Media and the Middle East: Past, Present and Future

A Workshop for Secondary School Educators

Agenda

9:30 AM  Doors open and coffee is served

10:00 AM  War Coverage: First Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, the Iraq War and the War on Terror with Dr. Sean Aday - Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs, Director of the Institute of Public Diplomacy and Global Communication at GWU

10:45 AM  Q & A

11:00 AM  Break

11:15 AM  A History of US/Middle East Media Relations with Dr. Melani McAlister - Associate Professor of American Studies, International Affairs and Media and Public Affairs at GWU

12:00 PM  Q & A

12:15 PM  Lunch Break

1:15 PM  New Media and the Middle East with Dr. Marc Lynch - Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, Director of the Project on Middle East Political Science, Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies at GWU
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2:00 PM  Q & A
2:15 PM  End of Workshop

Speaker Bios

Melani McAlister  is Associate Professor of American Studies, International Affairs, and Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University. She received her PhD from Brown University and her BA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Professor McAlister writes and teaches about U.S. encounters (cultural, political, and religious) with the Middle East and Africa. She teaches courses on the United States in a global context, cultural history, and religion & media. She is the author of Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945 (University of California Press, rev. ed. 2005, orig. 2001). She is co-editor, with R. Marie Griffith, of Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States (Johns Hopkins University Press 2008). Her recent articles include: "A Virtual Muslim is Something to Be," American Quarterly, June 2009; "Evangelicals and the Winding road to the Iraq War," in Race, Nation, and Empire in U.S. History, ed. Matthew Guterl and James Campbell (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2007); and "American Feminists, Global Visions, and the Problem of Female Genital Surgeries," in Americanism: New Perspectives on The History of an Ideal, ed. Michael Kazin and Joe McCartin (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2006). In recent years, Professor McAlister has been a Visiting Scholar at the Univ. of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communication and a fellow at Princeton's Davis Center for Historical Studies. She is on the Academic Freedom Committee of the Middle East Studies Association. She has analyzed U.S. perceptions of the Middle East in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Nation, among others, as well as in interviews with CNN, BBC, The New York Times, al-Jazeera, Voice of America, and NPR. Professor McAlister has lectured widely in the United States and has served as a consultant and lecturer for American Studies programs and institutes in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Israel. She is currently working on a study of Christian evangelicals, popular culture, and foreign relations, tentatively titled: Our God in the World: The Global Visions of American Evangelicals.

Marc Lynch  is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at The George Washington University. He also serves as the Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies and the Director of the Project on Middle East Political Science. In addition to his responsibilities at The George Washington University, Marc Lynch is also a non-resident senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, and edits the Middle East Channel for ForeignPolicy.com. Lynch graduated from Duke University (BA), and received his MA and
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PhD in Government from Cornell University. He publishes frequently on the politics of the Middle East, with a particular focus on Arab media and information technology, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Islamist movements. He also works on public diplomacy and strategic communications. His book, *Voices of the New Arab Public: Al-Jazeera, Iraq, and Middle East Politics Today*, was selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Book. His most recent book, *The Arab Uprisings: the Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*, released in late March 2012, has been included in Foreign Policy's "Books to Read in 2012" list. He has received substantial grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Social Science Research Council, the United States Institute for Peace, and the U.S. Department of Education. Lynch began writing his influential Middle East politics blog Abu Aardvark under a pseudonym in 2002, and began blogging under his own name in the spring of 2005. Despite (or perhaps because of) the quirky name, Abu Aardvark gained a wide following among Middle East policy professionals, journalists, and academics. In 2009, Abu Aardvark moved to ForeignPolicy.com, and in 2010 Lynch helped to launch its Middle East Channel.

Sean Aday joined The George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs in 2000, after completing his Ph.D. and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. His work focuses on the intersection of the press, politics, and public opinion, especially in relation to war and foreign policy. He has published widely on subjects ranging from the effects of watching local television news to coverage of Elizabeth Dole's presidential run to media coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of a National Science Foundation grant, he, along with two colleagues, conducted a series of surveys about Americans' attitudes about government and media following the September 11th terrorist attacks. Dr. Aday was also the principal investigator for DC Student Voices, a curriculum-based project in Washington DC high schools that aims to get students more involved in politics. He has been a frequent commentator in the press on news coverage of elections, crime, and war. Before entering academia, Dr. Aday served as a general assignment reporter for the Kansas City Star in Kansas City, MO; the Milwaukee Journal in Milwaukee, WI; and the Greenville News in Greenville, SC. He graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 1990.