

The Conference

Over the past four years the Egyptian media landscape varied between change and continuity. The strife of the Egyptian media towards professional autonomy after the January Revolution in 2011 was pronounced. Immediately after the ouster of Mubarak in 2011 the people called for a radical media reform. Its role in misrepresenting the uprising cost the media valuable credibility. Yet, the reform process was turbulent, often mirroring the political, social and professional upheavals in the transformation phase.

The research project “**Journalism in Transformation in Egypt**” examines precisely the questions related to the evolution of Egypt’s media during the transformation, both on the structural and discursive levels. Egyptian and German media scholars scrutinize the efforts of Egypt’s media and journalists towards professional autonomy against constraints from the political, economic and legal spheres.

Distinguished media scholars and experts are invited to the project’s first international conference entitled “**Egyptian Media & Journalism between Change and Continuity**”. In the two-day conference an intensive exchange among scholars from Egypt and Germany as well as other Arab and Western countries shall help us to gain a comprehensive picture of current developments in a comparative perspective. Besides academics, experts from think tanks and NGOs, as well as journalists are among the presenters. They will discuss issues like self-regulation of journalists, professionalism, challenges of freedom of speech as well as the evolution of the media landscape and the political economy of Egypt’s media.

The research project and the conference are funded by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). Responsible for the project are Prof. Dr. Carola Richter (Freie Universität Berlin) und Dr. des. Hanan Badr (Cairo University).

Thursday, 12th of November 2015

18:00 Public Keynote

Yosri Fouda: Autumn of Nasser’s Media State

Abstract:

After the January 25 revolution in 2011, Egypt was introduced to a huge dose of press freedom which quickly moved from pluralism to polarization and arguably chaos. Fear of islamization of the state would soon lead to a sharp u-turn orchestrated by the deep state on a scale never experienced before. Yosri Fouda traces back the roots to Nasser’s era that explains today’s media scene in Egypt. He argues that this situation will not last for long.

Biography:

A graffiti of his face in Tahrir Square reads: "The Eloquent Voice of the Revolution". But after the decline of press freedom, Yosri Fouda had to suspend his popular ONTV show, *Akher Kalam* (Last Word), in September, 2014. Starting his career in 1994 as a roving reporter with the BBC, he moved on to Al-Jazeera channel to pioneer an Arab concept of investigative journalism. Through his show, *Sirri Lilghaya* (Top Secret), he broke many stories, including how al-Qaeda planned for 9/11. Author of "Top Secret", "Masterminds of Terror", "In Harm's Way", his new book, "Last Word: A Testimony of Hope in Egypt's Revolution", will be published before the end of this year .

Friday, 13th of November 2015

9:00 Registration

9:30 Welcome

Hanan Badr & Carola Richter

10:00 Panel 1: Media Landscapes in Transformation

Overview of Arab Media Transformation
Fatima El-Issawi | London School of Economics

The Egyptian Media Landscape in 5 Years: From Revolution to Diversity to Conformity
Ayman Al-Sayyad | Editor in Chief of Weghat Nazar

The Blind and the Elephant: End of Journalism and Birth of Liquid Media
Heba Raouf Ezzat | Cairo University

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 Panel 2: Freedom of Speech and other Challenges to Media Freedom

The Role of Freedom of Information in Transition to Democracy
Magued Osman | Cairo University

Freedom of Speech in Egyptian Media
Reem Magued | ON Academy (ONA)

Augmented Challenges and Ongoing Hardships: Egyptian Journalism after June 2013
Mostafa Shaat | American University in Cairo

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Panel 3: The Political Economy of Media in Transformation

Deregulation and Conformity: How Privatization of Media in Egypt Produced Less Not More
Adel Iskandar | Simon Fraser University

Reforming the Structure of the Broadcasting Sector
Hafez Al Mirazi | American University in Cairo

Pluralism in a Contested Public Sphere
Souraya El Badaoui | Cairo University

Saturday, 14th of November 2015

10:00 Panel 4: Structural Reforms: the Case of TV and Public Service Broadcasting

Public Service Broadcasting in the Arab World: Prospects and Hurdles
Sarah El-Richani | Berlin

Egypt's Media Ecology: Help or Hindrance to Public Service Broadcasting
Naomi Sakr | University of Westminster

Reforms of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union
Hussein Amin | American University in Cairo

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 Panel 5: Role Perceptions of Journalists

Self-perception of Egyptian Journalists
Naila Hamdy | American University in Cairo

Latvian Journalists' Self-perception in Transformation
Indira Dupuis | Freie Universität Berlin

Investigative Journalism
Hossam Bahgat | Mada Masr

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Panel 6: Self-regulation of Journalists

Tunisian Journalists and Media Reform
Hamida El Bour | La Manouba Tunis

Efforts for a Sustainable Self-regulation Model in Egyptian journalism
Abeer Saady | Journalism Syndicate

The Role of Social Media Networks in Self-organization processes of Egyptian Journalists
Fatma Elzahraa Mohamed | Cairo University

17:30 Conclusion

Hanan Badr, Carola Richter, Eman Soliman, Walid Osman, Sara Khorshid



Foto: Carola Richter

Venue:

Seminarzentrum, Silberlaube, Room 113/116
Freie Universität Berlin
Otto-von-Simson-Str. 26
14195 Berlin

How to get there:

Underground Line U3 to stops *Dahlem Dorf* or *Thielplatz*

Website of the project:

www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/kommwiss/arbeitsstellen/internationale_kommunikation/projekte/journalism-in-transformation

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Division of International
Communication

Egyptian Media & Journalism between Change and Continuity

12 - 14 November 2015 in Berlin