

WORKSHOP

Media in Political Transition: the Cases of Turkey and Morocco

12 December, 2015

Organized by the University of Cambridge Centre for the Study of the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa (CIRMENA) and the Al-Jazeera Centre for Studies

PROGRAMME

This Workshop brings together original research by two separate academic teams, one based in Morocco, the other in Turkey, who are engaged in the University of Cambridge-Al-Jazeera Media Project. Launched in 2013, the Project's first research programme, entitled 'Media in Political Transition in the Southern Mediterranean, focused its initial year of research on media in Tunisia after the Arab Uprising. In 2014, the Project was extended significantly, as a result of the generosity of Al-Jazeera Media Corporation, enabling two teams of scholars to conduct similar research on media in political transition in Morocco and Turkey. This mid-study workshop brings their work together for the first time. The purpose of extending this research to Turkey and Morocco is to enable a comparative study of media systems along the breadth of the Mediterranean littoral, based on the same research definitions employed in Tunisia, and following many of the same themes: internet freedom and surveillance, political narrative, social media use, gender issues on television and within the larger public sphere, the professionalism and partisanship of the sector, the rise of Islamic media, and the internal competition of political elites to utilize the media for particularist purposes. By looking at Turkey and Morocco, a more complete picture is emerging of how government-media relations in the region have responded to new political tensions and shifts in popular narrative in response to the events of 2011 and 2013. Indeed, the strength of this project lies in the ability it offers to investigate change in three very different forms of state organization - Turkey's fast transitioning semi-democracy, Morocco's monarchy, and Tunisia's pluralistic post-revolutionary experiment after severe dictatorship - as well as their interpretation of media as an instrument of state power, and mechanism of social expression. This will provide original comparative analysis on the subject of the political-media nexus in these Mediterranean states, something that has not been conducted previously in any depth. Additionally, analysis of media as a reflection of and tool of power (whether utilized by government, military, secret service, private sector or civic groups), throws light on the structures and drivers of these states' politics and modernisation processes from an important new angle.

December 12, 2015

REGISTRATION, Trinity Hall, Graham Storey Room, Cambridge
9 – 9:30 a.m.

(Breakfast served 8:15-9:00 a.m.)

Opening and Welcome Dr. R. Farmanfarmaian, CIRMENA, and Dr. E. Abdelmoula, Al Jazeera Center for Studies

Introduction: Dr. R. Farmanfarmaian, Principal Investigator, University of Cambridge-Al-Jazeera Media Project.

PANEL I: Structure of Media

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Moderator: Professor Naomi Sakr (CAMRI [Communication and Media Research Institute], Arab Media Centre, University of Westminster)

Discussant: Dr. Ezzeddine Abdelmoula (Director of Research, Al Jazeera Center for Studies)

Associate Professor Gülseren Adakli (Ankara Universitesi İletişim Fakültesi) Structuration of Turkish media from a historical perspective (1980-2015)

Assistant Professor Bouziane Zaid (Al Akhawayn University): Structure: Media in political transition, Morocco

Samia Errazzouki (Morocco Field Researcher for the University of Cambridge – Al Jazeera Media Project): Under Watchful Eyes: Internet surveillance and citizen media in Morocco

Assistant Professor Erkan Saka (Istanbul Bilgi University): Social Media in Turkey as a space for political battles

Coffee: 11:00-11:20 a.m.

PANEL II: The Function of Media

11:20 am – 1:00 pm

Moderator: Dr. Tarik Sabry (Director, CAMRI, the Arab Media Centre, University of Westminster)

Discussant: Dr. Miriyam Aouragh (Journalism and Mass Communication Department, University of Westminster)

Professor Asli Tunç (Istanbul Bilgi University): Function of Media in Turkey: The sector and the players
Driss Ksikes (CESEM), **Abdelfettah Benchenna** (Université Paris XIII) & **Dominique Marchetti** (CESSP): Media and power landscape in Morocco

Ali Sonay (University of Cambridge): Local Media in Turkey: Radio stations in Central Anatolia

Ali Sonay (University of Cambridge): Articulating Society and Radio Stations in Contemporary Morocco

Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm

PANEL III: Agency, Activism and Voice
2:15-4:15 pm

Moderator: Dr. Dina Matar (Arab Media Centre, SOAS)

Discussant: Dr. Elisabetta Costa (British Institute at Ankara (BIAA))

Dr. Ayşe Seda Yüksel (Kadir Has University): Representation of Terror and Ethnic Conflict in Turkish Press: An Analysis of the Peace Process in Turkey

Associate Professor Michelangelo Guida (Istanbul 29 Mayıs University): Corporatism and fears: Islamist press in Turkey between June 2013 and March 2014 (Presented by Ali Sonay, Al-Jazeera Post-Doctoral Fellow)

Dr. Yeşim Burul (Istanbul Bilgi University) and **Hande Eslen-Ziya** (Glasgow Caledonian University): Understanding “the new Turkey” through the eyes of women: Gender politics in Turkish talk-shows (Presented by Ayşe Seda Yüksel)

Dr. Loubna El Mkaouer (University of Westminster): Women in Television Talk Shows in Morocco

Hamdi Echkaou (Mohammad 5 University-Agdal Rabat): Moroccan Online Newspapers: The emergence of information journalistic youth activism since 2011 (Presented by Samia Errazzouki)

ROUNDTABLE, Bridgetower Room, Trinity Hall, Cambridge
4:30-5:45 pm

Professor John Naughton (University of Cambridge), Dr. Ipek Gencel Sezgin, Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmanian (University of Cambridge), Assistant Professor Bouziane Zaid (Al-Akawayn University), Professor Asli Tunç (Istanbul Bilgi University), Dr. Ezzeddine Abdelmoula (Al Jazeera Center for Studies), Professor Noha Mellor (University of Bedfordshire)

Closing: Dr. R. Farmanfarmanian, CIRMENA, and Dr. E. Abdelmoula, Al Jazeera Center for Studies

DINNER, Gonville & Caius College
7 - 10pm

Conference location: Trinity Hall, Cambridge

Registration Required: el402@cam.ac.uk

(Prayer Room will be available)