

QANTARA.DE CONFERENCE**TROUBLEMAKER OR FACILITATOR? THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

Media globalization has greatly increased the potential for escalation between different cultural spheres, especially when subjects are approached without any regard for intercultural sensibility or sufficient background knowledge. That is why intercultural dialogue – among decision makers in the Muslim as well as in the Western world and transnational media – has become one of the most important aspects of international politics and is seen as a tool for preventing conflicts.

What is the role played by both mainstream and new media in this context, especially in different countries and cultures? Do they enhance dialogue and mutual understanding? Can they play the role of mediator and reduce tension in an increasingly globalized public sphere? Or do they aggravate conflicts and have a polarizing effect? What responsibility do they bear under these new framework conditions?

Well-known experts and media makers discuss the importance for intercultural dialogue in mainstream media, represented by newspapers, magazines, radio and TV and new media with its websites, blogs and user-generated content.

PROGRAM**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010****14:00 WELCOME**

Ambassador Dr. Heinrich Kreft, Special Representative for Dialogue among Civilizations, German Federal Foreign Office
Christian Gramsch, Director DW-RADIO | DW-WORLD.DE, Deutsche Welle

DEBATE DOES THE MEDIA AGGRAVATE OR REDUCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN CULTURES?**14:15**

Abdelbari Atwan, Editor-in-Chief of Al Quds Al Arabi, London

Michael Slackman, Bureau Chief for the New York Times, Berlin

Moderation: Volker Perthes, Director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

FOCUS: MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY**15:00 - 16:30****GLOBAL MEDIA AND GLOBAL STANDARDS - JOURNALISTIC RESPONSIBILITIES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS**

Does the song of a German football club really offend the prophet Mohamed? Is the Swiss vote against building minarets really a sign of hostility towards Islam? A news item can provoke serious misunderstandings depending on the perception of a specific cultural environment. Here, mainstream media traditionally carry a great responsibility, while being expected to reach a wide audience.

- Can market requirements, clear ethics and professional standards be united?
- What is the role of journalists dealing with sensitive issues in a globalized world?
- Is reducing tension part of media responsibility?
- Are there global common journalistic ethics and professional standards that are independent of cultural backgrounds and can meet those requirements?

PANELISTS

Aref Hijjawi, Director of Programs for Al Jazeera, Doha

Assaf Gavron, Israeli author and publicist, currently in Berlin

Ayse Karabat, Media critic and columnist at Todays Zaman, Istanbul

Yassin Musharbash, Editor at SPIEGEL ONLINE, Berlin

Ute Schaeffer, Head of Africa – Middle East Desk, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Moderation: Tibet Sinha, Editor-in-Chief for Cosmos TV, WDR, Cologne

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16:30 Keynote Speaker: **André Azoulay**, President of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation and Counselor to HM the King of Morocco

16:45 COFFEE BREAK

FOCUS: DIALOGUE

17:15 -18:45 **DIALOGUE AND CONTROVERSY AS AN EDITORIAL PRINCIPAL - THE QANTARA PLATFORM AND OTHER DISCURSIVE PROJECTS PROMOTING DIALOGUE**

The multilingual Internet portal Qantara.de promotes dialogue between cultures by compensating the deficits in knowledge and eliminating prejudices. Qantara.de is a platform for discursive and intercultural journalism which aims at developing a critical public opinion. There are similar projects in other countries, sharing the same values and aiming at the same objectives. What can they achieve?

- What are the practical implications of discursive and intercultural journalism?
- What challenges do journalists face while promoting intercultural work?
- What limits does intercultural journalism come up against? Where are the boundaries of a discursive form of journalism?

PANELISTS

Mohamad El Sawy, Founder of El Sawy Culturewheel, Cairo

Catherine Cornet, Editor-in-Chief of Babelmed, Rome/Barcelona

Leena El-Ali, Senior Program Director at Search for Common Ground, Washington

Amira Hussaini, Arab World Representative for Global Voices Online, Bahrain

Arian Fariborz, Editor at Qantara.de, Bonn

Moderation: **Jörg Lau**, Editor at DIE ZEIT newspaper and a blogger on Islam issues, Berlin

19:00 **RECEPTION AND MUSIC "PIANO POETRY"**

Laura Feldmann, Mohammad Khalifa and Friedrich Wollweber

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010

FOCUS: NEW MEDIA

10:00 -12:00 **PUBLIC SPHERE IN TRANSITION - WEB 2.0 AND NEW MEDIA AS A CHALLENGE TO QUALITY JOURNALISM**

Blogs, Twitter, Facebook und other forms of online communication have fundamentally changed the parameters of international quality journalism and have facilitated access to the public. This development has created numerous forms of citizens' journalism, endangering the position of traditional media.

- What is the relevance of this development for intercultural media?
- With speed becoming more important than accuracy, what kind of criteria can be used to distinguish between the good and unqualified reporting?
- Opinion replacing facts – the rise of blogs and forums
- More democracy or radical opinion-making? User-generated content and its effect on cross-cultural dialogue
- Is the function and existence of traditional journalism endangered?

PANELISTS

Lucie Morillon, Reporters Without Borders, Head of the New Media Desk, Paris

Ehab Al Zelaky, Managing Editor of Al Masri Al Youm portal and blog expert in the Arab world, Cairo

Farnaz Seifi, Iranian blogger in exile, Bonn

NN, Blogger from Saudi Arabia (via live video link)

Susanne Fengler, Director of the Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism, University of Dortmund

Moderation: **Conny Czymoch**, Anchor for Phoenix TV, Bonn

Summary: **Khaled Hroub**, Director of Cambridge Arab Media Project, Cambridge