

From France to Algeria: Tracing the Returns and Contributions of Algerian Women Journalists through the Experience of Keltoum Staali (1980s) (Chloé Nejma Rondeleux)

Abstract

Keltoum Staali was one of the top name of the Algerian weekly *Révolution Africaine* during the 1980s. Writing in the society section, she covered topics such as youth, education, labor mobilization and broader social issues. Hired in the mid-1980s by the newspaper owned by the Front de libération nationale (FLN) party, she spent three years working within a dynamic editorial team. Born in France in 1960, to a working-class immigrant family, Keltoum Staali returned to Algeria after completing her university studies. In Algiers, she embarked on a career in journalism.

Focusing on Staali's personal and professional trajectory, this paper aims to contribute to the under-documented history of the media in post-independence Algeria, particularly the role of women journalists in the context of socialist Algeria. It draws on interviews conducted with Keltoum Staali since 2021, as well as her personal archives, published writings, and Algerian press archives from the 1980s.

Through her life and professional experience, this study offers a portrait of a little-known generation of Algerian journalists raised in France who played a significant role in shaping the Algerian press.

Biography

Chloé Nejma Rondeleux is a PhD student in History at the University Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne. Since 2019, she has been working on a thesis entitled "Être journaliste dans les années 1980 en Algérie : une profession en quête d'affirmation" under the co-direction of Sylvie Thénault and Leyla Dakhli. As part of this research, she took part in the Rencontres internationales de recherches sur le journalisme organized in Bordeaux in December 2022 with a paper entitled "Le Mouvement des journalistes algériens (MJA): étude et apports d'une expérience inédite de combat dans l'histoire de la profession (1987-1991)" and wrote an article on the Algiers school of Journalism published in 2022 in the academic journal *L'Année du Maghreb*. Between 2012 and 2018, she worked as a journalist in Algiers.