

Introduction

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No 10 of *Ethnographic Studies* is the second of a two-part issue focusing on the practices of public discourse pertinent to conflicts and identities in the Arab and Muslim world.

Sebastian Abdallah contributes an article on contextualized identity shaping of Lebanese youth through online and offline activities in internet-café in Beirut. Young people pose themselves in one instance as the Christian defenders of Lebanon against a Muslim threat and in the next instance, as Hezbollah fighters against an Israeli enemy. Through the display of online chat sequences and line-by-line analysis in different instances, Abdallah argues that instead of having a fixed, essential identity the youth construct social identity vis-à-vis the other according to practical 'here and now' purposes.

Gary David and Paul Jalbert concentrate on the "rehumanization" of Arab and Muslim Americans in the media. Rather than focusing on negative portrayal, this article takes the opposite approach by examining how positive portrayals are constructed. By examining the structure of media-based attempts to present Arabs and Muslim Americans as essentially "human", this paper underlines the powerful impact that the negative portrayals have had on framing how these groups are viewed within US society, and whether attempts to undo degradation can be successful.

Baudouin Dupret and Jean-Noël Ferrié describe the presentation of the news headlines on four channels, three Arab and one British. News headlines are one technique among others through which "facts of the day" are selected, produced, ordered and hierarchized. In that sense, news headlines constitute an instructed relevance, an order producing the factual objectivity of natural current events. Although the news is presented in such a way that it corresponds to

the world and to facts identifying the news of the day, it is also a way of ensuring that the world corresponds to the ideological orientation given to it by the channel and to the specific conditions which the format "television news" has assigned to itself.

Analyzing a videorecording produced in a TV-control room during the live broadcast of a multi-party discussion on the Road Map for peace in the Middle East, Mathias Broth describes the ways in which the TV-crew exploits close-up shots of the listener, "listening shots", as a resource for visually categorizing participants in the studio. After establishing the listening shot as a members' phenomenon, he shows how such shots are oriented to as accountable in the emergent sequence of broadcast shots. At the level of the broadcast programme, listening shots are exploited to produce both confrontation and balance between the Israeli and the Palestinians present in the studio.

Michel Barthélémy focuses on a televised debate that gathers, on a French TV channel, some French-speaking people from Louisiana, invited to discuss the dispute that opposed France and the United States regarding the opportunity of a military intervention in Iraq. These data give the opportunity to investigate the interactional work that locally adjusts the identities of the co-participants to a debate in a way that is recognizably relevant to the topic at hand.

Editors regret that they did not credit Rosemary Miller for the English translation of "The Audience They Assign Themselves: Three Arab Channels and Their 'Self-Presentation'" in Issue #9. She is also the translator of "News Headlines: Stating in Brief what is Relevant in Today's World (al-Arabiya, al-Jazeera, al-Manar, BBC World)" in this issue. In the preparation of this issue, J. Nekvapil was supported by the grant MSM 0021620825.