Telephone:	(202) 495 - 9588	Website:	zohrabenzerga.com
Email:	zbenzerga@gmail.com	Languages:	English & French

A bilingual, Algerian-American, freelance editor, researcher, educator and artist, I have an intuitive understanding of cultural nuance, and a passion for rethinking how we conceptually, historically and culturally anchor the current moment through film. My work and life have brought me to Madagascar, South Africa, Eswatini, NYC and Senegal. I most recently co-edited a non-fiction manuscript and was an Editorial Assistant at the United Nations.

Education

Master of Arts, Global Thought (2021)

Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Theatre (2016)

New York University Tisch School of the Arts

Professional Experience

Coucou French Classes, NYC

French Teacher, March 2024 - Present

- Teaching: French to adults at various levels, from grammar to conversation

Freelance, NYC

Translation and Soft-Titling Services, June 2017 - Present

- *Film:* Translated French films for Metrograph NYC, wrote and ran soft-titling for 35mm screenings, translated and recorded voiceover for independent filmmakers in NYC
- Copyediting: Translated and proofread marketing materials, web presence and communications from French to English for a prominent NYC/Paris-based photographer, assisted in the translation of United Nations meeting summaries and press releases from French to English

United Nations Headquarters, NYC

Editorial Assistant, September 2023 - November 2023

- *Editing:* For the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly collaborating with Press Officers and senior Editors on generating press releases for high-level Assembly meetings
- *Fact-checking:* Verifying accuracy of UN press releases covering a range of topics, including international legal instruments, nuclear non-proliferation and the rights of indigenous people
- *Proofreading:* Ensuring that formatting, grammar and spelling are correct and in line with the United Nations' editorial manual, ensuring translations from French to English are accurate

Untitled Memoir, Johannesburg/NYC

Co-editor, Researcher, Fact-checker, November 2022 - July 2023

- *Content generation:* Rewriting sections of upcoming memoir by prominent South African businessman and philanthropist
- Fact-checking, research, referencing: Ensuring accuracy and substantiation of claims, in depth historical, political and cultural research, using Chicago Style Manual to reference extensive sources
- Editing, proofreading: Verifying spelling, grammar, formatting, structure and editorial consistency
- Conceptualization: Identifying intended audience, themes and storyline, strategizing how best to lift them up

Waterford Kamhlaba, United World College of Southern Africa, Eswatini

Substitute Theatre Teacher, September 2019 - December 2019 & June 2015 - August 2015

- *Facilitation:* Taught high school and middle school theatre students completing the International Baccalaureate and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education
- *Development:* Reflecting the global representation in the classroom, created a curriculum inspired by art practitioners, academics and storytellers from around the world
- Research: Provided students with tools to link rigorous cross-disciplinary research to a creative process, collected resources to help students shape a strong understanding of their chosen concepts

Voice of Our Voices (VOOV), Eswatini

Documentarian, October 2019 - March 2020

- Documentation: With support from Family Health International, documented VOOV, an association of sex workers in Eswatini
- Storytelling: Began work on a documentary lifting the story of the association, its members and the work they do to advocate for the rights, health, safety and dignity of sex workers in the Southern African Kingdom of Eswatini

Endibanweni, American Corner at the Mbabane Public Library, Eswatini Programmer, December 2018 - October 2019

- *Project management, creative strategy:* With a grant from the US Embassy in Eswatini, developed the concept for a community/event space
- Audience engagement: Identified needs within the community, managed program calendar, proofread and copyedited marketing materials, helped young library patrons fully take advantage of the resources available to them in the American Corner
- Community engagement: Identified artists and community leaders to head programming
- Communication/coordination: Coordinated events, workshops and readings in the space

MTN BUSHFIRE, Eswatini

<u>Schools 'Festival</u> Coordinator, Sponsor Liaison, Festival Magazine Editor, November 2012 - July 2013

- *Project management:* Coordinated a 5-day event for 800 students and 50 educators to participate in arts workshops facilitated by international professionals in storytelling, theatre and music
- *Editing, fact-checking*: Identified contributors, commissioned pieces of writing, edited, ensured accuracy and managed production for festival magazine, maintained social media and website
- Audience engagement: Identified schools to participate in the festival, engaged with school leadership, parents and students, held discussions with Eswatini government about implementation of arts curricula in schools, donor/sponsor communication
- Planning & scheduling: Organized travel, stipends, accommodation for artists and facilitators
- Data: Tracked funding, donations, and festival budgets

Volunteer Experience

Columbia University Global Thought, Podcast Producer/Researcher, 2021 New York Film Festival 59, Talent Liaison Officer, 2021 ArtBarn Festival, New York Set Design Assistant, 2014 MTN BUSHFIRE, Eswatini Artist Liaison Officer, 2012 United World College, Eswatini Creative Expression Workshops, 2012 - 2014