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Arab World's Criticism on Indian Islamophobia: Understanding Islamic Perspective

Authors

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Abstract

During COVID-19 Islamophobia in India led to an unprecedented reaction from the Arab World, which had been quite against the persecution of Indian Muslims, especially after Narendra Modi's premiership. This study has highlighted the international media coverage regarding Islamophobia in India & its impacts on Indo-Arab Relations and also evaluated how can Islamophobia in India impact Indo-Arab ties in future. A thematic qualitative study has been conducted to comprehend the important themes and subthemes discussed in the renowned international media outlets. For this purpose, twelve articles from reputed international media outlets were selected for the qualitative thematic analysis during the month of April & May 2020. This study has discussed the notion of the Islamic concept of Ummah, which ultimately led the Arab world to object to the persecution of Muslims in India. Thematic analysis of the

content of reputed international media outlets concluded that if the situation does not improve in India, then the Islamic world may unite itself against Indian policies, which can leave a major dent in India's international image and its economy.

Submission ID

141

'Virus Jihad': The (mis)representation of Muslims during Covid-19 outbreak on Indian TV news channels

Authors

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Abstract

Coronavirus is still a major global concern. More than five million people have lost their lives in over 190 countries. No wonder it has been called a global pandemic. The deadly virus brought the best health care systems to their knees and pushed millions into poverty. However, the impact of the pandemic transcends health and economic sectors. The virus also contributed to damaging the social fabric in many societies where ethnic/racial divisions have been simmering for long. The pandemic, in such societies, became a tool of marginalization and demonization of minorities. Particularly, bigotry and Islamophobia (re)surfaced in public sphere and Muslims were found to be at the receiving end of a problem caused by a virus which does not have its own religious affiliations.

A key example of such phenomenon occurred in India – the largest democracy in the world and home to more than 200 million Muslims. A religious congregation in Delhi organized by Tablighi Jamaat - an Islamic organization with presence in more than 150 countries - found itself in the eye of a storm when some of its attendees tested Covid positive. Each case of infection associated with the event became a media referendum on Muslims and Islam in the country. Muslim attendees were characterized as 'super spreaders' working on a 'sinister plot' to undermine India's efforts in battling Covid-19.

Against this backdrop, this study focuses on TV debates on Indian news channels related to the religious congregation and examines the representation of Muslims on the shows. For that, more than 670 hours of news debate content from 27 episodes broadcasted on two of the most watched news channels have been selected for the study. Particularly, the monologues of influential TV anchors are analysed for mapping the media narrative. A qualitative thematic discourse analysis is conducted to obtain a comprehensive view of the nature of media discourse during the outbreak. Preliminary findings suggest a prevalence of Islamophobic connotations in the media discourse. Both overt and covert references are made to question the allegiance of minorities towards the country. Broadly, Muslims are

characterized as 'threats', and 'traitors'- also reflecting the socio-political environment of India currently ruled by unapologetic hyper-nationalists.

Rooted in framing as its theoretical framework and using Islamophobia and ethnic nationalism as its conceptual framework, this pioneering study makes several contributions. First, the study makes a significant and timely contribution to the on-going debate on an intra-Asian bigotry by providing empirical evidence from India. Second, the study fills the literature gap by focusing on the hitherto under researched concept of monologues in the context of journalism studies. Third, the study also makes an original contribution by approaching the issue of Islamophobia and media from an ethno-nationalistic (Hindu nationalism) perspective – a point of departure from studies mostly conducted in the context of Western societies in which such cultural churning may or may not be taking place.

Keywords: Coronavirus; ethnic; jihad; India; Muslims; media; nationalism

Submission ID

233

US Media Framing of Alleged Pakistani Terrorists in the Post 9/11 Attacks in US

Authors

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Abstract

People with Muslim identity are seen as outsiders and others while living in a western country, and the media there is believed to present and frame Muslims indifferently due to their origin to Islam. In the era since September 11, 2001 attacks in US, America and its coalition forces initiated the Global War on Terror (GWOT) throughout the Muslim world (Islamic states). As a result, Muslims and those perceived to be Muslims faced discrimination, hate crimes, alienation, oppression and estrangement because of their religion Islam while living in US. Particularly, the Muslims belonging to Pakistan were suspected as potential terrorists to the state. This has been reflected many times by the western media coverage of such kind of incidents occurred in the years following the 9/11 attacks. US media is said to negatively frame the identity of Muslim immigrants by associating them with violence, barbarism, jihad and terrorism.

This study aims to investigate the US media framing of alleged terrorists or perpetrators committing any act of terrorism on the soil of United States of America done during a post 9/11 twenty years period. The coverage of leading English dailies of US is analyzed to understand the framing of alleged Muslim militants or perpetrators belonging to Pakistan and comparing them with the coverage of alleged US homegrown terrorists or perpetrators

and all others than them, assumed to be involved in those attacks in US. The incidents listed on Global Terrorism Database (GTD) are taken as sample frame of this study. Twenty years news coverage of these incidents is examined in two leading US dailies The Washington Post, and New York Times. Theories of Agenda Setting and Framing have facilitated to understand the thematic framing of alleged Pakistani terrorists in these daily newspapers. The findings suggest that US media tends to portray alleged Pakistani terrorists as real culprits while activities of alleged US based terrorists and other perpetrators are framed with justification.

Submission ID

518

Digital entrepreneurship with emphasis on Islamic teachings

Authors

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Abstract

In recent years, the world has witnessed the information and communication revolution and there have been great social changes in it, so that as a result of these changes, the current century has been registered as information and communication technology. Information and communication technology has affected all social activities, including entrepreneurship, and has brought about fundamental evolutions in many of them. Entrepreneurship today is highly dependent on IT platforms and benefits greatly from it. It may not be an exaggeration to say that modern entrepreneurship without information technology is impossible. On the other hand, the development of information and communication technology owes itself to entrepreneurship. Digital entrepreneurship is a new way of doing business in the new world; a world we call the digital world or global village. Global Village is an excellent opportunity for people who want to get the most out of their purposeful work with the least cost and tools. In the present article, which has been written using the method of libraries and documents, entrepreneurship and digital entrepreneurship are defined and then its features and benefits are discussed. Finally, the problems and obstacles of digital entrepreneurship in the country and the ways of its expansion and necessity have been discussed. This article also surveys entrepreneurship from the perspective of the position of business in Islamic teachings. Just as religious ethics

and values set the pattern for all social and devotional behaviors, so does the emphasis on work, effort, and development in human society. In the Qur'anic teachings, God has prescribed work and effort for human.

Keywords: Information Technology, Communication, Entrepreneurship, Digital Entrepreneurship, Islamic Teachings

Submission ID

589

Challenges of using artificial intelligence in the Arab journalism: A study from the perspective of the media's elite

Authors

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Abstract

The Study Problem:

Artificial intelligence has become a primary tool in recent years in many fields and sectors, including journalism in particular and the media in general, which has created fears that this will lessen the role of journalists.

Those concerns may have been amplified by Microsoft's decision in May 2021 to lay off more than 50 Microsoft News and MSN journalists and editors who had been responsible for organizing news and content selection, and replace them with an artificial intelligence program that could automatically spot interesting articles.

As technological tools are now able to perform more tasks than ever before, important questions arise about what is the role of artificial intelligence in journalism, and what are the challenges and considerations to be taken into account when introducing this powerful technological tool to the newsroom and the field of journalism in general?

The Study Objectives:

- Recognizing the areas of using artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism as viewed by the media elite
- Recognizing the positive aspects of AI journalism through the reality of the media elite's vision
- The vision of the media elite in how ethics and professionalism of AI journalism works
- Monitoring and analyzing the challenges of using artificial intelligence in the Arab journalism from the reality of the elite's vision
- Monitoring, analyzing and interpreting journalistic content that challenges artificial intelligence
- Develop a futuristic vision for the state of AI journalism in the Arab world

The Study Questions:

- What are the areas of using artificial intelligence in journalism?
- What are the advantages of using artificial intelligence in journalistic work?
- What are the advantages of an artificial intelligence journalist?
- What are the difficulties that news corporations face in adopting AI?

- What are the ethics of journalistic and professional work when using artificial intelligence?
- What are the challenges of using AI in creating and organizing content and presenting it to the end user?
- What facilities does artificial intelligence provide for journalists?
- What are the implications that challenge artificial intelligence?
- What is the future of AI journalism in the Arab world?

The Study's Methodology:

The study belongs to the descriptive studies, and uses the survey method and the in-depth interview tool with a sample of experts in the field of media.

Submission ID

1024

Framing Charlie Hebdo Cartoons Crisis in Western and Muslim Media, Peace vs. War Journalism Practices

Authors

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Abstract

Numerous studies have investigated media framing and users perceptions of the Charlie Hebdo Cartoons crisis, since its first occurrence in 2015 (e.g. Marzouki et al. 2020; Khan et al. 2019; Beaman 2021). For instance, Marzouki et al. (2020), investigated negative and positive stereotypes associated with Islam and Muslims by analysing Twitter hashtags related to the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris in 2015. They concluded that over time supertweeters played a significant role in shifting the tone and themes of representing Islam from negative to positive through presenting the Prophet [peace be upon him] persona and communicating his primary teachings. Moreover, Khan et al. (2019) studied Western and Muslim media framing of freedom of expression and anti-Muslim sentiments after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in 2015. They concluded that, while Western media defended the rights of the magazine to stand for Western values, the Muslim media on the other hand viewed the Western media representations of the case as Islamophobic. The study called for the application of journalistic standards and professionalism in the coverage. Furthermore, Riaz et al. (2021) studied the representation of Charlie Hebdo aftermath and reprinting of the offensive cartoons to the Muslim world in Anadolu Agency texts. The study asserted the importance of preserving the freedom of speech; however, it needs to be practised in a “constructive manner” that does not hurt the feelings of millions of religion followers. They stressed the necessity of peace journalism practices to ensure “strengthen interfaith pluralism” (p. 10). Johansson & Laippala (2020) investigated “types of

affectivity' expressed on Twitter in reaction to the Charlie Hebdo attacks in French. They found two sides of affection; togetherness and awayness. While users "expressed emotions and values that built togetherness" with the victims; another band of tweets signalled and expressed "disalign from those who do not share the same values or who are a threat to them" (pp. 179, 196).

This research aims to follow up and complement the previous study by further investigating Western in comparison to Muslim media framing of Charlie Hebdo cartoons after their republishing in September 2020. Four media outlets were chosen for the analysis, namely the Guardian and the New York Times from western media and Al Ahram and the Dawn from Muslim media. The core of this choice is to underline how both sides have framed the issue; to what extent they abided by journalistic standards; and whether their frames abide by war or peace journalism (Gouse et al. 2019) practices. While, "war journalists reactively report on conflict in a way that propagates violence, victory, and an elitist orientation" (Gouse et al. 2019, 435); on the contrary, "peace journalism promotes the contextualization of conflict narratives and challenges dominant news conventions such as the focus on elite, bureaucratic sources" (Anderson 2015, 255). By doing so, this research may add to our understanding of Islamophobic representations and foreground a critique of current journalistic practices in a time of crisis.

Submission ID

1230

Mediatization as force field of political contestation: A study on the 2022 UP electoral campaign midst the Covid pandemic

Authors

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Abstract

This article employs the study of mediatization of politics and an actor centric approach. It explains two perspectives of media and political actors and employs them to a case study of the 2022 State Legislative or federal election campaign in Northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. With ever evolving neo-global social, political and economic realities in the continued presence of the Covid pandemic the paper investigates the ramifications in the hotbeds of electoral arena. The paper endeavors to take cognizance of exigent reconfigurations of power arrangements and analyze administrative strategies in response to the emerging challenges and morphology of changing contexts. The media actor-centric perspective focuses on push forces of mediatization and use of media platform to report in an interventionist approach. This approach focuses on the style of interrogation and questions in relation to politicians. The content analysis focuses on television and online

coverage from the prominent English language news outlets. The political actor-centric perspective focuses on political participants and how they employ pull forces of mediatization, to promote and legitimize their campaign goals. During the Election campaigns the dominant parties, the ruling BJP and opposition parties employed different pull strategies to conciliate and contend with the push forces of media actors grounded in the new realities with respect to global readjustments while gripped with the Covid pandemic. The study finds a significant disproportion and misbalance when comparing the two strategies and campaigns. The study also reflects on the implications of such lopsided and disproportionate mediatization especially in the current geo-political context.

Keywords UP Elections, neo-global realities, Covid pandemic, mediatization, actor centric approach, political communication, qualitative analysis, television news

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1678

Public Relations and New Media at Faith-Based Health

Institution

Authors

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Abstract

This study aims to elaborate on the use of new media in the public relations of faith-based health institutions during the pandemic. Besides, this research is aimed at exploring the influential factors of the utilization pattern. This research was conducted considering that theoretically, enrichment is needed to map how public relations in health institutions, especially those refers to the faith-based organization, interact through new media to bridge the relationship between institutions and stakeholders, preach the faith mission, and develop a positive reputation for the institution, especially in the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In practical terms, the study in the field is so crucial to become lessons learned for policymakers at related institutions. This research took a case study at the PKU Hospital in Yogyakarta City. The institution was chosen because it represents a health institution under the official auspices of one of the biggest faith-based organizations in the world, Muhammadiyah, and uses new media intensively to communicate with stakeholders during the pandemic. This type of research is mixed-method research with a qualitative approach using percentage statistical data. Data collection techniques used are interviews and documentation. The data analysis was conducted by using the pattern matching technique. The following is a research hypothesis: (1) The use of new media by health institutions is increasing during a pandemic. (2) There is no proportional media weighting process according to stakeholder segmentation. (3) The discourse raised in the

communication process through new media combines religious messages with product branding and the institution itself.

Keywords: *New Media, Public Relations, Health Institutions, Faith-Based Organization*

Submission ID

2022

A survey of democracy in Pakistan and its television news media representation

Authors

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Abstract

A survey of democracy in Pakistan and its television news media representation

In the era of neo-globalization, where many entities are undergoing dynamic changes, religion has become a source of political cleavage in different parts of the world. Many scholars regard secularism as a necessary feature of democracy. Secular states have also been bothered about religion and its influence in many aspects of life. A large number of democracies around the world tend to restrict religious practices. Political secularism is considered a viable model for democracy. The compatibility of Islam with democracy has been questioned by many scholars in the field, e.g. Samuel Huntington is of the view that Islam and democracy might seem compatible in theory but they have not worked out together in practice (1991). However, many others suggest that questioning Islam's compatibility with democracy is a wrong idea. Islam as a religion is not a private matter rather an essentially political one. There is nothing intrinsic to Islam - or, for that matter, to any other religion - makes it inherently democratic or undemocratic (Bayat, 2007). Besides, the news media industry has also played its part in projecting the image of political Islam from particular perspectives. So, what makes the study of news media representation of Muslim democracies relevant, is the fact that for the past few decades there has been an increasing trend to compromise religion in favor of democratic values. Hence, it becomes crucial to investigate the question about news media bias against religious intervention into politics and democracy and the (in)compatibility of Islam with democracy, which is responsible for news media showcasing of the political upheaval and undemocratic practices in Muslim democracies. This study has two aims: (1) it presents a systematic review of the theoretical debate on the issue of compatibility between Islam and democracy, (2) it explores the representation of Muslim democracies in international TV news media content. The study adopts a systematic review method of literature that surveys the democratic practices in major Islamic countries and regions like Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, and MENA (the Middle East and North Africa). It is interesting to see that despite being belonging to the same religion, these countries do not represent a

singular democratic setup rather there is found huge diversity in their political history and democratic struggles. The depiction of Muslim democracies in international TV news media is examined by taking up Pakistan as a case in point. The study is significant as it is an attempt to resolve the issue, whether Islam suspects democracy as a “foreign construct” or in contrast to this incompatibility thesis, it presents the inherently democratic spirit of a political system. It further explores the role of TV news media in projecting democracy in Muslim countries.

Submission ID

2367

Identity creation in the cyber world: Studying pre-Revolution Egyptian blogs

Authors

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Abstract

One of the different meanings of identity formation lies on the shoulders of media. Benedict Anderson in 1983 had identified printing presses as a building block of nationalism. He argued that the sense of belonging to a nation is an identity which party owes its existence to print capitalism. In the era of globalisation, identity does not always limit itself to territorial boundaries. People are able to associate themselves to international groups based on religion, gender, ethnicity, and so on. Media, today, has attained significant increase in its reach via technological development and can appeal to any group by sharing common experiences, creating unity and sense of belonging. Even within a nation, cohesive identities can be founded over any sense of similarities.

With the rise of online media, identity formation was shared by both traditional and new media.

West Asia, having experienced a large number of autocratic governments throughout the region, developed a set of traditional media that favours the state policies. Within this structure, internet brought openness by providing space for the citizens to voice their opinions and report different facts that traditional media have failed to cover. A new identity of victimization familiar to majority of citizens in these countries was created within the periphery of online forums.

The discussion of this paper will take the case study of Egypt and analyze the beginning of online identity formation, keeping in mind Benedict Anderson’s perspective of mass media in nation building. Identity formation with the sense of victimization began with the bloggers attempt to notify the readers of the government suppression and citizen’s plight. The trend was soon picked up by independent media; but the participation of internet generated

forums in the formation of a separate identity, that considers itself victimised by the state, was initiated through its online activists, more specifically the bloggers. This paper thus will focus on Egyptian blogger, the beginning of blogging in Egypt, growth of its activism and the culmination in the 2011 events while trying to identify the identity designing aspects.

Submission ID

2372

Intersectional Approaches to Muslim Women in the Malaysian Entertainment Media Industry

Authors

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Abstract

The Malaysian New Economic Policy (NEP) in the 1970s has shifted the Malaysian economy from one based on agriculture to one based on industry. Such an economic transformation has also brought about structural changes within corporations, shaping the national labour market. Malaysian thriving labour market has encouraged the participation of women in various industries, including the media industry. The privatisation of news and entertainment outlets in the 1980s has also encouraged Muslim women to take up such creative positions as writers, producers, directors and editors in the entertainment media outlets. It is, however, quite challenging to be a working woman in a patriarchal culture and multi-racial society like Malaysia. While men are often regarded as breadwinners, leaders, and decision-makers, women in the entertainment industry are often viewed obliquely and undignified by some quarters of the Malay community. Despite such a negative societal perception of working women, their participation in the labour force increases. In Malaysia, working women have surged from 43.4% in 2010 to 50.8% in 2020 (The World Bank Organisation, 2020). The same goes for the number of Muslim women in the screen industry, continuing to grow. Although Malaysia is a Muslim-majority country, the owners of entertainment media organisations are non-Muslims. Studies show that institutional racism intensified as employers always sought Mandarin-speaking or Muslim women who do not wear *hijab* as employees. Thus, to investigate Muslim women in the Malaysian entertainment media industry, we draw our paper on Islamic studies and intersectional feminism approaches. We introduce individual religious conviction as an axis of difference and the need for examining its intersections with gender and professional roles. Based on interviews with Muslim women producing entertainment television programmes, we seek to answer such questions as to how Muslim women negotiate their professional and gendered identities and how their religious beliefs help them cope with the racialised

workplace. While most scholars of Islam and media often explore gender representation and intersectionality through narrative and content analyses, our study aims to bring women's voices to the collective discourse on institutional racism and opposing views on Muslim women working in the entertainment industry. Our study also contributes to a better understanding of how religious belief could support women in the entertainment industry to strengthen their identity and deal with workplace challenges.

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2656