We have held a unique workshop on 20 June 2015 entitled "Journalism Against the Grain: Covering a Divided Middle East." It highlighted a number of serious shortcomings in reporting on the Middle East, across the board. While there have been many a conference on topics related to journalism and media on the region, few have attempted to bring together reporters and practitioners with scholars and academics to evaluate the discursive dilemmas and narrative complexities that underpin coverage of the Middle East and North Africa. Our intention is not simply to reflect on these conditions but rather to "identify exemplars, examine shortcomings, and chart the possible paths towards a critical revolutionary journalistic practice." We also hope to infuse intellectual debates on the region within the academy with the weight of exceptional reportage and media production.

This first workshop served as the nucleus of a major initiative which will bring to fruition three significant contributions to debates surrounding the representation of the region. The first is a comprehensive report about the state of reporting on the greater Middle East. The second is the production of pedagogical tools that render exemplary reporting from the region an indispensable component of instruction on the Middle East and North Africa. Lastly.

Read more at www.ArabStudiesInstitute.org
Papers and Presentations

*Back to Basics: Impartiality, Partisanship and Advocacy*=
Sherine Tadros  
Sharif Abdel Kouddous  
Hannah Allam  
Adel Iskandar

*Never the Twain Shall Meet? Regional/Western Media Divides*
Kelly Golnoush Niknejad  
Chris Toensing  
Dena Takruri

*All That Leads Bleeds: Covering Revolutions and Conflicts*
Safa Al-Ahmad  
Anjali Kamat  
Shahram Aghamir

*Widening the Lens: Reporting for All*
Katty Alhayek  
Malihe Razazan  
Will Youmans

**Publications:** Publication of official report forthcoming and will be followed by working papers in preparation for publication in a Journal or a book manuscript, pending final versions. Essays will also be featured electronically on various platforms with wide circulation.