

## **An Editorial Comment**

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

In this issue, the English-language section includes four articles. In the first article, Mokhtar Elareshi and Barrie Gunter of the University of Leicester in the UK report survey findings on Libyan university students' perceptions of the credibility of two Libyan and two pan-Arab television channels. The pan-Arab television news channels were given higher credibility scores than the local television news services.

In the second article, Mohamad Hamas Elmasry of the American University in Cairo presents the results of a content analysis of three Egyptian newspapers – one semi-official and two independent – with regard to how they framed government and political opposition during the late days of the presidency of ousted president Hosni Mubarak. The study's findings can be used to compare and contrast with post-Mubarak era news performance.

In the third article, Anastasia Kononova of American University of Kuwait and Saleem Alhabash of Michigan State University offer insights from a cross-sectional survey of Kuwaiti college students' media use and multitasking activities. Their study found that Kuwaiti students tend to multitask with electronic media the most, and that media ownership, sensation seeking, gender, age, and socio-economic status predicted the use of different media and/or media multitasking behaviors.

In the fourth article, Catherine Strong of Massey University in New Zealand and Hessah Hareb of Zayed University in the UAE investigate Emirati females' use of social media, particularly Twitter and found that they shift between Arabic and English language, and mainly send messages about their daily activities or observations. They also found that their explosive uptake of Twitter is mainly because of its fast pace and constant mobility.

The English section also includes one review for the book titled: *Arab Media Globalization and Emerging Media Industries*. This book, which was co-authored by Noha Mellor, Nabil Dajani, Khalil Rinnawi, and Muhammad Ayish and reviewed by Bradley C. Freeman of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, provides an overview of different forms of Arab media in the context of globalization.

This issue's Arabic section includes two articles. In the first article, Nagwa Abdel-Salam Fahmy of Ain-Shams University, Egypt and Sharjah University, UAE, reveals the use of micro-blogging during the January 25 revolution in Egypt to identify the themes and trends that were diffused through Twitter during the mass street protests, highlighting their role in organizing the street movements. The study findings indicate that micro blogs' posts were able to describe the daily events of the Egyptian Revolution as twitter users are considered eye-witnesses to the street events. Twitter was also a network of communication that facilitated conversation between twitter users and allowed them to organize their future street movements.

In the second article, Marwa Shibl of Mnoufia University in Egypt investigates the role played by new media in forming the Egyptian public opinion regarding the January 25 revolution in Egypt. The study found that new media have the ability to politically mobilize public opinion. Moreover, there is tendency to believe that the new media increasingly surpassed traditional means during the revolution.

The Arabic section also includes one review for the book titled *The Media of the January 25 Revolution*. This book, which was authored by Sherif Darweesh of Cairo University in Egypt and reviewed by Dina Yahya Marzouk of Ain Shams University in Egypt, assesses the media role in the January 25 revolution in Egypt.

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.

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