

***Tunisia Workshop September 2011***

**Dr. Naomi Sakr**

Dr. Naomi Sakr is a lecturer, Reader in Communication in 2006 and director of the Arab Media Center at Communication & Media Research Institute, Westminster University, London, UK. In her work on the political economy of Arab media, Sakr focuses on transnational television, media policy, media development and human rights. Her two edited collections reflect these interests. *Arab Media and Political Renewal: Community, Legitimacy and Public Life* (2007) resulted from a two-year international seminar series organised by the University of Westminster with ESRC funding. *Women and Media in the Middle East: Power through Self-Expression* (2004, reprinted 2007) followed Sakr's involvement in a Danish-funded project to research Arab media treatment of women's rights. Her latest single-author book, *Arab Television Today* (2007), explores the region's proliferating channels.

Naomi Sakr was previously a journalist, editor and country analyst at the Economist. Her early published work on Arab television coincided with growing international interest in Al-Jazeera, and her first book, *Satellite Realms: Transnational Television, Globalization and the Middle East* (2001), appeared at a time of mounting Western concern over the uses of media in Arab states.

**Dr. Rasha A. Abdulla**

Dr. Rasha A. Abdulla is a professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at the American University in Cairo. She has a Ph.D. in Communication (December 2003) from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida.

Dr. Abdulla is an international consultant, speaking and providing training to a diverse list of clients, including IREX, Internews, Cospe International, the Media Diversity Institute, Meridian Eaton International, NovoNordisk, and others. She lectures on a variety of topics, including media diversity, cross-cultural communication, public speaking, presentation skills, negotiation skills, leadership, organizational communication, development communication, as well as marketing skills and journalism writing and editing.

Dr. Abdulla has lectured at a number of universities in the United States and the Arab world. She has won several prestigious international awards for teaching and research. Her recent research interests include the uses and effects of mass media, as well as new media, particularly the Internet. She is the author of "The Internet in Egypt and the Arab World," published in Arabic by Afaq Publications in March 2005, and "The Internet in the Arab World: Egypt and Beyond" in March 2007 by Peter Lang, Inc.

**Dr Verica Rugar**

Dr Verica Rugar is a Lecturer in the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, Cardiff University, UK. Before coming to Britain, she lived and worked in Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, New Zealand and Australia.

She worked as a reporter, political correspondent, political editor, commentator, foreign correspondent and deputy editor-in-chief of Politika, one of the oldest daily newspapers in Central Europe. She has published articles in a range of other newspapers and magazines in the former Yugoslavia, and worked as a contributing correspondent for radio and television.

She moved into academia in 2002 and taught journalism at Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) and the University of Tasmania (Australia) before joining JOMEC. Her research interests are in comparative journalism studies, and in particular international reporting, political reporting and science reporting. Her current projects are on journalism and meaning making (edited collection *Journalism and Meaning-making: Reading the Newspaper*, Hampton Press, 2009) and on journalism form and style in historical and comparative contexts (serial of projects on journalism practice in Serbia, New Zealand, Australia and the UK).

### **Milica Pesic, MA**

Milica Pesic is Executive Director of the Media Diversity Institute. She holds an MA in international journalism from City University, London. She has lectured at King's College and City University in London, and Toronto University in Canada, as well as delivering guest lectures at the Concordia and Carleton Universities in Canada, Michigan and St. Lawrence Universities in the United States, and the Tirana University in Albania.

Milica Pesic is Executive Director of Media Diversity Institute (London). Journalist by profession she has reported for TV Serbia, the BBC, Radio Free Europe, Times HES and other media.

She has conducted media training for the UN, EC, Council of Europe, UNESCO, OSI, Freedom Forum and IFJ. She is a regular commentator on political and media issues in Southeastern Europe for the BBC and CNN. Ms Pesic is a member of English PEN, the Serbian Free Media Association, the NUJ and the IFJ.