

## **An Editorial Comment**

Welcome to the ninth issue of *The Journal of Middle East Media*.

In this issue, the English-language section includes four articles. In the first article, Robert Meeds, Darwish Al-Emadi and Abdoulaye Diop of Qatar University examine the most and least trusted news sources among Qataris as well as the country's resident expatriates. They also explore the relationship between preferred news sources and attitudes toward social and public issues, and the implications of television as a trusted news source.

In the second article, Matt Duffy of Georgia State University examines the "cultures of journalism" at two newspapers in the United Arab Emirates, the Arabic-language *Al Ittihad* and English-language *The National*. looked for examples of four main concepts based on Kovach and Rosenthal's Principles of Journalism: Verification and commitment to truth-telling, holding those in power accountable, providing a space for public criticism and compromise, and comprehensive and proportional reporting. The analysis found that the English-language paper covered the news according to those principles far more than the Arabic-language outlet.

In the third article, Noran Aref of the American University in Cairo utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine whether users relied on search engines or social networks to get their news online and the reasons why they rely on each one. A survey was conducted on a convenience sample of 402 Egyptian internet users and qualitative interviews were also conducted with experts and professionals, producing recommendations for future research as well as for search engine, social network and online news media companies.

In the fourth article, Ahmed Al-Rawi of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands investigates the tone of political candidates' election coverage in the evening newscasts of four Iraqi satellite television channels: Iraqia (state-run), Furat (Shiite), Hurria (Kurdish), and Baghdad (Sunni) for the 14 days leading up to the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 Iraqi general election. Findings indicate that all four channels were biased and one-sided in their coverage of the Iraqi politicians.

The English section also includes one review for the book titled: *Al Jazeera English: Global News in a Changing World*. This book, which was edited by Philip Seib and reviewed by

Bradley C. Freeman of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, tackles various issues related to the Al-Jazeera English satellite channel.

This issue's Arabic section includes two articles. In the first article, Rasha Mazroa of Mansourah University in Egypt investigates the way public and Islamic networks framed the conflict among the various political powers in Egypt on the Egyptian Constitution after January 25 Revolution. The researcher utilized a comparative media approach in which she content analyzed the televised talk shows on both Dream 2 TV and The People TV for the whole month of December 2012. Results showed there was a relationship between each network's ideology and the way it covers news. There were also differences between the two networks regarding the rhetorical speech used.

In the second article, Al Sayed Bakhet Mohamed Darwesh of Sharjah University in the UAE assesses the political roles of social media networks in the Arab World. In his study, Bakhet used various social and political criteria to judge the ability of social media networks in facilitating interactive communication among socio-political actors. These criteria revolved around informational, political and social issues, dialogical and interactive abilities, and the tactical and strategic dynamics of political interaction.

The Arabic section also includes one review for the book titled *Analyzing Discourse: textual analysis for social research*. This book, which was authored by Norman Fairclough and reviewed by Wail Ismail Abdel Bari of Ain Shams University in Egypt, draws on a range of social theories to present a form of language and rhetorical analysis with a consistently social perspective.

We hope that the readers will enjoy this issue, and we would like to thank all the JMEM editorial board for their continuous support and encouragement.

Mohammed el-Nawawy, Ph.D.

Senior Editor, *Journal of Middle East Media*

Azza Abdel-Azim Mohamed, Ph.D.

Arabic Editor, *Journal of Middle East Media*

Fall 2013