



Moulay Ismail University of Meknes

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities -Meknes

The Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS

**The Research Group on Intercultural Communication,
Dialogue & Conflict Resolution**

IN COOPERATION WITH

**UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on
Media & Information Literacy & Intercultural Dialogue
& MEDEA (Mediterranean Europe and Africa)**

**ORGANIZE on
12-13 May 2026**

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL SPRING ACADEMY
ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY
DIPLOMACY: Bridging Academia,
Diplomacy and Technology for Human Rights**

**AT : Ibn Khaldoun, Faculty of Arts
and Humanities - Meknes**

This archival edition reconstructs the program materials of the First International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID), held in Meknes, Morocco, 12-13 May 2026. Source materials were compiled from publicly distributed conference programs and participant copies retained by attendees. Compiled and digitally preserved by Erik P. Bean, Ed.D., conference participant and keynote speaker, June 2026.



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ORGANIZE

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL SPRING ACADEMY ON MEDIA
AND INFORMATION LITERACY DIPLOMACY, ISA-MILID:**

Bridging Academia, Diplomacy & Technology for Human Rights

12-13 May 2026

Venue: Conference Room Ibn Khaldoun

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Meknes

**Participating Countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, China, Ecuador,
Egypt, France, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria,
Serbia, Spain, United States.**

**TOUS UNI
POUR L'EXCELLENCE**



MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY DIPLOMACY ACADEMY



UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media & Information Literacy & Intercultural Dialogue



15th Anniversary

Preserving Linguistic, Cultural & Media Diversity in the Digital Age

IN CELEBRATION OF

15th Anniversary of UNESCO-MILID &

World Press Freedom Day (WPF) 2026

Concept Note

Preamble

Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy as a Response to regression of linguistic rights, cultural rights, media and information rights and digital rights in an era of uncertainty and global erosion of trust

At a time of shrinking of human rights, surge of disinformation, regression of the freedom of the press, freedom of expression and academic freedom, and the worrying tendency to the homogenisation of cultures and languages by an increasing threat to diversity in its multifarious forms, mainly linguistic, cultural and media diversity, there is an urgent need to move into practical action and make Media and Information Literacy the vaccine to all these social, technological and political ills, making of it a balancing power to build resilience and face up to all these challenges, by bridging education, diplomacy and technology as safeguards for human rights and democracy in digital spaces.

This global initiative, intertwining Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Diplomacy to defend MIL as a fundamental human right to be accessible and empowering to all, lays focus in this first edition of the International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID) on the necessity to preserve linguistic diversity, cultural diversity and media diversity as basic human rights in the digital age, in alignment with the theme of the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) 2026, devoted to Digital Human Rights.

With the advent of the AI revolution, AI Ethics and AI Literacy grounded in a people's-centred approach have become an integral part of the evolving MIL landscape, with a proactive action from UNESCO. At the same time, Tech Diplomacy has emerged as a field of high priority both to UNESCO and UN to ensure that emerging digital technologies align with human rights, ethics and SDGs, building digital bridges between nations and promoting inclusive, ethical AI and transparency of AI and digital platforms' governance.

As 2026 marks the 15th Anniversary of the UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (UNESCO-MILID) and in Celebration of World Press Freedom Day (WPF) 2026, this First Edition of the International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID) aims to highlight the MIL perspective in educational innovation, policy-making, development agendas and international cooperation by bridging the gap between MIL and Diplomacy, while celebrating WPF 2026 and commemorating 15 years in the life of UNESCO-MILID, of which Moulay Ismail University is a Founding Member.

Rationale of ISA-MILID 2026

The First Edition of the International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID) is organised by the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS (Research Laboratory

on Communication, Interculturality, Gender, Arts, Language and Society), the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Moulay Ismail University of Meknes in Morocco, in cooperation with the UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (UNESCO-MILID) and MEDEA, Mediterranean Europe and Africa.

This global event, the first of its kind, will gather Eminent Speakers from around the world, and will feature Lectures, Panel Discussions as well as Training Workshops for Doctoral Students, aiming to bring new insights into a transdisciplinary and multistakeholder approach of a Human Rights-based MIL for All and to build partnerships to advance Media, Information and Technology Literacy as a fundamental human right to be accessible and empowering to all.

Main Themes of ISA-MILID 2026

The focus of Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy this year is on linguistic, cultural and media rights to exist, to preserve diversity and to prosper in the digital age as fundamental human rights, including the right of universal access to MIL education in one's own language, adapted to one's own culture and needs, the preservation of indigenous languages and cultures, promotion of MIL Cities as a catalyst of MIL for All and by All, and the transversal themes of gender equality, freedom of expression, and information integrity.

Special attention will be given to both opportunities and challenges of AI in the cross-disciplinary fields of language, communication, culture, media and information, taking into consideration the threats of disinformation and hate speech and the increasing threats to freedom of the press and safety of journalists, threats to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

The main themes include, but are not exclusive to:

1. MIL Diplomacy in Contexts for Human Rights and International Cooperation
2. MIL Diplomacy for Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Digital Age
3. MIL for Digital Media and Information Diversity
4. MIL Diplomacy for Digital and Ethical AI Empowerment
5. MIL Diplomacy for MIL Cities and Community-level Empowerment
6. MIL for Information Integrity and Countering Disinformation and Hate Speech
7. MIL Diplomacy for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Goals
8. MIL Diplomacy for Intercultural Dialogue and Peace
9. Transversal themes of information integrity, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, academic freedom and safety of journalists.



Program
of the International Spring Academy on
Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy
ISA-MILID 2026

May 12, 2026: Morning

9:00-10:00: Inaugural Ceremony

MODERATOR:

- *Dr. Drissia CHOUIT*, Director of MIL Diplomacy Spring Academy, Moulay Ismail University of Meknes

SPEAKERS

- *Dr. Aboubakr Bouayad*, President of Moulay Ismail University
- *Dr. Mohammed Larouz*, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Meknes
- *Dr. Latifa Akharbach*, President of the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), Kingdom of Morocco
- *Dr. Ming-Kuok Lim*, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb, Rabat, Morocco
- *Dr. Mohamed Lehdahda*, Director of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Moulay Ismail University
- *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Chair of the Organizing Committee

10:00 - 10:30:

- **Reception**

May 12, 2026: Morning

10:30 - 12:30: First Plenary Session: The Necessity of Media and Information Diplomacy as a Safeguard for Human Rights

MODERATOR:

- *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Moulay Ismail University of Meknes

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Introductory Remarks: Laying the Ground for MIL Diplomacy

- *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Representative of Moulay Ismail University to UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Director of MIL Diplomacy Academy, Former Consultant to UNESCO
- *Dr. Golda El Khoury*, Founder and President of Higher Ground & Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Sciences Po, France, Former Senior United Nations official:

Clarity, Trust, and Power: Why Media and Information Literacy Has Become a Core Function of Diplomacy

- *Counsellor Najat Al Marabi*, League of Arab States, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Cairo, Egypt: **The Arab League Perspective of MIL Diplomacy for Peace and Human Rights**
- *Dr. Somia Djacta*, Chief of the Delegation of ICESCO to UNESCO, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris:

Media and Information Literacy in Multilateral Contexts: A Soft Power Instrument in International Cooperation Strategies

- *Dr. Serge Barbet*, Director of CLEMI – Centre for MIL across the French education system, Former Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research & *Dr. Lucas Chevalier*, Head of International Projects CLEMI, France: **Educational Diplomacy through Media and Information Literacy: CLEMI's Francophone and International Cooperation**
- *Dr. José Manuel Pérez Tornero*, Coordinator of the UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain: **MIL Change: New MIL Research and Policy Agenda.**

May 12, 2026: Afternoon

14:30-16:15: Second Plenary Session: Media and Information Literacy for Digital Media and Information Diversity & Digital Empowerment

MODERATOR:

- *Dr. Mohssine Nachit*, Moulay Ismail University of Meknes

SPEAKERS

- *Keynote Speaker Dr. Ming-Kuok Lim*, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Office for the Maghreb: **MIL to Address Challenges to Digital Media and Information Diversity**
- *Keynote Speaker Dr. Erik Bean*, Professor of Practice in the Ph.D. in Global Leadership Program at Indiana Institute of Technology, USA: **Invisible Lenses: Bias, Reflexivity, and Leadership in AI-Mediated Information Environments**
- *Dr. Isaac Andakian*, Expert in Lebanese & MENA law, Assistant Professor of International Conflict Management, Kennesaw State University – USA & Lebanon: **MIL Diplomacy for Digital Media Diversity, Peace & Conflict Resolution**
- *Dr. Katerina Chryssanthopoulou*, Post-Doctoral Researcher in Media & News Literacy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece: **Advancing Children's and Teen's Rights to Media and News Literacy through MIL Diplomacy**
- *Dr. José Manuel Perez Tornero*, Coordinator of UNESCO-MILID & *Ms. Nour Nfissi*, Ph.D. Candidate in Digital Law, Human Rights & MIL, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain: **Integrating MIL in Digital Diplomacy & the Right to Information**
- *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Professor of Linguistics, Communication & Media Studies & *Mr. Mohammed Aissa*, Ph.D. Candidate in MIL for Countering Disinformation & Hate Speech, Moulay Ismail University: **War on Gaza and the Crisis of Digital Human Rights: Media Bias, Protest Restrictions & Academic Freedom: UK as a Case Study.**

16:30-18:30 Third Plenary Session: Media & Information Literacy Diplomacy for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development Goals

MODERATOR:

- *Ms. Alia Papageorgiou*, President of the Press Club Brussels Europe, Belgium

SPEAKERS

- *Keynote Speaker Dr. Golda El Khoury*, Founder and President of Higher Ground & Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Sciences Po, France, Former Senior United Nations official
- *Dr. Ouafae Bouzekri*, Full Professor of Applied Linguistics and Gender Studies, Moulay Ismail University: **Silenced by the Screen: The Impact of Online Violence on Women and How Moroccan NGOs are Pressuring for Legal Reforms**
- *Dr. Preeti Shroff-Mehta*, Former Dean MICA, India, Professor at Northwestern University, USA: **Women and AI Leadership**
- *Dr. Sanae Mamnoun*, Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics and Gender, Moulay Ismail University: **Issues of Gender Equality and Honour Beliefs: Intersection of Culture and Education**
- *Dr. Adity Saxena*, Professor and Dean, School of Arts & Design, Woxsen University, India: **Designing Diversity: A Design Thinking Approach to Preserving Cultural Futures**
- *Dr. Kamal El Aissaoui*, Full Professor of Cultural Studies and Translation, Moulay Ismail University: **Intercultural Communication and Translation**
- *Dr. Paulette Stewart*, Honorary Research Fellow for MIL, University of West Indies, Jamaica: **Preserving Cultural Diversity: Best Practices.**

May 13, 2026: Morning

9:00-10:50 Fourth Plenary Session: Media & Information Literacy Diplomacy
for Ethical and Inclusive AI and Information Integrity in Digital Spaces

MODERATOR:

Dr. Erik Bean, Indiana Institute of Technology, United States

SPEAKERS

- *Keynote Speaker Dr. Zaid Abu Shama'a*, Education Sector Expert, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO): **Requirements for Developing Media and Information literacy in the Islamic World in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Question of Identity and the Prospects for Global Partnership**
- *Dr. Driss Bouyahya*, Full Professor of Cultural and Media Studies, Moulay Ismail University: **Transnational Leadership in the AI Era**
- *Dr. Adekunle Suraj Olunifesi*, Co-Coordinator of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, University of Lagos, Nigeria: **AI and the Question of Identity in the Digital Age**
- *Dr. Mohssine Nachit*, Full Professor of Cultural and Media Studies, Moulay Ismail University: **Rethinking Intercultural Communication**
- *Dr. Nikos Panagioutou*, Director of Peace Journalism Lab & Professor at School of Journalism & Mass Media Communication, Aristotle University, Greece: **From Information to Understanding: Advancing Critical Media Literacy and Civic Engagement through a Cross-National Pilot Program in Greek Schools -Lessons for Other Countries**
- *Dr. Claudia Wanderley*, Full Member of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Coordinator of the E-lab on Multiculturalism in the Digital World, UNICAMP University, Brazil: **Non-Standard Epistemologies: Traditional Knowledge as an Invitation to Develop MIL Diplomacy**
- *Prof. MsC. Enivalda Alves da Silva Pina*, Ph.D. Candidate in Education & AI & *Prof. MsC. Paloma Gerzeli Pitre*, Ph.D. Candidate in International Law & Human Rights, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil: **Regulation of Digital Platforms in the Fight Against Hate Speech and Disinformation.**

11:00-12:30 Fifth Plenary Session: Media & Information Literacy Diplomacy for Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Digital Age

MODERATOR:

- *Dr. Driss Bouyahya*, Moulay Ismail University

SPEAKERS

- *Dr. Abdelhamid Nfissi*, Founding Member of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Full Professor of Media Linguistics, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Morocco: **MIL Diplomacy for Linguistic and Cultural Rights**
- *Mr. Miomir Rajcevic*, President of Media Education Centre, Belgrade, Serbia: **MIL for Multicultural Creativity, Peace, and Digitally Inclusive Societies**
- *Dr. Augusto Preta*, Professor in Media Economics, President of the Italian Chapter of the International Institute of Communication, President of MEDEA, Mediterranean Europe & Africa, Former Advisor to the Italian Regulatory Authority AGCOM: **Digital Content and Cultural Identity: A New Paradigm**
- *Dr. Piero Dominici*, Social Scientist and Philosopher, Scientific Director of CHAOS, University of Perugia, Italy: **The epistemological Misunderstanding: Information ≠ Knowledge ≠ Experience**
- *Dr. Dina Farouk Abou Zeid*, Dean of Media and Communication Arts' Faculty at October 6 University & Professor at Mass Communication Faculty at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt: **Cultural Rights at the Core of Globalization: An Egyptian Perspective on Digital Human Rights**
- *Dr. Esther Hamburger*, Co-Coordinator of UNESCO-MILID, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Full Professor of Comparative Linguistics, Communication & Media Studies, Moulay Ismail University: **Language as Power, Rights as Law: MIL Diplomacy as the Strategic Bridge to Binding Linguistic Justice.**

May 13, 2026: Afternoon

**14:30-16:30 Sixth Plenary Session: Media and Information Literacy
Diplomacy in Contexts: Building International Cooperation & Leveraging
MIL Diplomacy for MIL Cities and Community-Level Empowerment**

**SPECIAL SESSION PAYING TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR PAULETTE
KERR, FOUNDING MEMBER OF UNESCO-MILID (2011-2026)**

MODERATOR:

Dr. Abdelhamid Nfissi, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University

SPEAKERS

- **Keynote Speaker Dr. Paulette Kerr**, Former Campus Librarian, University of West Indies, Jamaica: **Bridging Continents, Building Intelligence: Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy in the AI Era**
- **Keynote Speaker Dr. Alton Grizzle**, Programme Specialist, MIL & Digital Competencies Unit, Communication & Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris: **MIL as a Public Good: Accelerated by MIL Diplomacy**
 - *Ms. Alia Papageorgiou*, President of the Press Club Brussels Europe, Belgium: **MIL Cities: Local Press Pushed to the Forefront of Changes in AI, Digital and Literature Education**
 - *Dr. Verónica Yépez Reyes*, Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador: **Intergenerational MIL as a Strategy for Cultural and Digital Inclusion: From Local Practice to MIL Diplomacy**
 - *Dr. Marco Cabero*, Science Diplomat, Chairman of the Andean Road Countries for Science and Technology (ARCST), Bolivia & China: **Biopochito AI: Green Classrooms, Diverse Imaginations – A Model for MIL Diplomacy from the Playground**
 - *Dr. Drissia Chouit*, Moulay Ismail University: **Documenting the History of UNESCO-MILID.**
- **Tribute from MILID Members.**

16:30-17:00 Adoption of the Roadmap Meknes Declaration on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy

17:00 Closure of the First International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID 2026)

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Alton Grizzle, on behalf of UNESCO.

Dr. Drissia Chouit, on behalf of the Organizing Committee.

Organizing Committee:

Chair of the Organizing Committee: Dr. Drissia Chouit, Director of the International Spring Academy on Media and Information Literacy Diplomacy (ISA-MILID), Coordinator of the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, Founding Member of the Laboratory of Research on Communication, Interculturality, Gender, Art, Language, and Society (LaRCIGALS), Founding Member of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (UNESCO-MILID), Former Director of the Centre for Doctoral Studies in Letters, Human Sciences, Arts and Education Sciences (CEDoc-LSHASE), Full Professor of Comparative Linguistics, Communication and Media Studies, Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, Morocco.

Dr. Mohamed Lehdahda, Director of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Full Professor of Literature and the History of Ideas, Moulay Ismail University.

Dr. Mouhssine Nachit, Founding Member of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Founding Member of the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, Full Professor of Cultural, Media and Visual Studies, Moulay Ismail University.

Dr. Ahmed Chouari, Founding Member of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Founding Member of the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, Full Professor of Intercultural Communication and Media Studies, Moulay Ismail University.

Dr. Sanae Mammoun, Full Member of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Full Member of the Research Group on Intercultural Communication, Dialogue and Conflict Resolution, Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics and Gender, Moulay Ismail University.

Dr. Zohra Lhioui, Full Professor of Comparative Literature and Gender Studies, Founding Member of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Moulay Ismail University.

Dr. Fouad Mehdi, Full Professor of French Literature and Moroccan Literature written in French, Founding Member of the Research Laboratory LaRCIGALS, Moulay Ismail University.

Ph.D. Students:

Mr. Mohammed Aissa
Ms. Fatima Dehioui
Mr. Charif Ismaili Alaoui
Ms. Houda Lahboub
Ms. Ikram Moufid
Mr. Khalid Ouchibane.

Scientific Committee:

- **Dr. Mohammed Larouz:** Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, Morocco.
- **Dr. Drissia Chouit:** Former UNESCO Consultant, with 10 years of experience in diplomacy and over 25 years as a professor at Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, Dr. Chouit holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris 3, France. A UNESCO Expert in Media and Information Literacy, Former Co-Chair of the International Steering Committee of UNESCO MIL Alliance (2023-2025) and Founding Member of both UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL and Intercultural Dialogue and MEDEA, Mediterranean Europe and Africa, her work bridges education, diplomacy and intercultural dialogue, and she has published and spoken widely both as a Linguist and as an international MIL advocate.
- **Dr. Alton Grizzle:** Programme Specialist at Media and Information Literacy and Digital Competencies Unit, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, Dr. Grizzle contributes to the coordination of UNESCO's global actions on media and information literacy and is a former focal point on gender and media. He has written about and designed initiatives on the topics of media and information literacy, gender equality in media, youth, education, and media development. He has diverse education and experience. Before UNESCO, he was an educator/principal at secondary school and adult vocational training levels of the education systems in Jamaica. He is a trained teacher and holds a Msc in Computer-based Management Information Systems from the University of West Indies, Jamaica, MA in Media and Communication from the University of Leicester, UK, and a Ph.D. in Communication and Journalism from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain.
- **Dr. Ming-Kuok Lim:** Advisor for Communication and Information for UNESCO Office in Rabat, he has been involved in the global campaign to promote the rights of freedom of expression, access to information, press freedom, the safety of women and men journalists as well as tackling the issue of impunity. He is part of the team at UNESCO that supports media and information literacy including strengthening the capacity to fight disinformation, advises on media policy, and develops journalism curricula to reflect the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication.
- **Dr. Abdelhamid Nfissi:** Founding Member of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media & Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue, he is a Full Professor of Media Linguistics & Translation, Coordinator of the Research Field on MIL in the Arab World at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University of Fez in Morocco, and Co-Leader of Project MILA "Media and Information Literacy for All." His fields of interest include media linguistics, intercultural dialogue, and the sociology of media and religion. He has at his credit over 20 publications and over 50 supervision of Ph.D. dissertations.
- **Dr. Somia Djacta:** Chief of the Delegation of ICESCO to UNESCO, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
- **Dr. José Manuel Pérez Tornero:** Coordinator of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Director of UNESCO Chair in MIL & Quality Journalism, Journalist and Emeritus Professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, he was the President of Radio Televisión Española, RTVE (2021-2022) and Member of the Steering Committee of the European Broadcasting Union, EBU (2021-2022).
- **Dr. Augusto Preta** is an economist with long experience in digital media. Professor in Media Economics, he has taught in various Italian Universities (Urbino, Sassari, Cattolica di Milano). Founder of MEDEA, an independent High-Level Group operating in the Mediterranean area, and CEO of ITMedia Consulting, he has worked for around 30 years with international institutions and major players, in particular for the National Regulatory Authority AGCOM: He was nominated advisor in the investigation on digital terrestrial television (2009) and coordinator of the White Paper on Contents, published by the same

Authority in 2011. He took part in numerous projects at the European level, was Member of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Communications and is now President of the Italian Chapter. He has published books, essays, interviews, research in academic journals and sector reviews. He is author amongst many others of *Content Economics* (Vita e Pensiero, 2007), *Television and Relevant Markets* (Vita e Pensiero, 2012) and co-author of *The Television of the future* (Il Mulino, 2023).

- **Dr. Nikos S. Panagiotou:** Professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Media Communication, Aristotle University, Greece, he is the initiator and organizer of *Thessaloniki International Media Summer Academy*. He serves as the President of Digital Communication Network Global, Director of the Peace Journalism Lab and Scientific Advisor to the Centre for Foreign Policy Planning at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He oversees the International Centre for the Safety of Journalists and Media Professionals. He has been awarded the following scholarships: Chevening Scholar of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK, RCAP Scholar from APU University Japan, Scholar to Beijing Foreign Studies University, Scholar of the State of Luxembourg.
- **Dr. Esther Hamburger:** Founding Member of UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on MIL & Intercultural Dialogue, Professor of History of Film, Television and Audiovisual Media at the School of Communication and Arts of University of São Paulo, Brazil. With a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, her work explores the intersection of Culture and Cinema and Media Studies, and has appeared in a range of book collections including *Global Television*, *The Brazil Reader History, Culture, Politics; A companion to Latin American cinema*; *The Routledge's companion to media and gender*; *Television audiences across the world*, *El cinema de lo real*, *Miradas cruzadas: sociedad, política y cultura*.
- **Dr. Paulette KERR,** Former Campus Librarian at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Jamaica, Former Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies at UWI. Her research interests coalesce around areas of information literacy and Jamaican social history. She represented the UWI on the UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue from 2011 to 2025. In 2017, she co-chaired with Dr Paulette Stewart the LOC of the Global MIL Conference and Youth Agenda held in Kingston, Jamaica. She champions the twin causes of media and information literacy education for professionals as well as equipping users of academic libraries to navigate their information worlds.
- **Dr. Zaid Abu Shama'a** is a media professional and academic with extensive experience in regional and international media. He has worked with leading outlets including Nile News Channel, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and RT (Russia Today). From 2017 to 2022, he served as a correspondent and representative of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation in the Kingdom of Morocco. He holds a Ph.D. in Media and Communication Sciences from Mohammed V University in Rabat. He has taught at the Faculty of Media at Al-Quds Open University at both Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and has been a lecturer at Birzeit University and Al-Quds University. He also served as a Media Officer within the World Bank unit overseeing the implementation of the Social Protection Enhancement Project in Palestine. Since 2024, he has been working with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) as an Expert in the Education Sector focusing on Media and Information Literacy.
- **Dr. Erik Bean** is a full-time professor of practice in the Ph.D. in Global Leadership program at Indiana Institute of Technology, USA. His interdisciplinary scholarship examines the intersection of media literacy, artificial intelligence, and ethical leadership in digitally mediated environments. He previously served for more than seven years as a section editor for the *Journal of Leadership Studies*, where his article "Eavesdropping on UNESCO AI Policy, Leadership, and Ethics" was published by Wiley in March 2025. Dr. Bean's peer-reviewed research on information bias includes the article "Seven Initial Prominent Sources of All Information Bias Impartiality Types Parsed," published in *Media Literacy and*

Academic Research. His work explores practical frameworks for evaluating credibility, bias, and digital information flows in contemporary media environments. Beyond his academic publications, Dr. Bean engages public audiences through workshops and library programs on media literacy, artificial intelligence, and ethical leadership. He is the author of the non-profit handbook *Bias Is All Around You: A Handbook for Inspecting Social Media & News Stories* and serves as the Michigan Chapter Leader for Media Literacy Now.

- **Dr. Zohra Lhioui**, a Moroccan academic and researcher, serving as a Full Professor at Moulay Ismail University of Meknes where she specializes in Comparative Literature, Gender Studies, and Intercultural Dialogue. Holder of a Ph.D. from Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris 3, she is known for her work highlighting female artistic expression in Morocco and for bridging local scholarship with global literary traditions, particularly through her engagement with Borges. Fluent in French and Spanish, she presented internationally, including at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2020. In 2025, she was honoured at the *Colloquium Borges and Humanism* in Meknes for her contributions to literary humanism and intercultural dialogue. Her legacy of scholarship continues to inspire Moroccan and international academic communities.
- **Dr. Lucas Chevalier** is Director of International Projects at CLEMI / Réseau Canopé, the French public body for media and information literacy within the Ministry of Education. He works on international cooperation, disinformation resilience, and media education, notably through partnerships with UNESCO, the Francophone network for media literacy, and the European DE FACTO project within EDMO. Previously, he led communication and partnerships at Réseau Canopé and headed information, communication and impact at Erasmus+ France Education Formation, where he helped expand the program's public visibility and launched #ErasmusDays. He holds a postgraduate degree in political and public communication in Europe and also studied media and literature in Paris and New York.
- **Dr. Claudia Wanderley** is a Permanent Researcher on Multilingualism, Interculturality, Multiculturalism & Non-Standard Epistemologies, Member of the UNESCO-UNITWIN University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue since 2022, Founder of the Observatory of Disinformation, Coordinator of the E-lab on Multiculturalism in the Digital World at UNITWIN UNESCO Digital Campus of Complex Systems, UNICAMP University, Brazil.
- **Ms. Alia Papageorgiou**: Artistic Director of the Writers Festival of Belgium, she is the President of the Press Club Brussels Europe; she is on the Board of Directors of Journalism Fund Europe and also works as a consultant in media. She is a long-time journalist, former Press Officer for the EU Delegation to Australia and speaker, moderator, writer and editor. She is Greek/Australian and lives in Brussels.
- **Dr. Mohssine Nachit**: Senior Professor at the School of Arts and Humanities in Meknes, he holds a Ph.D. from La Sorbonne University. He published several articles on Moroccan culture and arts. He coordinated a Master's Program on Communication and Dialogue at Moulay Ismail University and a Research Group on Intercultural Communication.



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