



## **Social Media and Public Spheres in the Arab World: Theses and Antitheses for Reflection and Research**

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After a critical review of the translation of the German word "öffentlichkeit" in Arabic and foreign research, it becomes necessary to distinguish the differences between the two overlapping and intersecting concepts, namely public space and public sphere.

This distinction helps us to set forth the various scientific productions that have attempted to determine the contribution of mass media and «self-mass communication» in the revitalisation of the «Arab public sphere».

In view of this production, the question of whether social media constitutes a public sphere in the Arab region appears inappropriate, and even scientifically unproductive considering the following issue: if we consider social media in the Arab region a public space, can it become a public sphere?

To discuss this issue, this study exposes theses and antitheses to draw out a synthesis that implements two basic concepts, namely: "mosaic public spheres" and "networked public spheres", which help us provide a better explanation of the status of social media in media practices and the various forms of political communication in the Arab region.