



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

FAKULTÄT FÜR KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN
DEPARTMENT FÜR KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN UND
ALTERTUMSKUNDE
INSTITUT FÜR DEN NAHEN UND MITTLEREN OSTEN



MEDIA WORKSHOP „MEDIA & THE ARAB SPRING“

(JUNE 12&13, 2014)

After workshops on mechanisms of censorship (summer term 2011), transnational public sphere(s) (winter term 2011/12), framing patterns (winter term 2012/13) and the relationship between media & democracy (winter term 2013/14) in the field of Arab media the present workshop (June 13, 2014) concentrates on the much discussed role of digital media during the Arab Spring.

Western media were quick in creating an attractive moniker for the political upheavals in the MENA region: Facebook (or Twitter-) Revolution. However, the actual role of the social media during the Arab Spring is the object of controversy in research. While these media doubtlessly had an impact on the political changes in the region, this applies as well to the more traditional media such as particularly the satellite TV.

Basis of the first part of our discussion will be theoretical reflections of media research concerning intrinsic participation and democratization potentials of digital – and particularly social – media. We will test such assumptions with concrete examples of the role(s) digital Arab media have been playing in the run-up and in the course of the Arab Spring. Our particular focus hereby will be on national differences as well as on common traits of a pan-Arab – or even global – public sphere.

In the second part, we will analyze an episode of al-‘Arabiyya’s talk-show *Hiwār al-‘Arab* (Arab Talk) on the role of (satellite) news channels during the Arab Spring, which can be expected to rather critically discuss the role of its rival al-Jazeera than its own.

Everyone interested in Arab media (and advantageously possessing some knowledge of **Arabic**) is most welcome to participate in this workshop (no fee); an informal e-mail to David Arn (david.arn@lmu.de) is sufficient for **registration** and subsequent access to the documents to be discussed.

Thu, June 12 2014, 18:15

(LMU, main building, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, Raum A120)

Public lecture by Dr.phil. Isabel Knoerrich (regional expert for the Maghrib, the Gulf-States and SE-Asia – Euro-Arabia): *Kleine Golfstaaten: unterschiedliche Medienpolitiken im Dienste unterschiedlicher Außenpolitiken: Aljazeera (Doha) und Media City (Dubai)*.

Fri, June 13 2014, 09:15-17:30

(LMU, Leopoldstraße 13, room 2102 – 1st floor; **meeting place: 09:00 at our institute, Veterinärstr. 1, D-80539 Munich**)

09:15-09:30	Introduction
09:30-10:30	Discussion: Theory – media & social movements (COTTLE)
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Discussion: Practice - media & the Arab Spring (ALI; ELOUARDI)
12:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Case study from al-‘Arabiyya’s talk-show <i>Hiwār al-‘Arab</i>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Discussion of the case studies & prospects

Literature:

- Cottle, Simon (2012): Transnational protests and the media. New departures, challenging debates. In: Cottle, Simon & Lester, Libby (eds.): Transnational protests and the media. New York & al.: Peter Lang, 17-38.
- Ali, Amir Hatem (2011): The power of social media in developing nations: new tools for closing the global digital divide and beyond. In: Harvard Human Rights Journal 24 (2011), 185-219.
- [-Elouardaoui, Ouidyane (2013): The crisis of contemporary Arab television: has the move towards transnationalism and privatization in Arab television affected democratization and social development in the Arab world? In: Journal of Arab & Muslim Media Research 6:1 (March 2013), 51-66.]

Talk-show episode:

- al-‘Arabiyya - *Hiwār al-‘Arab* – May 23, 2012: *al-qanāwāt al-ahbāriyya wa-r-rabī’ al-‘arabī* (News channels and the Arab Spring)