

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Freelance journalist and political analyst, Egypt and the Middle East (March 2000 – present)

* **Reporting and commentary** on Arab politics and society for *The Economist*, *London Review of Books*, *Financial Times*, *Middle East International*, *Foreign Affairs*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Daily Star*, *Bidoun*, and more.

* **Political analysis** for *Foreign Policy*, *Arab Reform Bulletin*, *Middle East Report*, and others.

* **Op-ed columnist** regularly appearing in *The Guardian*, *The National*, *al-Masri al-Yaum* and others.

* **Consulting** for Economist Intelligence Unit, London Middle East Institute, Oxford Analytica, Eurasia Group, Transnational Research, Control Risk Group, KPMG and private clients.

* **Public speaking engagements and media appearances** at various think tanks and conferences on Middle Eastern issues; interviewed regularly on BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN, NPR, RFI and other media.

Egypt and North Africa analyst, *International Crisis Group*, Cairo/Rabat (October 2007 – June 2009)

Researched and wrote reports on the domestic and foreign policies of Egypt and Maghreb countries, notably on issues related to political Islam. Contributed to research on Israeli-Arab conflict and Iran question.

Conducted reporting and advocacy with high-level officials, Arab and international media outreach.

Managing editor, *Cairo* magazine, Cairo (December 2004 – November 2005)

Co-founded, designed and managed a new weekly news-magazine whose first issue came out in February 2005. *Cairo* received international acclaim for its coverage of Egyptian politics and human rights issues.

Country editor, *Oxford Business Group*, Cairo (November 2003 – May 2005)

Edited and wrote two issues of *Emerging Egypt* series, an annual 200-page political and economic survey of Egypt. Produce weekly reports (mostly business-oriented) on Egypt drawn from a network of sources, including cabinet ministers and leading businesspeople.

Editor, *Cairo Times*, Cairo (June 2001 – February 2003)

Oversaw the editorial management of an internationally respected news-magazine with a strong reputation for independence and human rights coverage. Introduced new sections to magazine and revamped layout. Ran magazine amidst financial difficulties and government censorship.

EDUCATION

M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies, *School of Oriental and African Studies*, London (1998 – 1999)

Major in Politics of the Middle East. Dissertation on “State, society and the ‘state-in-society’: Saddam Hussein and the Shi’a of Iraq, 1979-1999.” Graduated with honors.

B.Sc. in International Relations: *London School of Economics and Political Science*, London, (1994 – 1997)

Focused on international institutions, strategic and security issues, political theory, diplomatic history, and history of Europe and the Middle East. Graduated with honors.

LANGUAGES AND OTHER INFORMATION

Fluent (native) **English** and **French**, proficient **Egyptian Colloquial** and **Modern Standard Arabic**.

Publications: “From Trash Heap to Emerald Lung,” in *With/Without: Spatial Products, Practices & Politics in the Middle East*, S. Basar, A. Carver, and M. Miessen (eds.), Bidoun, Dubai: 2007; “Security Policy and Democratic Reform in Morocco: Between Public Discourse and Reality,” in *The Arab State and Neo-Liberal Globalization: The Restructuring of State Power in the Middle East*, L. Guazzone & D. Pioppi (eds.), Ithaca Press, London: 2009; contributor to *Revolution in the Arab world*, Foreign Policy, Washington: 2011.

Founder/publisher of popular blog on Arab politics and culture www.arabist.net since 2003.

Published **amateur photographer**.

Dual **Moroccan-American national**, born on 17 May 1977 in Rabat, Morocco.