An Editorial Comment

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

In this issue, the English-language section includes three articles. In the first article, Mohamed Ben Moussa of Canadian University in Dubai, utilized content analysis to examine the implications of the Internet and social media for collective action and democratic transition in Morocco. The study found that the impact of the Internet and social media on Morocco's political scene is an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary one. The new communication tools have certainly empowered oppositional groups to challenge Moroccan state's firm grip over power and the public sphere; however, these tools have not been a game changer as they are conditioned by and filtered through existing socio-economic and power dynamics.

In the second article, Saadia Dinia and Oumlil Kenza of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, used a textual analysis to examine the construction of women's gender identity in contemporary Moroccan cinema. Their study revealed that contemporary Moroccan films are challenging conventional notions of femininity and gender roles.

In the third article, Rebekah Lynam of Norman Public Library in Oklahoma, Maureen Taylor of University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Peter Gade of University of Oklahoma in the United States, used framing analysis to study the coverage of Hizbullah in four world news sources. The study found that Hizbullah was consistently framed as a terrorist organization, while its more benign political functions were marginalized.

The English section also includes one book review for the book titled: *Networked Publics and Digital Contention: The Politics of Everyday Life in Tunisia*. This book, which was authored by Mohamed Zayani and reviewed by Phil Auter of University of Louisiana, Lafayette in the United States, takes an in-depth look at the issues and events that gave rise to the spark that touched off Arab Spring in Tunisia, as well as challenges for the future.

In the Arabic section of JMEM issue 2016, there are two articles.

In the first article, Manal Al Mazahra from Al Petra University in Jordan content analyzed three newspapers to explore the extent of the Jordanian media coverage of the Syrian refugees' crises in Jordan. The results showed a lack of interest in covering the Syrian refugees' crisis in the Jordanian newspapers, and weakness in displaying the different aspects of the crisis.

In the second article, Sazan Saman Abdulmajeed and Abdul Kareem Ali ALDebaisi surveyed 300 of Iraqi elites: political, academic and media elites. The results showed that sample expressed that Iraqi media outlets cover issues that provoke sectarian conflicts, whereas there was weak coverage of issues that encourage combating or mitigating sectarianism. The media outlets played a weak role in influencing public opinion about halting sectarian conflicts.

The Arabic section also includes two book reviews. The first book is entitled "Organizational Communication and Change Challenges", authored by Kareman Farid and reviewed by Ashraf Abdel Mogheth from Cairo University. The book highlights the electronic and institutional organizational communication. Also, it discusses conflict management strategies that will serve both academic and practical aspects of organizational communication.

The second book is entitled "Media Literacy and Perception of Media Performance", authored by Mohamed and Abdel-Hamid and reviewed by Abdel-Reheem Darweesh from University of Demiatta, Egypt. The book discusses media performance and evaluation. It also highlights media literacy role in raising the people awareness of how they use media.

We hope that the readers will enjoy this issue, and we would like to thank all the JMEM editorial board members 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*

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