Jalid Sehouli erhielt am 20.12.2019 von der renommierten Lieraturwissenschaftlerin und Präsidentin der **CITY FOR THE CULTURES OF PEACE CULTURE OF PEACE**, Prof. Amy Colin aus der University of Pitsburgh und Dr. E. Leonhardt, Ehrenpräsidentin der [Deutschen Parlamentarischen Gesellschaft](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deutsche_Parlamentarische_Gesellschaft), in Anerkennung seinen wissenschaftlichen und zivilgesellschaftlichen Aktivitäten den **"CULTURE OF PEACE AWARD FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT"**.

Persönlichkeiten, die ebenfalls diese Auszeichnung in den letzten Jahren erhalten haben waren u.a.: Herta Müller, Wole Soyinka, Ralf Ranitzki und Renée Gross Hartman. Die Cité der Friedenskulturen (CFK) ist ein internationales Forschungsnetzwerk von Wissenschaftlern, Künstlern, Musikern und anderen kreativ tätigen Menschen, die Brücken zwischen heterogenen Kulturen bauen, neue Lösungen zu Schlüsselkonflikten und -problemen der Gegenwart entwickeln und auf diese Weise einen innovativen Beitrag zur Friedenskultur leisten. Weitere Informationen unter: https://www.peace-culture.org/activities/calendar?lang=de

**Laudatio von Professor Markus Vinzent, Kings College, London**

(20.12.2019, Paris Institute for Advanced Studies)

“Today is (almost) Christmas, in Marrakesch and also in Berlin (and Paris)”, a short story of Jalid Sehouli starts, part of his book “Marrakesch”, and he continues: „I have received a nice present from a lovely friend, Maria. It is a small booklet, rapped in smooth leather ... A slim leather strap holds the book of blank pages together. I am supposed to write ten good things every day into the booklet in the evening, before going to bed – things that are important to me and for which I am greatful to life ... And – I thank my children that I was able to get to know you, that we can share time together, you with me, me with you, that I can listen to your voice, see your movements, admire your minds, sense your hearts and am able to open up myself to you.“ (Marrakesch, 105)

Jalid Sehouli in „Originalton“ a German term, for which neither English nor French has a semantic equivalent, though there seems to be one in Arabic ([الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu) which one finds in books and videos to highlight the original voice or authentic sound. Despite this Originalton-opening in his books, Jalid Sehouli is far from being his own laudator, personally, he is rather reluctant, not shy, but he does not need to stand in the spotlight for what he is, but loves to go on stages for what he does and fights for good causes, be it in gynaecology, be it for literature, be it for politics and an open society. As we know him, He is more than a well-known gynaecologist and a searched after medical doctor. What I have quoted in the beginning, his loving note for his children is lived practice.

Sehouli not only writes a first page into his new booklet to his children, day in and out, he writes further pages to his friends, patients, relatives of them, colleagues, and readers. He always lives [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu, when, for example, he holds his breath for less than a second, takes a break a flash, looks up from a report of results on paper or screen, leans shortly back in his chair, thinks laterally and comes to a decision in highly complex cases and, often, hard to predict, as standard knowledge is rather absent. Or he acts [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu when he angrily fights against the slowness of the burocratic system, by humping with his footbandage and doing things himself quicker instead of ordering an activity through three layers of hierarchy. [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu, also when he phones colleagues at the other end of the world at six in their morning, wakes them up and asks for data or decisions, [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu, when with a blue shawl around his neck he lectures or sits in a chair and discusses with an audience. Jalid Sehouli is not only a medical doctor, a writer, a director of an institute, a founder of foundations, and a political activist, but this political activist, founder of foundations, director of an institute, writer and medical doctor is [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu, Jalid Sehouli.

To be frank and clear, not to beat about the bush, and yet to be emphatic and sensitive at the same time, is the outcome of a slow cooked dish against many recipees. Yet it also shows the enormous power that lies in ingredients which are not supposed to work together. As he has shown in his own life and also in the lifes of those for whom he puts up his life, immigrants and refugees are capable of providing different, new tastes in a meal, they allow to open up blank pages and to write novel stories on to them. Disadvantages, one of the key messages of Sehouli’s life, despite all the odds, are advantages in other respects. When patients see him for the first time, they usually get to know the death sentence which Jalid Sehouli is not sparing them. Yet, he reflects upon what he does in this situation, he has even written a highly important book about a good way of breaking bad news, because he knows that as a consultant it is most common, that one has to do the most unpleasant task in this clinical every day job, to speak to more than 200,000 patients and their families during his career to break bead news.

In this book, he admits that he, like his colleagues “are not born with the particular ability to talk to others and break bad news to them in such a way that they ... do not leave the consultation in turmoil and fear.” And he thinks about “a two-way conversation”, in order “to enable the other person to take action, to become active rather than passive, i.e. not to be led into a mental and emotional cul-de-sac”.

To deal with death sentences and to face himself with fighting along his patients also means that he opens up new blank pages to his audience and renders the left blank pages that are left extremely valuable. Perhaps this is one of the most important messages that shines through the pages of the books and also the conversations at his consultancy desk: Our life is precious, the moment right now is the most precious one, no matter what tomorrow holds for me, for us, it is me who decides how to live it, to sense its precious character, and to engage with this very moment, [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu, to be myself, Originalton.

This existential challenge has also made him sensitive for the most disadvantaged ones. Colonised people, subjugated ones, people pressed by hunger, and, above all: Women, suffering from ovarian cancer that cuts short their lives, one of the long neglected forms of cancer, rarely in the minds of people or politicians to which he dedicates most of his time and energy. His medical record is stunning. Over 1.000 scientific papers, known as a frontrunner and thinker in developing new forms of treatment, critically checking those that have become standard, looking out for improved ones, and never forgetting that it is all about the individual person who sits in front of him and whose life depends to a large extent on his judgement: Women of old age, women of medium age, women of young age, disadvantaged not only by this terrible disease, double disadvantaged, because of being women who have to fight twice or thrice as hard in their careers and environments in a world that is still patriarchal in many respects. Triple disadvantaged women from immigrant and refugee background who not only face the turmoil of settling into a new environment and culture, learn a new language, but have to overcome all the other disadvantages, too. Sehouli introduced in his department of gynaecology not only translation notes of all hospital information into Turkish and Russian, he treats patients from any background equally, whether private patients or those from a minority background. And he is a role model for all. Not only does he treat people, but being most of the time or at least in most of the cases on the co-losing side, he is encouraging to take advantage of the disadvantages, to turn to the good through the bad, not to accept what is terrible, but to discover that there is more to it than the desctructive energy. Fashion with cancer, writing against cancer, painting with cancer, just like with all forms of marginalisations, the bystander has the ability to see this world from a different perspective.

Let me finish with a personal note. Ever since through my wife having become one of his patients, after she had been diagnosed in 2011 and been first treated by a similarly engaged and enormously inspirational colleague in the UK, the two of us have benefitted from the very close support he gives. As part of a wonderful team with outstanding support staff, with senior and junior nurses and doctors around him, and despite the many demands on him, there is no time that he makes one feel alone, there is no moment you cannot turn to him. He is humble and honest [الصوت الأصلي](https://www.arabdict.com/de/deutsch-arabisch/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B5%D9%84%D9%8A) tasaltul asliu not to promise anything that he cannot hold – he is not superhuman, he cannot perform miracles, but he is lives to the full and is fully engaged. One of the privileges of being disadvantaged is to meet people who turn partners like him. He has enriched our lifes, my wife has published articles and books with him, this life has added directions and perspectives which we would not have seen or get to know otherwise. This is no sweeterner for the bitternis of the common fight, but on the side of Jalid Sehouli, life is not just fight, but it is enriched by him. Even if there were only one bank page in this leatherbound book. To be able to write one memorable word on that blank page, would be enough. This memorable word for todays blank page, shortly before Christmas, can only be: Thanks.