and Meryem Hammam's visit to the International Institute of Education (IIE) in Washington DC.



MACECE organized a group dinner in Washington DC that gathered current grantees and alumni of Fulbright Morocco;



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner visited King Fahd School of Translation in Tangier and attended our ETA's English class.



Current Fulbright grantees and alumni gathered at the Commission to cheer on Morocco's National team during the World Cup.



During a delegation visit for the International Campus of Excellence, MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner met with Abdellatif Mazouz, President of the Regional Counsel of Casablanca-Settat, Dr. Michael Hawes, Director of Fulbright Canada, and Dr. Alex Frino, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Wollongong-Australia.

Building Connections



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner met Abdelaziz Bendou, the President of Ibn Zohr University during a delegation visit for the International Campus of Excellence.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and US Programs Officer Ikram Boukhari visited UM6P with the Fulbright Hays group.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Officers Ikram Boukhari and Meryem Hammam met with our American partners at the US Department of State.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner and Officers Ikram Boukhari and Meryem Hammam during Faculté des Sciences Ben M'sik's Cultural Day.



MACECE's Executive Director Dr. Rebecca B. Geffner's visit to ESCA Business School for the opening of their new campus



US Fulbrighters and Moroccan alumni got together at MACECE's Cousous lunch party to celebrate the Holidays.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AND UPDATES

- **Ayoub El Jamal**, Study Grant 2020-2022 released a short movie AVA that received multiple nominations at film festivals.
- **Dr. Carolyn Barnett**, US. Student Researcher 2018-2019, received her PhD from Princeton and started a new position as Assistant Professor in the School of Government & Public Policy and the School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies at the University of Arizona.
- **Ivan Solomon**, ETA 2019-2020 was selected as a Pickering Fellow for 2022.
- **Dr. Anasse Bari**, Study Grant 2008-2010, received the Golden Dozen Award from New York University (NYU) for his outstanding contribution to learning in the classroom.
- **Dr. Amine Bensaid**, Post-Doc 1999-2000, President of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, was named by His Majesty King Mohammed VI as one of the 20 members of the Higher Council for Education. He has also been nominated to the Advisory Group of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA).
- **Karim Benqdad**, DAI 2016-2017 made it in the inspection exam and is currently under training at the inspection center in Rabat for his future career as an ELT supervisor.
- **Adil Lachgar**, FLTA 2009-2010, just got a new position as an Assistant Professor of English Studies and Translation at the Faculty of Arabic, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech.
- **Rachid Moussaid**, ILEP 2015-2016, has started a new job in November 2022 as Assistant Professor at Ibn Zohr University - Ecole Supérieure de l'Education et de la Formation in Agadir.
- **Oumama Kabli**, ETA 2018-2019, is the July 2022 winner of the Brussels Bubble Award for organizing Bureau of Intelligence and Research Assistant Secretary Brett Holmgren's visit to Brussels. She was also selected by SAIS to be the 2022 commencement speaker.
- **Said Ennahid**, Post-Doc 1993-1994, has published a new book chapter: '*Searching for Rome: French Colonial Archaeology and Urban Planning in Morocco.*'
- **Oussama Rouijel**, Study Grant 2020-2022, was selected to serve on the Recent-grad council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association for a two-year term.
- **Mohamed Zakaria Laghmam**, FLTA 2020-2021, got a new position as Assistant Professor of English and Cultural Studies at the Moulay Ismail University in Meknes.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS CORNER

Dr. El Hassan Mayad, Post-Doc, 2021-2022

Editorial

1. Furze, J.N. and Mayad, E.H. (2021). Emergent horizons and biodynamic interactions. 28, 64137–64139.

Book chapter

1. Furze J.N., Mayad E.H. (2022). Generators, harmonics and evolutionary emergence. In: Furze J.N., Eslamian S., Raafat S.M., Swing K. (eds) Earth systems protection and sustainability. Springer, Cham.

Publications

1. Qessaoui R., Zanzan M., Ajerrar A., Lahmyed H., Boumair A., Tahzima R., Alouani M, Mayad E.H., Chebli B., Stuart A. W. & Bouharroud R., (2022). *Pseudomonas* Isolates as potential biofungicides of Green Mold (*Penicillium Digitatum*) on Orange Fruit. International Journal of Fruit Science. 22:1, 142-150.
2. Parnian A., Furze J.N., Parnian A. and Mayad E.H. (2021). Water purification plantations for oil and gas industries in Iran. Environ Sci Pollut Res 28, 64193–64198.
3. Trap J., Ranoarisoa, M.P., Raharijaona S., Rabeharisoa L., Plassard C., Mayad E.H., Bernard L., Becquer T. and Blanchart E., (2021) Agricultural practices modulate the beneficial activity of bacterial-feeding nematodes for plant growth and nutrition: evidence from an original intact soil core technique. Sustainability 2021, 13, 7181.
4. Qessaoui R., Lahmyed H., Ajerrar A., Bouharroud R., Furze J.N., Paulitz T., Alouani M., Chebli B. and Mayad E.H. (2021). Rhizospheric solutions: *Pseudomonas* isolates counter *Botrytis cinerea* on tomato. African and Mediterranean Agricultural Journal - Al Awamia, (131), p. 50-72.
5. Basaid K., Chebli B., Bouharroud R., Elaini R., Filali Alaoui I., Kaoui K., Lopes De Oliveira A., Furze N. And Mayad E.H. (2021). Biocontrol potential of essential oil from Moroccan *Ridolfia segetum* (L.) Moris. J Plant Dis Prot 128, 1157–1166.
6. Furze Jn. and Mayad E.H. (2021). Harmonics, evolutionary generators, DANCE and HEAR - functional dimensions. Environ Sci Pollut Res. 28, 64181–64190.
7. Filali Alaoui, I., Ait Hamza, M., Benjlil, H. ...[...], Mayad E.H. (2021). Phytoparasitic nematodes of organic vegetables in the Argan biosphere of Souss-Massa (Southern Morocco). Environ Sci Pollut Res. 28, 64166–64180.
8. Msanda, F., Mayad, E.H. & Furze, J.N. Floristic biodiversity, biogeographical significance, and importance of Morocco's arganeraie biosphere reserve. Environ Sci Pollut Res (2021).
9. TABRIKA, I., Mayad, E.H., Furze, J.N. et al. Optimization of tomato waste composting with integration of organic feedstock. Environ Sci Pollut Res (2021).

Emily Benichou Gottreich, Student Researcher, 2010-2011

Books

1. *Jewish Morocco: A History from Pre-Islamic to Post-Colonial Times* (London: I.B. Tauris, in press).
2. *The Mellah of Marrakesh: Jewish and Muslim Space in Morocco's Red City* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007). Translated into French as: *Le Mellah de Marrakech, un espace Judéo-musulman en partage*, translation by Mohamed Hatimi. (Rabat: Publications de la Faculté des Lettres et des Science Humaines, distributed by Université Mohammed V, 2016).

Edited Volumes

Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa, co. ed. with Daniel Schroeter (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011).

Articles

1. "Introduction: Pluralizing North African Historiography: Susan Gilson Miller and the History of Morocco," with Aomar Boum and Jessica M. Marglin, *Journal of North African History*
2. "Searching for Jewish Morocco," *Journal of North African Studies*
3. "Moroccan Jews and the American Historical Imaginary: a Survey across Time" (with Susan Gilson Miller), *Hespéris-Tamuda* (fascicule II) 2016: 57-82.
4. "Of Messiahs and Sultans: Shabbatai Zevi and Early Modernity in Morocco," *Modern Jewish Studies* (12, 2) 2013: 1-26. Also published as chapter in *Sites of Jewish Memory: Jews in and from Islamic Lands in Modern Times*, ed. Glenda Abramson (London: Routledge, 2014).
5. "Historicizing the Concept of 'Arab Jews' in the Maghrib," *Jewish Quarterly Review* (98, 4) 2008: 433-451.
6. "Rethinking the 'Islamic City' from the Perspective of Jewish Space," *Jewish Social Studies* (3) 2004: 118-146.
7. "On the Origins of the Mellah of Marrakesh," *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (35) 2003: 287-305.

Book Chapters

1. "In Emergent Morocco," in Benjamin Stora and Abdelwahab Meddeb, eds., *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations: From the Origins to the Present Day* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013). Translated into French as: "Au Maroc Emergent," in Benjamin Stora and Abdelwahab Meddeb, eds., *Histoire des relations entre juifs et musulmans du Coran à nos jours* (Paris: Albin Michel, 2013).
2. "The Jewish Quarter of Marrakesh, Epicenter of a Desert Economy" in Susan Gilson Miller, ed., *The Architecture and Memory of the Minority Quarter in the Muslim Mediterranean City* (Boston: Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture, distributed by Harvard University Press, 2010).

Book Reviews

1. Bashir Bashir and Leila Farsakh, eds., *The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020). For *Arab Studies Quarterly* (44/2) 2022.
2. Lawrence Rosen, *Two Arabs, a Berber, and a Jew: Entangled Lives in Morocco* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016). For *Anthropos* (112/1) 2017.
3. Aomar Boum, *Memories of Absence: How Muslims Remember Jews in Morocco* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013). For *Association for Jewish Studies Review* (38, 1) 2014.
4. Sheila Crane, *Mediterranean Crossroads: Marseille and Modern Architecture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011). For *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review* (Spring 2012).
5. Sarah Abrevaya Stein, *Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews, and a Lost World of Global Commerce* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008). For *American Historical Review* (June 2009).
6. Shlomo Deshen and Walter Zenner, eds., *Jews among Muslims: Communities in the Precolonial Middle East*, (New York, NYU Press, 1996). For *Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review* (3, 1) 1998.

Encyclopedia Articles

1. "Marrakech" *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Third Edition, 2019, 2021).
2. "Ahl al-Kitab," "Mellah," *Enzyklopädie jüdischer Geschichte und Kultur* (Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler, 2010-2013).
3. "École Professionnelle Agricole, Marrakech," "Jewish Quarters," "Mellah," and "Marrakech," *Encyclopedia of Jews of the Islamic World* (Leiden: Brill, 2010).
4. "Jews in Morocco," *Encyclopedia of Diasporas* (New York: Kluwer/Plenum, 2005).

Dr. Isaure de Buron, US Scholar, 2018-2019

Articles

1. A Qninba, MA El Agbani, A Benhoussa, O Himmi, **I de Buron**, A Pariselle. *Sebkhat Skaymate (Province de Dakhla), une autre zone humide originale dans le sud marocain*. Go-South Bull. 17: 11-15.
2. **I. de Buron**, J-F Agnese, A. Qninba, A. Benhoussa, H. Louizi A. Pariselle. *Parasites des poissons de la Sebkha d'Imlili. In : Sebkhat Imlili (Region Dakhla-Oued Eddahab), une zone humide saharienne relique*. (Eds A Qninba, M Lamine, T Balla, A Pariselle, O Himmi). Institut Scientifique. Université Mohammed V de Rabat & Association Nature Initiative de Dakhla.

Dr. Najlae Zhani, Post-Doc, 2021-2022

Article

1. **Zhani, N.**, Mouri, N., & Ahmed, T. (2022). The role of mobile value and trust as drivers of purchase intentions in m-servicescape. *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, 68, 103060.

Hajar Ouknider, Joint-Supervision, 2021-2022

Article

1. **Ouknider, H.**, & Benzidan, M. (2022). Disability in Moroccan Literature: Nabil in Au Pays, Tahar Ben Jelloun. In International Journal of Literature Studies (Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp. 22–28). Al-Kindi Center for Research and Development. <https://doi.org/10.32996/ijts.2022.2.1.4>

Noussair Lazrak, Joint-Supervision, 2021-2022

Article

NYU News: <https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2022/may/to-breathe-a-little-easier--check-the-air-quality-before-venturi.html>

Publications

1. **Noussair Lazrak**, Kevin Cromar. Air Quality Indices and Health Risk Communication in Europe. Rapid Review and Recommendations. D25. THE VIEW AHEAD: EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT, COMMUNICATION, AND EARLY LIFE IMPACT. 2022 May:A5169
2. Lekadir, Karim, Richard Osuala, Catherine Gallin, **Noussair Lazrak**, Kaisar Kushibar, Gianna Tsakou, Susanna Aussó et al. "FUTURE-AI: Guiding Principles and Consensus Recommendations for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in Future Medical Imaging." arXiv e-prints (2021): arXiv-2109.
3. Lekadir, Karim, Tinashe Mutsvangwa, **Noussair Lazrak**, Jihad Zahir, Celia Cintas, Mohammed El Hassouni, Yunusa Garba Mohammed et al. "FROM MICCAI TO AFRICAI: AFRICAN NETWORK FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BIOMEDICAL IMAGING."

Safiya El Ghmari, Joint-Supervision, 2021-2022

Co-written Manifesto, added as a book chapter

1. Rocco, R. (2022). A Manifesto for the Just City. TU Delft OPEN Publishing.

Publications

1. **El Ghmari, S.**, & Zabadi, A. (2021). Urban Informality: Its Genesis and Future beyond Stigma and Abolition. African and Mediterranean Journal of Architecture and Urbanism, Issue 5: V.3 N°1 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.48399/IMIST.PRSM/AMJAU-V3I1.26746>
2. **EL GHMARI, S.**, & ZABADI, A. (2021). Towards a New Complex Science of Cities. African Journal on Land Policy and Geospatial Sciences, Vol. 4, No 4: September 2021. <https://doi.org/10.48346/IMIST.PRSM/AJLP-GS.V4I4.26203>

Dr. Asmae El Mokrini, Post-Doc, 2022-2023

Media article

1. M.L.E. (2022, June 30). Partenariat public-privé dans le secteur de la santé. Le Matin. <https://lematin.ma/express/2022/aider-decideurs-equilibrer-risques-rentabilite-lexternalisation-logistique-tribune/377825.html>

Publications

1. **El Mokrini, A.**, Aouam, T., & Kafa, N. (2022). A tailored aggregation strategy for inventory pooling in healthcare: evidence from an emerging market. In *Operations Management Research*. Springer Science and Business Media LLC. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12063-022-00302-7>
2. **El Mokrini, A.**, & Aouam, T. (2022). A decision-support tool for policy makers in healthcare supply chains to balance between perceived risk in logistics outsourcing and cost-efficiency. In *Expert Systems with Applications* (Vol. 201, p. 116999). Elsevier BV. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eswa.2022.116999>

Dr. Driss Cherqaoui, Post-Doc, 2022-2023

Publications

1. Host Cell Proteases Mediating SARS-CoV-2 Entry: An Overview Mehdi Oubahmane; Ismail Hdoufane; Imane Bjij; Nouhaila Ait Lahcen, Didier Villemin; Achraf El Allali; **Driss Cherqaoui**
2. Design, Synthesis, Biological and Computational Assessment of New Thiazolidin-4- one Derivatives as Potential Anticancer Agents Through the Apoptosis Pathway Bimoussa Abdoullah; Oubella Ali; Bjij Imane, Fawzi Mourad, Laamari Yassine,, Ait Itto My Youssef,, Auhmani Abdelouahed,, Morjani Hamid,, **Cherqaoui Driss**, Auhmani Aziz *ChemistrySelect*, 7 (217), June (2022)
3. Monte Carlo Method and GA-MLR-Based QSAR Modeling of NS5A Inhibitors against the Hepatitis C Virus Liman Wissal, Oubahmane Mehdi, Hdoufane, Ismail, Bjij Iman, Villemin Didier, Daoud Rachid, **Cherqaoui Driss**, El Allali Achraf *Molecules*, 27(9), 2729 (2022)
4. Development of QSAR models using singular value decomposition method: A case study for predicting anti-hiv-1 and anti-HCV biological activities Ismail Hdoufane, Daoud Ounaissi, Azzouz Dermoune, **Driss Cherqaoui** *Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry*, 12(3), 3090–3105 (2022)
5. In Silico Design and Analysis of NS4B Inhibitors against Hepatitis C Virus Ismail Hdoufane, Imane Bjij, Mehdi Oubahmane, Mahmoud E.S. Soliman, Didier Villemin, **Driss Cherqaoui** *Journal of Biomolecular Structure & Dynamics*, Published online: 29 Oct (2022)
6. COVID-19: In silico identification of potent α -ketoamide inhibitors targeting the main protease of the SARS-CoV-2 Mehdi Oubahmane, Ismail Hdoufane, Iman Bjij, Didier Villemin, **Driss Cherqaoui** *Journal of Molecular Structure*, 1244, 130897 (2021)
7. Targeting Protein Degradation in Cancer Treatment Imane Bjij, Ismail Hdoufane, Mahmoud Soliman, Menče Najdoska-Bogdanov and **Driss Cherqaoui** *Current Chemical Biology*, accepted for publication, 15(1), 5–18 (2021)

Dr. Karim BOUZOUBAA, Post-Doc, 2020-2021

1. M. Ouamer, R. Tajmout, **K. Bouzoubaa**, "Arabic Broken Plural Model Based on the Broken Pattern", In International Conference on Digital Technologies and Applications, January 2022
2. H. Salah El Fahal, M. Nasri, **K. Bouzoubaa**, A. Kabbaj, "Resources for developing an Arabic Controlled Language", In International Journal of Computer Science Trends and Technology - IJCST, Volume 9 Issue 6, Nov-Dec 2021
3. Darwish, K., Habash, N., Abbas, M., Al-Khalifa, H., Al-Natsheh, H. T., Bouamor, H., **K. Bouzoubaa**, V. Cavalli-Sforza, S. El-Beltagy, W. El-Hajj, M. Jarrar & Mubarak, H. A panoramic survey of natural language processing in the Arab world. **Communications of the ACM**, 64(4), 72-81, 2021
4. Tachicart, R., Bouzoubaa, K. "Moroccan Arabic vocabulary generation using a rule-based approach". Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences, 2021
5. K. Tnaji, **K. Bouzoubaa**, L. Aouragh, "Arabic light POS Tagger", the first Morocco AI conference, December 2021
6. M. Ouamer, **K. Bouzoubaa**, R. Tajmout, "Broken plural extraction using machine learning techniques", the first Morocco AI conference, December 2021 – NVIDIA 3rd Best Paper Award
7. **K. Bouzoubaa**, Y. Jaafar, D. Namly, R. Tachicart, R. Tajmout, H. Khamar, H. Jaafar, L. Aouragh and A. Yousfi, "A Description and Demonstration of SAFAR Framework", The 16th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics EACL, Demos Session, April 2021
8. M. Ouamer, **K. Bouzoubaa**, R. Tajmout, "Automatic detection of Arabic Patterns", 4th Doctoral Symposium on Arabic Language Engineering, Rabat, April 2021
9. Tnaji, **K. Bouzoubaa**, K., Si Lhoussain Aouragh, S.L., "A light Arabic POS Tagger using a hybrid approach", International conference on digital technologies and applications, January 29-30, 2021

Dr. Samir Zouhri, Post-Doc, 2020-2021

Article

1. **Zouhri, S.**, Zalmout, I. S., & Gingerich, P. D. (2022). New protosirenid (Mammalia, Sirenia) in the late Eocene sea cow assemblage of southwestern Morocco. In *Journal of African Earth Sciences* (Vol. 189, p. 104516). Elsevier BV.

CURRENT GRANTEE PUBLICATIONS CORNER

Nihal Bouabida, Joint-Supervision, 2022-2023

1. **Bouabida, N.** (2020). The effect of Data-driven Learning & Image-schema-based polysemy networks instruction on learning spatial prepositions of verticality: The case of Moroccan EFL learners. JURNAL ARBITRER
2. **Bouabida, Nihal & Ech-charfi, Ahmed & Azzouzi, Lamiae.** (2021). Temporal Reasoning & Language: Temporal Uses of Prepositions in English and Moroccan Arabic.

Loubna El Ouardi, Joint-Supervision, 2022-2023

Publications

1. **El Ouardi, L.** (2021). The Moroccan Arabic verb and noun test for language mapping (MAVNT-LP) under nTMS and DES. Applied Neuropsychology: Adult, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23279095.2021.1883020>
2. Diouny, S., & **El Ouardi, L.** (2022). Tense and agreement in Moroccan Arabic agrammatism: Evidence for task effects. Aphasiology, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02687038.2022.2090492>

Islam El Jaddaoui, Joint-Supervision, 2022-2023

Publications

1. **El Jaddaoui I,** Allali I, Sehli S, Ouldim K, Hamdi S, Al Idrissi N, Nejari C, Amzazi S, Bakri Y and Ghazal H (2020) Cancer Omics in Africa: Present and Prospects. Front. Oncol. 10:606428. doi:10.3389/fonc.2020.606428
2. **El Jaddaoui I,** Al Idrissi N, Hamdi S, Wakrim L, Nejari C, Amzazi S, Elouahabi A, Bakri Y and Ghazal H (2022) Plant-based vaccines against COVID-19 for massive vaccination in Africa. Front. Medication. Book. 2:909958. doi:10.3389/fddev.2022.909958





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