THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO
KAMAL ADHAM CENTER FOR TELEVISION AND DIGITAL JOURNALISM

Arab Media & Society
3 YEARS SINCE THE SPRING

A Collection of Essays on the State of Arab Media

Cyberactivism, Civic Engagement, Citizen Journalism and the Arab Spring

Twitter and Tyrants: New Media and Sovereignty in the Middle East

Is the Egyptian Press Ready for Democracy?

The Discourse of Desperation: Leaders' Last Words

Arab Media & Society

3 Years Since the Spring

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Cover Image - Protesters, including a female blogger, blocked by a police-erected barricade outside then-President Morsi's Itehadia Palace in Heliopolis, Cairo. Photo taken December 11, 2012 by Patrick Baz. Getty Images.

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Introduction

The Arab uprisings of 2011 triggered a wave of discourse on media and social movements. As interest grew, so did questions about the scope and impact of media, particularly new media, on the events that unfolded. *Arab Media & Society* was a natural home for this discussion. Borne out of the 1990s satellite television revolution, *Arab Media & Society* (formerly *Transnational Broadcasting Studies Journal*) has worked to evolve with the changing media landscape. Most recently this has meant broadening content to include an online environment increasingly characterized by civic engagement and citizen journalism. In few instances has this transmutation been more apparent than during the Arab Spring.

In the more than three years since the uprisings began, initial waves of euphoria and optimism have gradually given way to more pessimistic points of view. This has manifested in both broader concern at events that have unfolded across the region, and in terms of the role of media in the uprisings themselves. Parsing through the journal's six issues since the Arab uprisings began, we found a vibrant collection of voices, research, and reflections that closely mimicked the broader evolution of events on the ground. We also observed a representative change in tone, as optimistic outlooks gradually gave way to increasingly critical perspectives.

In the pages that follow, you will find some of the best selections from Arab Media & Society's post-revolution archives, as well as some new content. Reflecting the hybrid nature of the journal, the volume includes a melting pot of quantitative and qualitative research and analysis, presented by academics and practitioners alike. Taken together, this collection seeks to paint a narrative of the media landscape as it, like the region, continues to stumble through a turbulent transitional period with an uncertain future.

We hope that you find this collection to be a useful resource for understanding the media landscape of the region, and the role of media in the events of the last three years.

Sincerely,
AMS Editorial Team

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Daoud Kuttab *is the director general of Community Media Network, a media NGO working with community radio throughout the Arab region. He was recently elected chair of the Freedom of Press Committee at the International Press Institute*

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