

## Conference

# “Media pluralism – how can we deliver?”

Organised by the Council of Europe  
in partnership with the Reporters Without Borders

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Ali Amar**

Ali Amar began his journalistic career in 1996 at La Vie Eco. He then launched with Aboubakr Jamai and Hassane Mansouri in 1997 (replaced in 1998 by Fadel Iraki), the weekly Le Journal, that will become the flagship print outlet of the new independent press. They surrounded themselves with a team of professional journalists from a variety of backgrounds. Ali Amar remained, throughout the years, General Director of Le Journal, later renamed Le Journal Hebdo until its court-mandated shutdown in January 2010. Their team had in fact faced an impressive number of court cases throughout the lifetime of their outlet, and its Arabic-language version Assahifa, due in large part to their uncomplacent tone towards the regime and power in place and their investigations.

Following the closing down of the outlet and foreclosure of the company, Amar left the country to live in Spain, France, Slovenia and Belgium as Senior Fellow and Guest Writer of International Cities of Refuge Network, an NGO based in Norway. He returned to Morocco in 2015 to launch Le Desk with Fatima Zahra Lqadiri, Aziz Aouadi (as business angel) and journalists Christophe Guguen and Omar Radi.

Amar published several essays. Among them, the best-selling « Mohammed VI, the great misunderstanding » (Calmann-Lévy, 2009). Amar regularly publishes articles for international outlets, such as the French investigation online platform Mediapart. He also covered the Arab Spring in Morocco for The New York Time.

### **El Mahdi Aroussi Idrissi**

M. El Mahdi Aroussi Idrissi is the Director of the Legal Studies Department at the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication, HACA since September 2011. Graduated from the National Institute of Law Studies in Rabat (1999), Mr Aroussi Idrissi worked as a magistrate from 2000 to 2002 then

further specialized in civil law in 2003. From 2002 to 2004, he acted as Deputy public Attorney of his Majesty at the Commercial Court of Rabat. In 2004 he was appointed as Senior Research officer at the Department of Civil Affairs at the Ministry of Justice (2004-2008). He continued his career as Advisor to the Prime Minister and Director of the Legal Pole at the Ministry of Economic and General Affairs (2008 – 2011). He joined the HACA in 2011 as Director of the Legal Studies department.

### **Monia Ben Hamadi**

Monia Ben Hamadi is the editor-in-chief of Inkyfada, a Tunis-based media outlet. Inkyfada specializes in long-form reporting, investigation, data journalism and visual storytelling. Member of the NGO Al Khatt, which works in the field of media, through advocacy, training and development of web solutions especially dedicated to the media and NGOs. Founding member of HuffPost Maghreb and former editor-in-chief of HuffPost Tunisia.

### **Léa Chamboncel**

Léa Chamboncel has been specialized in public policy for almost 10 years.

She spent several years working for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs during which she contributed to foster the French influence abroad. She also developed an accurate expertise in Public Affairs when she joined one of the main lobbying firms in Paris.

She is now working as consultant for OCYMS CANO & CO, a consultancy based in Paris. She also produces a podcast on political issues. She is often invited on radio and hosts debates.

### **Rachael Craufurd Smith**

Dr Rachael Craufurd Smith is a Reader in Media and EU Law at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh (2000 to date). A qualified solicitor (non-practising), Rachael previously worked as European Officer and Senior Policy Adviser at the BBC (1992 and 1993-1994) and as a Lecturer at the University of Oxford. Rachael teaches a range of courses in international and European media law at both undergraduate and LLM levels and is Programme Director for the LLM in Innovation, Technology and the Law. She is a co-founding editor of the Journal of Media Law.

Rachael's research focuses on media law and fundamental rights. She has a particular interest in media ethics post-Leveson, tackling online disinformation, and the control and transparency of media ownership. She headed the Edinburgh University team on the EU FP7 funded Mediadem project (2010-2013), examining the freedom and independence of the media in fourteen European states, and acted as an expert advisor on the United Kingdom for the Media Pluralism Monitor 2017, developed by the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Florence.

**Magdalena Davidovska – Dovleva**

Magdalena Davidovska – Dovleva holds MA in Media and Communication Science. She has started working in the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services of the Republic of North Macedonia in 2000. Currently she is Head of the Strategic Planning and Copyrights Department. She works on the issues of media concentration and transparency of media ownership, drafting strategic documents for the media regulator, media market analysis, surveys of the public opinion regarding the TV and radio programmes, the employees structure in the audio and audiovisual media services, supervision of the working of the on-demand audiovisual services, retransmission of programme services etc.

**Maria Donde**

Maria works for the UK Office of Communications (Ofcom) as the Head of its International Content Policy, covering media, content and broadcasting issues. She leads on Ofcom's engagement with other European media regulators, most particularly through EPRA (where is currently a Vice-Chair) as well as international bodies, and represents Ofcom on the full range of media policy questions. She oversaw Ofcom's input into the recently concluded negotiations on the AVMS Directive and manages its relationship with the European Commission on matters relating to the Directive. Her regulatory background is in advertising, having spent four years at the Advertising Standards Authority before joining Ofcom's Broadcasting Standards department. Prior to that, she worked in media analysis, and before that as a radio producer for the BBC World Service. She has a Modern Languages degree from Cambridge University and a Masters degree in Literary Translation.

**Jean-François Furnémont**

Jean-François Furnémont is the Founding Partner and Senior Consultant since 2014 at Wagner-Hatfield, an independent Brussels-based consultancy specializing in public affairs, media policy, regulation and strategy, particularly active in the media sector and digital economy. Previously, he served as the Director General (2003-2014) of the Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA), the media regulatory authority of the French-speaking Community of Belgium, and was also actively involved in the Board of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), first as vice-Chairperson (2008-2011) and later as Chairperson (2011-2014). Former freelance journalist specialized in politics and former member of the Board of the Belgian public service media RTBF, Jean-François Furnémont is the author of several political biographies and numerous publications about media policies and media regulation. He holds a University degree in Journalism and Communication Studies, a post-University degree in International Relations and European policy and an inter-University degree in Public Finances.

### **Alton Grizzle**

Alton Grizzle is a happily married husband, father, and Christian. He works at the UNESCO HQ in Paris as Programme Specialist in Communication and Information. He manages of UNESCO's global actions on media and information literacy (MIL) and is a focal point on gender and media. He has written on the topic of media and information literacy and presented at various conferences and meetings around the world. Alton has diverse education and experience in the fields of education, management, information systems and media and communication. He has conceptualized and spearheaded many projects/initiatives and co-authored and edited books relating to MIL, gender and media, media development, communication for development. Prior to UNESCO, he was an educator/principal at secondary school and adult vocational training levels of the education systems in Jamaica for ten years. He holds a Diploma in secondary education from the Mico University College, a Bsc. in management and economics at the University of the West Indies (UWI), an Msc in Computer-based Management Information Systems from the UWI, 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.

### **Abdul -Hadi Hassan Mahfouz**

Abdul -Hadi Hassan Mahfouz, President of the National Council for Audiovisual (CNA) since 2002. Born in Bekaa Baalbek Hermel. Holds a law degree and a diploma in Public International law from the Lebanese University.

Worked as a writer and political analyst in the "Annahar newspaper" from 1979 until the year 2008. He was the editor of the magazine "Almanbar" for emigrant from 1986 till 1988.

Owner and editor in charge of "Al Shames" newspaper since 1991.

Has several studies dealing with regional issues, media and American politics in the region and pursue the period of Imam Moussa Sadr as he owns a political theory which put forward solutions to the problem of citizenship and social disparities and promote the idea of the State.

Tried to transfer the theory of Imam to civil society through the collection of more than a thousand Association between 2004 and 2005.

Contributed to the establishment of "Allikaa Altachawouri" (consultative meeting) of Baalbek-Hermel.

Founder of the consultative meeting of elites in the provinces.

### **Widad Jarbough**

Widad Jarbough is a journalist and researcher defending freedom of thought and expression. She is in charge of the Lebanese and Palestinian folders at the Samir Kassir Foundation/SKeyes Center for

Media and Cultural Freedom since October 2010. She holds a BA in journalism and a capacity-building for non-profits certificate from the Lebanese American University. She is also press officer for the Beirut Spring Festival.

### **Jan Kleijssen**

Director, Information Society - Action against Crime Directorate, Council of Europe

Jan Kleijssen was born in 1958 in Almelo (The Netherlands). He studied International Law at Utrecht State University (LLM in 1981) and International Affairs at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa (MA 1982). Jan joined the Council of Europe in 1983 as a Lawyer with the European Commission of Human Rights. He was Secretary to the Parliamentary Assembly's Political Affairs Committee from 1990 to 1999. Jan then served as Director of the Secretary General's Private Office and afterwards as Director and Special Advisor to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly. Jan is currently the Director of Information Society and Action against Crime, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, of the Council of Europe. His Directorate carries out standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities on a wide variety of issues, including freedom of expression, data protection, internet governance, cybercrime, terrorism, money-laundering and corruption.

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### **Hortense Lac**

Hortense Lac is journalist at Inkyfada, a Tunis-based media outlet. Inkyfada specializes in long-form reporting, investigation, data journalism and visual storytelling. For the 2019 update, she is also lead researcher of the Media Ownership Monitor project in Tunisia.

### **Nouri Lajmi**

President of the High Independent Authority of Audio-visual Communication (HAICA) and Vice-Chair of the Network of Francophone Regulators (REFRAM).

Nouri Lajmi holds a PhD in Information Society Sciences (Université Paris II, France). He has been teaching journalism during many years at the Institute of Presse and Information Sciences in Tunis (Université de la Manouba). He is the author of a number of researches in the fields of journalism, ethical standards and new technologies.

Nouri Lajmi has lived for many years in Canada, where he worked with several NGOs. He co-operate with the Research Centre for Public Law (Centre de recherche en droit public CRDP) of Montreal University and with the University of Laval (International Journalism Programme). He has been a consultant for the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA).

He has been appointed at the head of the HAICA in Mai 2013.

### **Clothilde Le Coz**

Clothilde le Coz has been working with Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for the past ten years, focusing on digital freedom and freedom of the press worldwide, as well as running the activities of the organization in Washington DC. She is senior project manager for the Media Ownership Monitor (MOM), implementing it in Morocco (2017), Lebanon (2018) and Egypt (2019) as well as leading the MOM research in Cambodia (2015). A French journalist and an international technical media expert with the French ministry of foreign affairs, she has been working extensively on media freedom and media development in advancing human rights.

### **Sarah E. Mallat**

Sarah E. Mallat is a Hague-based media educator and researcher from Lebanon. She has taught at both the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese American University, and is an affiliated researcher at the Institute for Media Research and Training (IMRT). As an educator, she specializes in digital and media literacy and the complex relationships between media and society; with particular interest in gendered and racial stereotypes, media and body image, 'toxic masculinity', and media's effects on kids. As a media consumer, she is fascinated by the world of podcasting as an avenue for alternative issues, ideas, and voices. Her most current research focuses on gendered newsroom culture, sexual harassment, and work-life balance among Lebanese journalists and news professionals. She holds an MA in Sociology and a BA in Sociology-Anthropology, both from the American University of Beirut.

### **Tarlach McGonagle**

Dr. Tarlach McGonagle is a senior researcher/lecturer at the Institute for Information Law (IVIR), Amsterdam Law School, University of Amsterdam. He is the founder and co-chair of the Working Group on human rights in the digital age in the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research. He specialises in, and has published widely on, a broad range of topics relating to international and European human rights law, in particular freedom of expression and minority rights; media law and policy; media pluralism; journalism; digital media; online disinformation, and "hate speech". He regularly advises and writes expert studies for various branches of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other IGOs and NGOs. He is a member of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on quality journalism in the digital age, having previously served as Rapporteur of both the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership (2016-17) and its Committee of Experts on protection of journalism and safety of journalists (2014-15).

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### **Ayman Mhanna**

Ayman Mhanna is the Executive Director of the Beirut-based Samir Kassir Foundation – SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom, the leading freedom of expression NGO in the Levant region. He joined SKF in September 2011. In this capacity, Ayman oversees the Foundation’s monitoring, advocacy, research and training activities. From January 2016 to February 2017, he was also the Executive Director of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), a network of 200 media development and journalism assistance organisations. Both at the Samir Kassir Foundation and GFMD, Ayman oversaw the organization of large-scale conferences, workshops and festivals, gathering hundreds of participants. He previously served as Senior Program Officer for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (2007-2011) working on election observation, electoral reform and civil society involvement in public policy-making. He was also a lecturer on the Master’s programme at Saint Joseph University’s Faculty of Economics, teaching Policy Development and Communications (2011-2016). Ayman holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Saint Joseph University in Beirut and a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Sciences Po Paris.

### **Mouna Msaddak**

Her experience ranges from Media to Politics and Civil Society; their common thread is communication and information production and analyses. She previously worked as a Media Analyst at the Tunisia Independent Broadcast Regulation Authority (HAICA) before joining the Communications Department of Tunisian Parliament. In the Civil Society sector, she was in charge of the Arabic version of the jamaity.org platform where she was responsible for producing information for civil society organizations. She currently works at defending the civil society space, at freelance reporting.

### **Abdelhamid Nfissi**

Abdelhamid Nfissi is Full Professor of Comparative Linguistics and Media Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Fes-Sais, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fez, Morocco. He obtained his Ph.D. in Linguistics and Communication from the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris 3, France. His doctoral dissertation on *Connectives in English, French and Arabic* was published in 1997 by the Presses Universitaires de Lille, France. His research interests include Comparative Linguistics, Communication Strategies, Translation, and Media and Information Literacy. He has over 20 publications and participation in national and international conferences in these research areas.

Abdelhamid Nfissi is a Member of the UNESCO-UNAOC-UNITWIN Global Chair on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (UAC-MILID), representing Sidi Mohamed Ben

Abdellah University.

Abdelhamid Nfissi is the Chair of Research Group on Mass Communication, Culture & Society, affiliated to Laboratory of Discourse, Creativity and Society: Perception & Implications, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, Fes, Morocco.

**Patrick Penninckx**

Patrick Penninckx is currently heading the Information Society Department under the Directorate General Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Patrick coordinates standard setting and cooperation activities in the fields of media, internet governance, data protection and cybercrime. His professional focus encompasses areas such as freedom of expression, safety of journalists, human rights on the internet and sound internet governance, international standards in the data protection and cybercrime fields and their implementation. An outspoken public speaker promoting the Council of Europe values and achievements, he holds Political Science and Educational degrees from the University of Leuven. Previously, Patrick was in charge of Human Resources policy development, transforming the administrative management of personnel into a competency based human resource policy. He also led the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe through major changes in membership profile, implementing flexible working methods and innovative human and financial resources management.

**Salma Refass**

Public Policy and Political Economy researcher (North Africa expert)

Specialized in political economy and public policy analysis with a focus on the MENA region, she has gained interdisciplinary experience working in academia, the not-for-profit sectors and as an advocate for evidence-based policy making in the MENA region. Economist by training, she successively worked as a policy and impact analyst for a number of development-related programs implemented around the globe (Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Kenya, Pakistan...). Following a residency at the University of Sydney as a researcher in the Government and Public affairs department, she is currently working towards her PhD in Public Policy theory and Governance in hybrid regimes.

**Carola Richter**

Carola Richter is professor for international communication at the department for political and social sciences at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on media systems and communication cultures in non-Western countries, particular the Middle East, communication strategies of social movements, media and migration as well as media and political transformation. She is co-founder of the Arab-European Association of Media and Communication Researchers (AREACORE) and principal investigator of the project "Media Functions in Processes of Political



Transformation – A comparison of Eastern Europe 1989 and North Africa 2011”.

**Asja Roksa – Zubcevic**

Asja Roksa – Zubcevic has worked at the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a number of years, dealing with all aspects of regulatory issues for audiovisual media sector. She was involved in the defense of freedom of expression case before the human rights court. She also performed as a judge at the Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court, annual South East Europe Rounds organized by University of Belgrade, in cooperation with the Oxford University, as part of the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy. She is the Council of Europe expert, involved in preparation of studies and research documents, including co-authoring publication “Media regulatory authorities and hate speech”. Her article is also published in the book under the title: “Business and Government in the information society – The communication of digital video broadcasting policy in South East Europe”, London 2015. She regularly contributes to preparation of documents, studies and panels of European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA). She holds M.A. in human rights and democracy (University of Bologna and University of Sarajevo), and a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA.

**Maria Sourbati**

Dr Maria Sourbati, PhD (Brunel), MA (London) is Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton, UK. Her research on communications policy, technology governance, age, innovation, digital literacy and social inclusion, has been published in top-ranked peer reviewed journals and cited in the areas of communications policy analysis, disability studies, ageing studies and social work. Her results have impact beyond the academy for advocacy and policy organisations, including the UK Department Trade and Industry and the Consumer Federation of America. Dr Sourbati is a founding member of the Centre for Digital Media Cultures at the University of Brighton, a member of the international network Ageing Communication Technologies (ACT), a collaborator of the EU network AGE platform Europe (AGE) and was on the steering committee of the EU COST Action IS140 Ageism, a Multinational, Interdisciplinary Perspective.

**Olaf Steenfadt**

Olaf Steenfadt heads the "Media Ownership Monitor" project for Reporters Without Borders. For many years, he has been involved as a consultant and coach for media pluralism, especially in development cooperation. Mandates of international organizations and NGOs lead him primarily to Southeast Europe and in the Arab world. He previously worked for ARD and ZDF in various roles, including as radio and TV presenter, investigative author, domestic and foreign correspondent, as

well as in format development and program marketing. Olaf teaches media history, media policy and regulation at universities in Germany and Europe.

### **Samy Tayie**

Prof. Dr. Samy Tayie is a professor at the Faculty of Mass Communication of Cairo University, Egypt. He is also the President of Mentor International Media Education Association (Barcelona, Spain). He received his PhD from Leicester University, UK. His main areas of interest include media and information literacy, social marketing, new communication technology and mass communication research methods. He has published a few books on mass communication research methods, media education, advertising and public relations. He also worked for some regional and international organizations including the United Nations. He is also a member of the UNESCO's Group of Experts on Media and Information Literacy (MIL). He is also the lead of the Arab Chapter of GAPMIL.

### **Monika Valečić**

Monika Valečić is a project coordinator at Gong, a think-do-tank focused on good governance, developing democratic political culture and encouraging active and responsible participation of citizens in political processes. She holds a BA in Psychology and Philosophy from Smith College, USA, and an MA in Journalism from the Faculty of Political Science in Croatia. Currently, she oversees Gong's media literacy activities and coordinates implementation of service learning in curricula at the Faculty of Political Science. Previously, she coordinated international projects aimed at protecting media freedom and journalists' safety for the Croatian Journalists' Association. Her research interests include effective strategies for building media systems conducive to media acting in public interest and the role citizens' media literacy plays in that process.