

Islam and Media Working Group

Abstracts of papers presented at the annual conference of the
International Association for Media and Communication Research¹

IAMCR

**Madrid, Spain
7-11 July 2019**

Report any problems with this document to support2019@iamcr.org

Version: 19/07/19

¹ We have endeavoured to ensure that these are the abstracts of the papers actually presented at the conference. Nevertheless, due to cancellations, additions and other factors, abstracts may be included here that were not presented and abstracts that were presented may not be included.

Id: 19669

Title: U.S. Media Framing of Muslim Immigrants

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Azhar Rashid

Email: azharreporter(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Teaching in hazara University Mnasehra

Name: Sadaf Naz

Email: sadafhu(at) yahoo.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Teaching in hazara University Mnasehra

Abstract: Purpose: This paper aims to explore the framing of Muslim immigrants in the right-wing U.S. media outlets. Media play a critical role in setting agenda about different issues. The current U.S. administration banned the entry of citizens of seven Muslim countries to the U.S. in early 2018. The U.S. government had said that it considered citizens of these countries a security threat for the U.S. Several newspaper reports noted that the current U.S. president is influenced by the right-wing media outlets such as Fox News. It is imperative to understand how those media outlets frame Muslim immigrants in their news stories. This paper offers an important insight into the media coverage of Muslim immigrants that has been understudied by academic scholars.

Methodology: Using framing analysis as a method, the author analyzed 27 stories published in the following elite U.S. media organizations about Muslim immigrants from January 2017 to December 2018: Brietbart News, and Fox News. As recommended by framing analysis scholars, the stories were analyzed for positioning of the information, syntax, words and phrases used, sources of the information, and priming.

Findings: The findings show that the U.S. right wing media sent out message about CPEC that were consistent with the U.S. government's rhetoric about Muslim immigrants. The U.S. media framed the immigrants as: 1) A security threat; 2) People whose culture conflicted with the U.S. culture; 3) Bad neighbors; 4) People who wanted to impose Sharia in the U.S.

Practical Implications: This paper offers an important insight into how the Western (U.S.) media and in turn the current U.S. government look at the Muslim immigrants. The author offers suggestions for improving the right-wing media coverage of Muslim immigrants.

Id: 20256

Title: Loyalist or Terrorist': Analyzing Netflix Original Movies Portraying Adversaries and Protagonists from Islamic Countries

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Abhijit Sen

Email: abzen2018(at) gmail.com

Country: US (United States)

Affiliation: Winston-Salem State University

Abstract: NETFLIX streams movies and TV series to the subscribers. NETFLIX, a multi-billion dollar company, also finances and produces original content for streaming to the audiences. Audiences today are now most likely sitting in front of a smart TV or a computer screen watching streaming 'long-form' TV shows. NETFLIX specializes in 'long-form' TV format – multi-episode, multi-season dramas which are now staple of online video streaming, the most popular form of programming today. NETFLIX movies and video series are produced and made not just in the U.S. but also in various countries, in different languages and by unknown directors. This paper will analyze and critically look at the portrayal of adversaries and protagonists in NETFLIX original content, specifically of characters and narratives from Islamic countries and cultures. The movies and TV series selected for analysis are Bodyguard, Nobel, Warrior, The Punisher and Sandcastle. Most of them have been produced and made in a non-U.S. country. The paper will be based on the media representation and stereotyping theory, and to some extent on Herman and Chomsky's propaganda model. The methodology used will be critical-historical analysis as normally used for film criticism.

NETFLIX, not being one of the major Hollywood studios, could be deemed to be relatively free of governmental influences. Historically, Hollywood has been known to churn out effective and entertaining PR and propaganda content for the government beginning with Wings (1927), an Oscar award winner for best picture. Hollywood got the military hardware and personnel to run the equipment in exchange for ceding creative control to the defense department. In return for their cooperation, the producers got the military's support and resources, in other words the armed forces were shown in a good light while the opponents were featured in a negative manner. Consequently, my assumption is that the movie actors and players representing foreign countries and cultures would be depicted in a fair, balanced and artistically appropriate manner in NETFLIX original movies and TV series than in a Hollywood produced content. This study would facilitate comparison of characters in various roles in films and TV series produced by different content creators.

Id: 20370

Title: Social media and the image of Muslims in China and in the U.S.A.

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Yuanyuan Wei

Email: weiyuanyuan.sdu(at) gmail.com

Country: FR (France)

Affiliation: Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

Abstract: Literature Review & Research Question

Empirical studies about the representation and image of Islam and Muslim in mass media and social media are on the rise. However, most tend to focus on western media and cases, with few on social media and cases in China and from comparative perspective of the West and the East. Researchers on Islam, Muslim, religion and media suggested that the image of Islam and Muslims were represented in a negative way in media (Saeed 2007, Akbarzadeh & Smith 2005) and the misrepresentations were rooted in western soil (Ogan et al 2013, Moore et al 2018).

From an empirical comparative perspective, this work examines the representations and the image of Islam and Muslim in news coverage in social media platform in the U.S and in China. It takes two terrorist attacks as case studies, the Orlando nightclub shooting in the USA, and the Kunming train station attack in China. This interdisciplinary research combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to investigate social media coverage of the two events, respectively in Twitter and its counterpart in China—Weibo. It uses social media analysis and communication sciences to explore: 1) how Islam and Muslims have been represented and framed on Twitter and Weibo; 2) the differences and similarities of media actors and citizens' attitudes and perceptions of Muslims in the U.S and China; and 3) what are the reasons for the deviances and similarities between the two countries.

Methods & Data

Twitter data about the Orlando nightclub shooting is collected by using Twitter APIs in full-archive searching with keywords “Orlando nightclub shooting”, “Muslim” and “Islam” for a period of one week from the 12th June 2016 (immediately after the event). Twitter data about Kunming Train station attack is collected the same way with keywords “Kunming Train Station attack”, “Muslim” and “Islam” for one week from the 1st March 2014. Weibo data about the two events is collected by using Weibo APIs in the same way, for the same date period, and with the same keywords but stated in the Chinese language.

Content analysis and sentiment analysis are used to analyze the four datasets. Semantic networks were used to provide visualization of the results with tables and graphs. Verbatims were also extracted to provide more qualitative insights.

Preliminary Results

Preliminary results show important differences. Chinese media actors on Weibo showed more neutral attitudes toward Islam and Muslims, while the attitude of Weibo ordinary users was more negative or even radical. American media actors on Twitter constructed differently the image of local Islam and that of China, while the Twitter ordinary users showed no evident divergence. Weibo users are concerned more about ethnical minorities issues and focus more on emotive expression, while Twitter users are concerned more about religious freedom, national security, and human rights. Reasons for these differences will be analyzed based on national interests, values, culture and media systems.

Id: 20428

Title: Critical study of Egyptian feminism from the perspective of activist Huda Shaarawi.

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Fátima Contreras Pérez

Email: fatconper(at) alum.us.es

Country: ES (Spain)

Affiliation: Universidad de Sevilla

Name: Marta Contreras Pérez

Email: marconper3(at) alum.us.es

Country: ES (Spain)

Affiliation: Universidad de Sevilla

Abstract: This study deepens the critical vision of the Egyptian activist Huda Shaarawi through her work *Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist* (1987). Her feminist and innovative position has been a reference in Egypt, and by extension, in the Arab world for the defense of women's rights in the Islamic world. Islamic feminism began to develop in the early twentieth century during the heyday of European colonialism in Egypt. After the demonstrations against the British occupation, a movement for the rights of women was born (ABU-LUGHOD, 2002, GOLLEY, 2003, KUBISSA, 2007, FAY, 2012). The emerging feminisms in Africa and Asia were nationalist feminisms, while in the emerging feminisms in the western colonizing countries various forms of colonialism were filtered, and for that reason, they were later called imperial feminisms. Soon a negative view on feminism was generated in Europe, interpreting it as an ideology against men. In this study we have adopted an interdisciplinary approach involving different areas of knowledge. Shaarawi has been a pioneer with his ideas on Egyptian feminist activism through his autobiographical work. In it she narrates her seclusion in a harem, a place where she will become aware of gender inequality and in which she will plot her social and political commitment to the Islamic woman. In this paper, Huda Shaarawi's intercultural trajectory towards feminism is analyzed through his personality in the colonial circumstances of his time. At the same time, she emphasizes her struggle for the equalization of women against the imposition of harems and the Islamic veil. The cultural relevance of Huda Shaarawi in the political and social history of Egypt has been the fundamental reason for his choice in this study. This activist generated with her companions a new stage in the history of Egyptian women and in the rest of the Arab and Islamic communities. Throughout this work we reconstruct their vital and ideological evolution under the influence of the West and the foundation of a feminism with its own identity in Egypt.

Id: 20453

Title: Beyond Representation: Muslim Voices, Satire and Digital Activism in Germany

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Katharina Schmoll

Email: 603195(at) soas.ac.uk

Country: GB (United Kingdom)

Affiliation: SOAS University of London

Abstract: The marginalisation of Muslim voices in Western public spheres and stereotypical media representations of Muslims and Islam has long been analysed in scholarship. Such research has been significant in disclosing and critiquing prejudices against Muslims and Islam in the West. Yet in order not to re-marginalise Muslims, it is also critical to explore and illustrate Muslims' agency.

With the case study of the online satire group 'Datteltäter', this paper explores mediated Muslim voices and activism of Muslims in Germany, aiming to further increase the visibility of diverse Muslim narratives in media and communication research. It analyses how young German Muslims engage in the public sphere on their own terms through social media, interact with their fellow Muslim and Non-Muslim citizens, negotiate or assert belonging, and react to right-wing populism and hate speech but also Islamism.

Founded in 2015, 'Datteltäter' is a group of several young German Muslims and non-Muslims that post weekly videos on YouTube, aiming to dispel stereotypes about Muslims and other minorities in Germany and building bridges with the wider society. Their name 'Datteltäter' is a combination of the German words 'Dattel' (date fruit) and 'Attentäter' (assassin/ attacker), thereby referring to common Orientalist stereotypes about Muslims as exotic, foreign and/ or violent.

This paper draws on a qualitative analysis of eight YouTube videos by the 'Datteltäter' and publicly posted comments, covering a diverse range of topics including racism within German society; prejudices within the Muslim community about other Muslims; hijab and clothing; refugees; fasting and the daily prayers; gender, family and dating; and right-wing populism as well as radical Islamism.

While so far, scholarship on German Muslims has widely concentrated on media representations using a framework of Muslims as minorities and migrants (Soliman 2017), this paper illustrates Muslims' agency and national belonging in a time where, following Europe's so-called migration crisis, the German far-right party AfD ('Alternative for Germany') is on the rise, having entered the German national parliament for the first time in 2016. While the German-language videos of the 'Datteltäter' are dubbed in English and potentially speak to an international public, the discourses are also clearly oriented towards the German public sphere. Criticising dynamics in both wider German society and Muslim communities, the 'Datteltäter' establish a space for negotiating and asserting new German diverse identities.

Regarding the conceptual framework, this paper builds on and contributes to emerging digital aspects of concepts such as voice and recognition (Couldry 2010), discussing the role of social media in supporting cultural citizenship, social cohesion and belonging.

--

Couldry, N. (2010). *Why Voice Matters: Culture and Politics after Neoliberalism*. London: Sage.

Soliman, A. (2017). *European Muslims Transforming the Public Sphere: Religious Participation in the Arts, Media and Civil Society*. London: Routledge.

Id: 20578

Title: Media, Fitra and Providing Human Dignity With Emphasis on Islamic Vision

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Reza Vaezi

Email: emadvaezi(at) yahoo.com

Country: IR (Iran, Islamic Republic Of)

Affiliation: Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting University

Abstract: Undoubtedly, experts believe in the extraordinary power of the media and mass communication equipment in a way that media in current century is considered as one of the most important infrastructure factor in economic, social and cultural development, as far as it can be claimed that media of today is playing an outstanding role in society.

This phenomena, is the product of modern era, which has been formed based on societies and human needs. Due to the importance of media performance in all areas, certainly it plays a significant role in supplying, protecting, respecting or threatening human dignity.

The author believes that due to the humans' both parts, body and soul, which have their own desires, if media formed based on innate needs (that exclusively distinguishes man from other creatures) can ideally provide real innate needs and reinforce human dignity.

The essential requirement of forming such a media is to apply the theory of Innatism in theoretical field, as well as using relevant models instead of those which generally are based on human natural, apparent and instrumental needs.

According this model, media carry great responsibilities to the audience and their innate needs and of course, developing human characteristics is their main goal, therefore, media's messages and products are designed, edited, produced and released in accordance with these needs.

This kind of media, formed based on the nature in humanity (fitra), does not consider audience as an object, but paying significant attention to human's innate needs, happiness and benefit, also avoiding evil, that is the most important threatening factor of the human dignity, are at the center of its activity.

Therefore, in this research, the researcher has tried to present a model of media through applying the theory of Innatism in a descriptive-analytical approach which can be operationalized for all people, also supply and protect human dignity.

Key words: media, Fitra, human dignity, theory, model, Islamic vision

Id: 20720

Title: Islamophobia: Histories, Context and (de)Construction

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Zafar Iqbal

Email: drzafar.iqbal(at) iiu.edu.pk

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: International Islamic University

Abstract: History helps us understand complex problems; but at times, it makes seemingly easy-to-understand issues appear exceedingly perplexing and intricate. Islamophobia is one of such terms / constructs, which would get further convoluted if you attempt to develop clarity on it with the help of history. Contemporary advances on the Islamophobia construct are fast-paced leaving more doubts than crystalizing it for a better understanding. Not only this, to have a simple and square understanding, Islamophobia has been associated with ‘fear or hatred of Islam and Muslims’ more often. Hostility, prejudice, racism, orientalism and many other negativities are baptised as Islamophobia, and some of the scholars resort to inventive approaches to explain and theorize Islamophobia. Since the release of Runnymede Report in 1997 and more after 9/11 catastrophe, the term is in abundance use and a huge literature has been produced on it so far involving all disciplines of social sciences. Nonetheless, sustained confusions in literature pose it to be a literature produced in haste.

The aim of this research endeavour is to destroy the confusions and myths from the literature, which generated more misunderstandings than resolving the problems the construct and phenomenon of Islamophobia is confronted with. Following hypotheses would help us generate debate on the serious issues concerning Islamophobia besides breaking some myth plaguing discussion on the construct:

- The phenomenon of Islamophobia is historic in nature, and has always been there since the birth of Islam in early 7th century.
- Islamophobia has not been defined in a systematic and scientific fashion in literature; rather efforts have been to include all negativities in its ambit without substantiating it with cogent rationale etc.
- Islamophobia is not a monolithic bloc or phenomenon; but a construct having multiple facets / dimensions.
- Literature produced on Islamophobia seems to have been produced in haste; hence, inundated with countless glitches.
- Orientalist’s perspective on Islamophobia has mostly driven the debates and definitions of Islamophobia, which is not more than a mere fab.
- Antecedents of Islamophobia are less debated in literature.
- Islamophobia has more often been discussed and debated in literature as a qualitative phenomenon.
- Islamophobia at various places is not the same in its nature and in terms of its antecedents; however, similarity in its manifestations is quite high.

Additionally, there are some established myths about Islamophobia, which are:

- Myth – 1: Islamophobia is a European hostility and prejudice towards Arabo-Muslim people (Said, 1978).
- Myth – 2: Islamophobia was born after the demise of communism; as a new enemy to the west (Huntington, Summer, 1993).
- Myth – 3: Islamophobia is towards Muslims, and not towards Islam (Halliday, 2010).

Id: 20728

Title: Public Relations In the Life and work of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Mohamed Kirat

Email: mkirat(at) qu.edu.qa

Country: QA (Qatar)

Affiliation: Qatar University

Abstract: This paper discusses the importance of public relations and communication in the life and work of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him (PBUH) to disseminate and spread Islam. The task was to propagate the teachings of Islam and to explain and elaborate on issues not fully explained in the Quran, through Hadith and Sunna (Essira Anabawia) –the daily life and conduct of prophet Muhammad. The mission was not simple and required a lot of skills, techniques and qualities to introduce a new way of life, values, concepts and principles to the people in the Arabic peninsula and around the globe.

Through Quran, Hadith and Sunnah (Essira Anabawia)- the life and conduct of the prophet Muhammad- this paper highlights the use of public relations and communication by prophet Muhammad to disseminate and convey Islam to the population of Kureish, the Arabic Peninsula and in the world. The essence of modern public relations, as stated by the late Edward Bernays in his book “Crystallizing Public Opinion”, lies in modifying attitudes, actions behaviors and efforts to integrate attitudes and actions of an institution with its publics, and of publics with those of that institution. This means, consent, persuasion, mutual understanding, two-way communication, mutual respect ,credibility, good will and cooperation

As a universal religion for all times and all humanity, Islam is a religion based on communication and public relations. Its principles are founded on democracy, freedom of speech, the right to know, the right of political opposition, the respect of human beings and human rights. Furthermore, Islam is a religion of tolerance, conviction, logic and science. All of these principles need communication, public relations, persuasion and logical thinking to be understood, adopted and practiced in real life by all Muslims.

Prophet Muhammad was a great communicator. He used public relations extensively to disseminate and spread the new religion. His task consisted of convincing people to change their attitudes by forming opinions and then transform such opinions into actions. This means the early followers of Muhammad had to quit their old habits and way of life and adopt new values, morals and ethics. The prophet was challenging a system that has existed for ages, and worked hard to introduce new principles and faith which destabilized a system based on coercion, force and injustice. Muhammad had many foes and enemies, but with his tolerance, sense of justice, high skills of communication and effective public relations, he was able to make everybody admire him.

Keywords: Prophet Muhammed, Quran, Hadith, teachings of Islam, sunna

Id: 21044

Title: Religion and Human Dignity: A Comparative Survey of Attitudes of a Muslim Country's Universities and Islamic Seminaries Students towards Feminism

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Muhammad Yousaf

Email: yousafspeaks(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: School of Media and Communication Studies, University of Central Punjab, Lahore-Pakistan

Abstract: There is a widespread assumption that religion and religious beliefs influence public attitudes towards a range of issues. Feminism is a contentious issue in Muslim countries. However, the issue is overlooked and ignored when we look at the influence of the religion on the attitudes of the public of Muslim countries regarding feminism. The current study sought to survey the influence of religion and religious beliefs on the attitudes of a Muslim country's two Universities (University of the Punjab & University of Central Punjab) and Islamic Seminaries (Jamia-e-Naeema & Jamia-e-Ashrafia) Students towards Feminism. The study employs a quantitative methodology vis-à-vis survey method to collect data from 600 students, university students (n=300), and Islamic seminaries students (n=300). A purposive sampling technique was used to select respondents for this study. A survey instrument was constructed to measure the attitudes of the students. The survey was administered face to face to the respondents. The instrument for the Islamic seminaries students was translated into Urdu, a national language to remove language barriers and ensure data authenticity. The findings of this study would be significant for our understanding of the comparative attitudes of the university and Islamic seminaries students towards feminism in a Muslim country which has predominately Islam as a driving force in most of the aspects of people's lives. It is assumed that the university and Islamic seminaries students would have different attitudes towards feminism. Therefore, the findings would be useful for the policy makers to introduce Islamic feminism courses to enhance respect and acceptance of the females' role especially in the religious seminaries of the country.

Keywords: Feminism, a Muslim country, attitudes, Islamic seminaries, religion, human dignity

Id: 21188

Title: Soft power and its effect on stereotyping Arabic Muslim women: social media websites as a model

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Azza Abdelaziz

Email: azzaosman(at) hotmail.com

Country: EG (Egypt)

Affiliation: Sohag University, Alexandria Media Institute

Abstract: This research paper aims to monitor, analyze and explain the techniques and strategies used by the soft power, represented in social media websites, to shape the image of the stereotypical image of Arab Muslim women.

This image was described by previous studies as negative, distorted and superficial, as well as being characterized by ignorance most of the time.

Social media websites, however, have allowed women to present themselves as who they really are, and not as whom the media outlets want them to be portrayed.

This is the new media reality today that the image of Arab Muslim women is being formed within.

Will this carry signs of change?

Id: 21757

Title: Islamic Identity in the Contemporary Egyptian Media Discourse

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Fatma Elzahraa Elsayed

Email: zahraafat(at) cu.edu.eg

Country: EG (Egypt)

Affiliation: Associate Professor

Abstract: This research focuses on the potential development of the Islamic identity meaning across five years (2014-2018) by analyzing presidential speeches in two religious occasions; Lailat Al-Kadr during holy Ramadan and Prophet Muhammad birthday. The analysis associated with media interpretations and deliberations to the concept of renewing Islamic discourse and correcting the image of Muslims which is – according to their point of view- severely damaged by misinterpretations of Islamic holy texts.

Renewing religious traditional discourse has been always a contested issue in Egypt between the ruling authorities and the religious entities such as Al-Azhar Sheikh, Al-Mufti, and the civilian Islamic movements. The ruling authorities accuse Islamic discourse as a one-sided dogmatic communication that incites violence and supports terrorism and extremism. However, the Islamic entities tend to resist these accusations by distinguishing between the holy fundamental resources of Islam which are Quran and Sunnah, and the Islamic thought which is unholy human interpretations that vary by place and time.

The research employs discourse analysis of the vocal and written language of the Egyptian most famous newspapers and TV shows within the communicative events of the religious occasions to reveal the socio-psychological characteristics of the source and extract the Islamic identity that is being targeted and then reconstructed through the media.

The study would analyze 20 speeches; 10 are presidential and 10 are for religious references. In addition, 100 articles and 50 TV shows to detect the persuasion styles that are used by the media to convince the audience of renewing the Islamic traditional discourse in a logical, sentimental, or sensual ways.

The research aims to investigate three main questions:

RQ1- How presidential and religious references differ in justifying the significance of renewing the traditional Islamic discourse?

RQ2- What are persuasion styles employed by the Egyptian media to deliver the message of renewing and correcting the Islamic discourse?

RQ3- What are characteristics of the Islamic identity that is being targeted and reconstructed by the media throughout five years 2014-2018?

Id: 22289

Title: Religious Issues in the Iranian Press (1956-2006)

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Hossein Afkhami

Email: hafkhami48(at) yahoo.co.uk

Country: IR (Iran, Islamic Republic Of)

Affiliation: Allameh Tabataba'i University , Tehran

Name: Atiyeh Pirhadi

Email: atiyeh.prd(at) gmail.com

Country: IR (Iran, Islamic Republic Of)

Affiliation: Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran

Abstract: IAMCR Madrid 2019

7-11 July 2019 UCM, Madrid – Spain

Paper Presented to

Islam and Media Working Group

Religious Issues in the Iranian Press (1956-2006)

By: Hossein Afkhami , & Atiyeh Pirhadi

Abstract

This research examines content of religious issues in two daily papers Ettelaat (1925) and Kayhan (1941) over fifty years. These are just two newspapers that are being published continuously before and after the Islamic Revolution of Iran (1979). The choice of these two papers is aimed at comparing the content and structure of religious materials in an historical context.

In this research, systematic sampling was performed on six periods of the first two weeks of the month of Muharram in years of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. The selection of the month of Muharram is due to its importance in promoting, educating and remembering religious and political values in the Shiite religion. A total of 118 copies of each of the two newspapers were examined and 1126 religious items were collected. The data were coded using quantitative method and analyzed by using SPSS software.

The findings of the research show that there is a significant difference between the content of the newspapers in the two periods of pre and post revolution. The use of news styles has increased in the three decades since the revolution and by contrast the number of religious advertisements has fallen. The largest number of published religious advertisements dates back to 1976. The number of advertisements published in the Ettelaat newspaper is almost twice as high as the Kayhan newspaper ads. Issues such as hadiths, mourning, and praise have increased in the years after the revolution. Published articles in Pahlavi period have more educational and religious publicity, while in the post-revolutionary period, these materials have more of a function of news and political propaganda.

Key Concepts: Religion, Pre and Post-Revolution Iran, Newspaper Functions, Kayhan Daily, Ettelaat Daily

Id: 22445

Title: Islamic Worldview as a Model for De-Westernizing Journalism Profession and Studies

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Basyouni Hamada

Email: bhamada(at) qu.edu.qa

Country: QA (Qatar)

Affiliation: Department of Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University

Abstract: In his article on “journalism studies and Western bias”, Thomas Hanitzsch argues that despite the productive attempts to globalize journalism studies, Western hegemony still prevails in the way scholars approach, and understand journalism on a global scale(Hanitzsch 2018). In fact, the Western model of journalism culture in terms of its liberal democratic tenets and professional practices have become a benchmark against which journalism is assessed in the rest of the world especially in the Arab Muslim countries. Hanitzsch as well as other scholars(Hallin and Mancini 2004) believe that journalism must be truly international not just in quantitative terms (publications outlets and outputs, conferences and subscription in international journalism societies), but also by recognizing other indigenous cultural perspectives and intellectual paradigms that govern journalism practices in the rest of the world.

This paper is based on the argument that Islamic worldview has the potentials to provide an alternative intellectual and practical paradigm that enriches and guide both journalism scholarship and profession. Communication scholars in North America and Europe will continue unable to truly understand journalism as a global profession even inside their own cultural context unless they look at the profession from a global perspective. The Islamic perspective does not claim its supremacy over Western or non-Western journalism culture/s, instead, it accommodates other cultures and respects diversity. Global journalism is being transformed everywhere due to substantial changes in economic and technological foundations governing traditional media. As such, the role played by the traditional Western Liberal norms has to be revisited in a rapidly changing world of digital journalism.

The main questions this paper seeks to answer are simple but important: What does the Islamic worldview offer to journalism culture and practice in the era of digital journalism? To what extent, does the Islamic worldview insure that news reporting and investigative journalism are operated to preserve journalists’ freedom and journalism independence? What are the roles of journalists as perceived by the Islamic worldview? How does Islamic worldview approach the global issues of journalism such as journalists’ safety and impunity, linkages between politicians and journalists and censorship? Finally, to what extent Islamic worldview help establish an independent way of thought to approach and examine the modern journalism issues.

The purpose of this paper is twofold: First, to introduce the Islamic worldview as an alternative to the Western professional journalism model. Second, to discuss a conceptual groundwork for future journalism studies that is mainly premised on the tenets of Islamic worldview. To answer these questions, a critical assessment of relevant empirical and theoretical research will be examined.

References quoted:

Hallin, Daniel C., and Paolo Mancini. 2004. *Comparing Media Systems: Three Models of Media and Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hanitzsch, Thomas. 2018. "Journalism Studies still needs to fix Western Bias." *Journalism* 20 (1):214-217. doi: 10.1177/1464884918807353.

Id: 23122

Title: Contested Identities and Blogosphere: The Case of Violence and Victimization of Hazara Community in Pakistan

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Uzma Aleem

Email: uzaleem1(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan

Name: Abida Ashraf

Email: abidaejaz(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore

Abstract: The war against terror witnessed an upsurge of sectarian violence in various Muslim countries including Pakistan. These violent conflicts against different sects particularly Hazara community i.e. Shi'ia ethnic minority, have been a matter of concern since Quetta massacre of 2013 against Hazara community in Pakistan. Almost 200 people were killed in two consecutive horrific incidents of terrorism in January 2013 and February 2013 (Report, 2013) (Azher, 2013). Thus, this massacre enraged nationwide protests and media reports regarding violence against Hazara community and captured the attention of people across the globe (Nazish, 2013). Research studies show religious and sectarian conflicts became most apocalyptic when they were carried along ethnicity (Galdini, 2014; Kasbarian & Mabon, 2016; Robinson, Connable, Thaler, Scotten, 2018; Petrokkos, 2018).

According to a report presented to Senate of Pakistan in 2018, more than 3,000 people of Hazara community have been killed during last seven years (Shahid, 2018). Lives of members of Hazara community have been marred with violence due to their sectarian and ethnic identity (Siddiqi & Mukhtar, 2015). Mainstream media tend to marginalize the issue of target killings of Hazara community.

The growth of digital participatory media like blogosphere has become an alternative platform that has altered the information space in the conflict ridden societies (like Pakistan) by providing tools to more and more people (both parties of conflict) to disseminate their reflections to the world (Sigal, 2009).

While keeping in view these premises, the researchers intend to analyze the role of digital media particularly blogs in shaping and re-shaping the identities of Hazara community in the wake of violence against them under the realm of communication theory of identity. Since Hecht (2002) reasons that identity cannot be segregated from communication, particularly in the digital age, when digital technologies are not only changing and challenging the identity enactment rather creating new possibilities for ethnic and sectarian groups. Thus, with an aim to explore the impact of violence on ethnic and sectarian identity of Hazaras in the age of digital media this study has employed two research methodologies: quantitative and qualitative content analysis of blogs related to Hazaras; and intensive interviews of members Hazara community sampled through snow ball sampling technique. This study reveals how blogs run by members of Hazara community and

general bloggers are affecting the contested sectarian and ethnic identities and religious orientations of Hazaras in Pakistan. While considering the continued situation of violence against Hazaras, role of state institutions is also being discussed in the emergence of relational identities of Hazaras.

Id: 23200

Title: The role of religious ethical values in journalism practice in Pakistan

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Bushra Hameedur Rahman

Email: bushrajk(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Pakistan

Abstract: Media is considered to be a profit-oriented industry driven by the exploitative capitalistic system aiming for nothing but monetary interests. Nevertheless, it is also argued that the very conventions of this industry are based on the ethical foundations of religious values. In this context, the present study is an attempt to see how far religious ethical values are considered to be part of journalism practice in Pakistan. As Pakistan is considered to be an ideological state, the question of bringing in the religious ethical values in journalism education and professional life becomes quite relevant. The present study, through a survey of the electronic and print media journalists of Lahore, aims to explore whether journalists see themselves as agents of change by consciously bringing in their religious ethical values in their everyday discussions and through their own example? How far do they see themselves compromising their religious values in their professional life? And lastly, do they ever apply the Golden Rule of compassion- thinking of the other by placing themselves in the shoes of the other?

Id: 23265

Title: Contested Truths in the Digital Media: Coverage of Aasia Bibi's Blasphemy Case in the Religious and Non-religious E-newspapers

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Abida Ashraf

Email: abidaejaz(at) gmail.com

Country: PK (Pakistan)

Affiliation: Assistant Professor Institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract: In the developing countries, portraying conflicts has been a monopoly of state actors and their colonial masters for a long time however, the situation seems to be different due to digital/online/citizen journalism and active participation of non-state actors as producers of the content (Mortenson, 2014). Media has become an important source to provide information on religious issues. According to Pakistan 2015 International Religious Freedom Report, media coverage of issues related to religious minorities is getting better however, there are instances of media making inappropriate reference to minorities and using inflammatory language. The report says, "Human rights and religious freedom activists and members of minority religious groups reported they continued to be hesitant to speak in favor of religious tolerance due to a societal climate of intolerance and fear" (Pakistan 2015 International Religious Freedom Report, p. 18). In the given scenario, it seems interesting to critically evaluate and compare the news coverage and treatment of the said blasphemy case. This study analyzes two online dailies; Asia News and the Express Tribune for the coverage of Aasia Bibi blasphemy case in Pakistan (Aasia Bibi is a Christian and belongs to minorities). Asia News is a Christian online newspaper and an official news agency of the Roman Catholic, whose editor-in-chief is Father Bernardo Cervellera. He also heads the official news agency of the Vatican, Agenzia Fides. Asia News has its correspondents in many countries including Pakistan. All the news items with the search words 'blasphemy' and 'Aasia Bibi' are selected from a period of four months starting from October 8, 2018 (last hearing and Pakistan Supreme Court's decision date), to January 29, 2019 (decision of Pakistan Supreme Court on the writ petition by the Islamic radicals).

Id: 23556

Title: Malala Versus Drones: The Perpetuation of Orientalism through a Case Study of Worthy and Unworthy Victims in Pakistan

Session Type: Individual submission

Authors:

Name: Firasat Jabeen

Email: fjabeen(at) g.clemson.edu

Country: US (United States)

Affiliation: Clemson University

Abstract: This paper examines the media portrayal of Malala Yousafzai (Pakistani Nobel Prize winner and an activist for female education) and the victims of US drone attacks in Pakistan. In this analysis, I compare the portrayal of these issues/events in US and Pakistani newspapers. My analysis argues that in the contemporary context, the issues of orientalism and imperialism perpetuate for the marginalized and underrepresented groups of Pakistan. My paper is aligned with the 'Islam and Media' working group of the conference in the sense that it studies the intersection of orientalism (from a Pakistani standpoint, a predominantly Muslim majority country) and media portrayals for downtrodden groups in Pakistan. Overall, my paper not only provides a news analysis of the portrayal of Malala Yousafzai and the drone attack victims, it also observes that once again, we are back to Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky's ideas of 'worthy and unworthy victims.' Thus, considering Herman and Chomsky's views alongside Edward Said's Orientalism, my paper explores the aspects of uses and abuses of power for traditionally marginalized sections in Pakistan.

Furthermore, this paper focuses on the intersection of the ongoing nature of orientalism and the political economy of communication. I study how a biased representation portrays some victims as worthy, whereas others are unworthy. Specifically, I analyze the coverage of two Pakistani incidents—the Malala Yousafzai case (for the year 2012) and the US Drone Strikes case (for the year 2010) in four newspapers (two US—the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal and two Pakistani—The Nation, and Daily Times). This study argues that the US media's selective representations lead to the perpetual cycle of orientalism for post 9/11 Pakistan. By employing the methodology of critical discourse analysis, this paper offers an empirical component in the study of orientalism and presents a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the relentless process of orientalism.