



Hello!

And welcome to my blog.

My name is Dounia Benslimane and I am very happy to introduce myself to you.

In 2004, I obtained my doctorate in general medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Casablanca. You will say to me: "But what does this have to do with cultural action?".

The simple answer is "Absolutely nothing".

I was born in Casablanca in 1977 and lived there until I was 3 years old. I did not grow up in the city, but I returned in 1995 for my graduate studies. Casablanca, its art-deco architecture, its avant-garde, cultural dynamism, diversity, openness, modernity ... But also its many problems. My fascination for this city led me to want to contribute to its development so I joined Casamémoire, the association that defended the modern architectural heritage of the city through various actions. It was the beginning of my adventure with cultural action, even cultural activism, which began in 2008. My first step towards culture. The one who led me to the management of cultural organizations and structures. Then to cultural policies. Then to cultural action as a tool for social change. Then to human rights, freedom of expression, accountability, citizen participation, etc.

In 2010, I took another step that will be decisive for the rest of my career, by creating – with other activists and cultural actors – Racines, an association for culture and development in Morocco and Africa. Racines joined the Pan-African organization Arterial Network as soon as it was launched as a national chapter in Morocco. A year later, I left my position of medical manager in a large pharmaceutical laboratory of the place, to enter definitely – and professionally – in the world of culture. First as the director of La Fondation des Arts Vivants, then as the coordinator of the Fabrique culturelle des anciens abattoirs of Casablanca, then as the regional secretary of Arterial Network for North Africa. In 2013, the responsibilities within Racines became more and more demanding and required a real management team and a daily work. I became the executive direction of the association, after having been its treasurer for 3 years. I managed its projects, its finances, its team, the relationship with partners and funders, the press and the rest. I did not leave this position until the dissolution of the association in April 2019. But this is another story...

Finally, for those asking about my training, I learned everything I know on the job, day after day, in contact with those who had more experience than me, and who have coached me generously. In the purest tradition of companionship. I also took a training course and obtained, in 2014, the European Diploma of Cultural Project Administration from the Belgian Association Marcel Hicter for Cultural Democracy.

In 10 years, I have had the pleasure of being part of several national and international organizations. I am currently the President of the [African Cultural Policy Network](#) (ACPN), the Secretary and member of the Board of Directors of the [Roberto Cimetta Fund](#) for mobility since April 2018 and a member of the General Assembly of [The Festival Academy](#). As a laureate of the European Diploma of Marcel Hicter, I am part of Oracle, the alumni network, of which I was a member of the Board in 2014-2016. I also chair the Moroccan association [The Minority Globe](#) since 2018.



I collaborate since September 2019 with the NGO [Freemuse](#) that defend artistic freedom worldwide, as Regional advisor for MENA region and Africa.

I have been asked to be part of some juries (Orange Prize of the African book, Disrupt, etc.) and committee of experts (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Roberto Cimetta Fund, etc.), and to participate in a multitude of meetings and conferences in Morocco and abroad, on different themes related to cultural policies, as a speaker, moderator or participant.