

## AHMED BENCHEMSI



Events of interest to GSAH students:

TUES Nov 8

5:30-7:00 PM African Studies Special Talk Series

Title: "The Arab Spring: What Next?"

Where: Rooms 303/305 International Center

WEDS Nov 9

10:20-11:40 AM Guest Speaker GSAH 220 *Global Interactions and Identities* (Talk open to all GSAH Students)

Title: "The Illusion of Democracy: How Morocco's Monarchy Managed the Arab Spring"

Where: C111 Wells Hall

Ahmed Benchemsi is currently a visiting scholar at Stanford University, in their Program on Arab Reform and Democracy at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. Before coming to the U.S., Benchemsi was the publisher and editor of Morocco's two best-selling newsweeklies, *TelQuel* (French) and *Nishan* (Arabic), which he founded in 2001 and 2006, respectively. His latest work focuses on the democratic grassroots movement that recently burgeoned in Morocco, as in Tunisia and Egypt. Ahmed researches how and under what circumstances a handful of young Facebook activists managed to infuse democratic spirit which eventually inspired hundreds of thousands to join in massive street protests. He investigates whether this emerging trend will pave the way for genuine democratic reform or for the traditional political system's reconfiguration around a new balance of powers - or both.

Benchemsi, an international award-winning journalist, has long championed democracy and secularism in the Middle East and North Africa.