

Palgrave Studies in Communication for Social Change

Series Editors: **Pradip Ninan Thomas**, The University of Queensland, Australia, and **Elske van de Fliert**, The University of Queensland, Australia

Advisory Board: **Silvio Waisbord**, George Washington University, USA, **Karin G. Wilkins**, University of Texas at Austin, USA, **Thomas Tufte**, Roskilde University, Denmark, **Zaharom Nain**, University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus, **Rico Lie**, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, **Claudia Mitchell**, McGill University, Canada, **Jo Tacchi**, RMIT University, Australia, **Nicholas Carah**, The University of Queensland, Australia, and **Zala Volcic**, Pomona College, Claremont, USA

Communication for Social Change (CSC) is a defined field of academic enquiry that is explicitly transdisciplinary and that has been shaped by a variety of theoretical inputs from a variety of traditions, from sociology and development to social movement studies. The leveraging of communication, information and the media in social change is the basis for a global industry that is supported by governments, development aid agencies, foundations, and international and local NGOs. It is also the basis for multiple interventions at grassroots levels, with participatory communication processes and community media making a difference through raising awareness, mobilising communities, strengthening empowerment and contributing to local change.

This series on Communication for Social Change intentionally provides the space for critical writings in CSC theory, practice, policy, strategy and methods. It fills a gap in the field by exploring new thinking, institutional critiques and innovative methods. It offers the opportunity for scholars and practitioners to engage with CSC as both an industry and a local practice, shaped by political economy as much as by local cultural needs. The series explicitly intends to highlight, critique and explore the gaps between ideological promise, institutional performance and realities of practice.

Titles include:

Tina Askanius and Liv Stubbe Østergaard (*editors*)

RECLAIMING THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Communication, Power and Social Change

Saba Bebawi

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN THE ARAB WORLD

Issues and Challenges

Levi Obijiofor

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN DEVELOPING SOCIETIES

From Theory to Practice

Pradip Ninan Thomas and Elske van de Fliert
INTERROGATING THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMMUNICATION
FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
The Basis for a Renewal

Sonja Vivienne
DIGITAL IDENTITY AND EVERYDAY ACTIVISM
Sharing Private Stories with Networked Publics

Zala Volcic and Mark Andrejevic
COMMERCIAL NATIONALISM
Selling the Nation and Nationalizing the Sell

Palgrave Studies in Communication for Social Change
Series Standing Order ISBN 978-1-137-36166-0 (hardback)
(outside North America only)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd, Houndmills,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

Investigative Journalism in the Arab World

Issues and Challenges

Saba Bebawi

University of Technology Sydney, Australia

palgrave
macmillan



© Saba Bebawi 2016

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2016 978-1-137-46103-2

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 2016 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-349-56408-8 ISBN 978-1-137-46104-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9781137461049

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Bebawi, Saba, 1974–

Investigative journalism in the Arab world : issues and challenges / Saba Bebawi,
University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

pages cm. — (Palgrave studies in communication for social change)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Journalism—Arab countries. 2. Investigative reporting—Arab countries. 3. Press and politics—Arab countries. I. Title.

PN5359.B49 2015

079.174/927—dc23

2015021825

*For all the journalists who have risked their lives to
tell the truth*

This page intentionally left blank

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
Introduction	1
Historical account of media in the Arab world	6
Investigative journalism in the Arab world	9
Issues and challenges	10
Plan of the book	14
1 The Rise of Investigative Journalism Globally and in the Arab World	18
The historical emergence of investigative journalism	21
Experiences of Arab investigative reporting	28
2 Investigative Journalism Training	41
The process	48
Sustainability	51
Opinion and fact	53
Time delays	55
Self-censorship	56
3 Investigative Journalism Practice	60
Jordan	62
Egypt	66
Syria	70
Lebanon	75
Tunisia	79
Yemen	83
Iraq	86
Palestine	91
Bahrain	96

4	Regulatory Frameworks and Freedom of Information	102
	Access to information in Arab countries	105
	The Jordanian experience	106
	The Yemeni experience	111
	The Tunisian experience	115
5	Issues and Challenges	120
	State and government control	121
	Social pressure	125
	Culture of journalism	132
	Journalism education	137
	Funding	144
6	The Way Forward	150
	Investigative journalism and deliberation	151
	Impact journalism	158
	The future?	161
	<i>References</i>	167
	<i>Index</i>	174

Tables

5.1	ARIJ funding, 2005–2017	147
5.2	ARIJ investigative output, 2015–2017	148

Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without the assistance and support of the following people and organisations. I would like to acknowledge the International Peace Research Association Foundation (IPRAF) for supporting this project; this research was funded by the Peace Research Grant Program of the International Peace Research Association Foundation. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ), who from the first instance were welcoming and supportive in every way. Particularly, I would like to warmly thank the executive director of ARIJ, Rana Sabbagh, for her continuous inspiration in making this book possible. I would also like to acknowledge the program director of ARIJ, Kathy Sullivan, for providing full assistance on this project. Special thanks go to Mark Hunter for his constant encouragement on the project and passion for the profession, and also Anders Jerichow for his insight into the development of investigative reporting in the region. I would like to especially thank all the journalists and coaches, without whose assistance this project would not have been possible; they relentlessly offered their insight into the issues and challenges facing them in their daily pursuit of change.

I would like to acknowledge the support of mentors who have always been an essential part of my career, in no particular order: John Arnold, Amanda Third, Dimitris Vardoulakis, Ingrid Volkmer, David Nolan, Mark Gibson, Karen Farquharson, Darren Tofts, and Julian Thomas. From Swinburne University, I would like to acknowledge the support of my colleagues during the writing of this book, in no particular order: Jason Bainbridge, Lisa Gye, Diana Bossio, Andrew Dodd, Rowan Wilken, Esther Milne, Anthony McCosker, Chris Aguis, and Ellie Rennie. I would like to take this occasion to thank my friends who have made this book possible as a result of their ongoing support.

Every step of the way has been cemented with motivation from my family, especially my father Dr Ali El-Ghul, my mother Fathieh Tijani, my brother Mohammed El-Ghul, and Feda Saqer. I would also like to

thank Nabila Abdel Malik, Ninette Bebawi, Emad Mehanni, Shady and Josephine Mehanni, and Sherif and Lauren Mehanni. My eternal gratitude goes to my life partner, Sam Bebawi, who continues to be a pillar in my career; and to my daughter Sia Bebawi, who continues to be the sunshine in my life.

Finally, I must acknowledge the journalists in the Arab world who are fighting their own battle to bring light to the region – you have all been an inspiration for this book.