

## **Arab Audiences' Dependency on Traditional and New Media as Information Sources about Terrorist Attacks in Paris 2015**

**Bashar Abdel-Rahman Mutahar<sup>1</sup>, Abd El-Basit Ahmed Hashem Mahmoud<sup>2</sup>  
& Philip J. Auter<sup>3</sup>**

### **Abstract**

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An online survey was conducted with a convenience sample of 400 respondents from Arab countries to examine their dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about terrorist attacks in Paris 2015, and to investigate the reasons and effects of this dependency. The results indicated that the most respondents depended on new media more than traditional media as information source about these attacks, and behavioral effects were the most important effects of this dependency, the results also referred to a strong relationship between respondents' dependency on both traditional and new media as information sources about terrorist attacks and the effects of this dependency. The findings also revealed that there was a significant effect for respondents' gender, age and educational level on this dependency.

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**Keywords:** New Media, Traditional Media, Terrorism, Paris Attacks, Media System Dependency, Arab World.

### **Introduction**

"Al Qaeda terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001 has led to an increased focus on terrorist threats worldwide, and terrorism has become a global threat. Following from this, the role of the media regarding terrorism has also received significant attention" (Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015, p. 71);

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<sup>1</sup> *Yarmouk University, Jordan*

<sup>2</sup> *Sohag University, Egypt*

<sup>3</sup> *University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA*

Since, the media coverage pertaining to terror organizations and their activities has gained an international importance (Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer, & Shenhav, 2013). The role of media has also become controversial because most terrorist organizations are interested in media coverage and these organizations couldn't be existed without the media. "In the past, and certainly around the time of 9/11, terrorists have received media attention only after violent events; today, the media regularly offer terrorists opportunities to be heard. Gradually, the terrorists themselves have become a legitimate media source, presenting their arguments and justifying their motives via the media" (Liebes & Kampf, 2007 cited in: Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer, & Shenhav 2013, p. 266). Media System Dependency (MSD) theory available to examine the individuals' dependency on traditional and new media to satisfy their goals; this dependency on both traditional and new media, over time, develop the individual – media dependency relationship (Patwardhan & Yang, 2003). For the purpose of studying audiences' dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about terrorist attacks in Paris 2015, the study provides a rich review of MSD theory, and the relationships between terrorism and media.

### **Media System Dependency theory**

MSD theory has been used to explore individuals' dependency on both traditional and new media to satisfy their needs arising from social roles to individual dispositions (Ball-Rokeach & DeFleur, 1976), and to explain the effects of these media on them (Ball-Rokeach, 1998). The "dependency" term here refers to "the mutual relationships among media, social systems, and individuals"(Kim & Jung, 2016, p.3), and media dependency relationship means one "in which the satisfaction of needs or the attainment of goals by individuals is contingent upon the resource of the other party" (Ball-Rokeach & DeFleur 1976, p. 6); this means that there is a strong positive relationship between the extent of an individual's dependence on media.

To attain his goals and the information resources provided by these media (Ball-Rokeach, Rokeach, & Grube, 1984). In MSD, the audience of both traditional and new media is affected not only by media content but also by the society or environment in which they consume the content (Ball-Rokeach & DeFleur, 1976), and "the power of the both traditional and new media as an information system is considered variable rather than constant"(Kim & Jung, 2016, p.4).

According to the theory, audiences' depend on both traditional and new media during the times of crises rather than depending on interpersonal communication (William & Hitoshi, 2011). These crises could be terrorist attacks such as 9/11(Kim, Jung, Cohen & Ball- Rokeach, 2004). Moreover, MSD theory can be applied to traditional and new media (Ha, Yoon & Zhang, 2013; Kim & Jung, 2016; Lee, 2011; Patwardhan & Yang, 2003). Thus, the current study used MSD to examine the Arab audiences' dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about Paris terrorist attacks.

### **Terrorism and media**

"On September, 11, 2001, four hijacked planes crashed into buildings in the United States. The twin towers of the world trade center in New York were destroyed and more than 3000 people died" (Handley, 2010, p. 446); Since this date, the number of terrorist attacks increased dramatically and globally, for example: Tunisia, 2002; Egypt, 2005; Indonesia, 2005; India July 11, 2006; Philippines, 2007; India, 2008 (Roy & Ross, 2011; Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015), and more recently, Paris attacks, France, November 13, 2015.

"One possible assumption is that the terrorist attacks of 2001 and the wars that followed in Iraq and Afghanistan created increased polarization and radicalization (Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015, p 71).

Terrorism has been defined as "an act of violence intended to attract publicity to a political cause" (Shaw, 2012, p.515), or/ and as "a violent struggle that purposely utilizes or threatens to utilize violence against civilians to create fear and anxiety for the sake of political goals (Schmid & Jongman, 1988, cited in Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer & Shenhav, 2013: 265). These two definitions show the strong relationship between terrorism and media; since "the terrorist tactical goal may be to create physical and human suffering, but their strategic goals are public attention through the media"(Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015, p.73), and terrorist organizations may aimed at achieving a political, economic, religious or social goal; communicating a message to a wider public; or/and violating regulations in international humanitarian law (Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015), thus, the battle for media coverage becomes an integral element of contemporary terrorism (Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer & Shenhav, 2013).

On one hand, Post-9/11, media coverage of terrorism increased dramatically (Roy & Ross, 2011; Epkins, 2012), but on the other hand, many terrorist organizations, particularly ISIS and Al Qaeda, have realized the online and offline media's crucial role and the necessity of taking media considerations into account when planning their activities (Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer & Shenhav 2013; Galily, Yarchi, Tamir & Samuel-Azran, 2016), and the media become important tools for terrorists to gain new members, supporters and political influence (Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015). On the evening of 13 November 2015, a series of terrorist attacks in Paris killed at least 128 people, and wounded hundreds.

This incident was the most fatal event on French soil since World War II (Almasy, Meilhan & Bittermann, 2015), therefore, the current study aims at examining the Arab audiences' dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about these huge terrorist attacks and the effects of this dependency.

### **Relevant work on media and terrorism**

There has been considerable research undertaken to investigate the relationships between media and terrorism (e.g. Abdulla, 2007; Allan, 2014; Epkins, 2012; Fahmy, 2010; Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015; Galily, Yarchi, Tamir & Samuel-Azran, 2016; Handley, 2010; Kim, Jung, Cohen & Ball- Rokeach, 2004; Mahony, 2010; Mogensen, 2008; Nord & Strömbäck, 2003; Roy & Ross, 2011; Shaw, 2012; Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheafer & Shenhav, 2013), but few studies have focused on examining public and elite perceptions of how and why the media covers terrorism (e.g., Epkins, 2012; Kim, Jung, Cohen & Ball- Rokeach, 2004).

In order to effectively investigate Arab audiences' dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about terrorist attacks in Paris 2015, relevant research on media and terrorism needs to be highlighted.

Some studies have focused on studying media content about the terrorism (e.g. Abdulla, 2007; Allan, 2014; Galily, Yarchi, Tamir & Samuel-Azran, 2016; Mogensen, 2008; Nord & Strömbäck, 2003). Nord and Strömbäck (2003) attempted to explore the differences between the Swedish media coverage of the terror attacks against the U.S and the U.S. attacks in Afghanistan by using quantitative content analysis of all news journalism relating to the terror attacks in the U.S. and the American attacks in Afghanistan in the four main newspapers and the three main television news shows in Sweden in September and October 2001.

They found that the Swedish media coverage of the terror attacks and the war in Afghanistan differed in several ways: The news about the terror attacks was much bigger than the news about the U.S. attacks in Afghanistan, and the reliance on anonymous sources was more widespread in the coverage of the terror attacks than in the coverage of the war in Afghanistan.

A descriptive content analysis was conducted to study how Muslims did view the 9/11 attacks through examining the online message exchange on three major discussion boards in the Arab and Muslim world (Masrawy, Islam Online, and Arabia) and it revealed that the most of those who posted messages on all three boards rejected these attacks; they viewed the attacks as a political, rather than a religious issue, as well as, some of them considered it as a criminal terrorist attack (Abdulla, 2007).

Mogensen (2008) examined the professional norms for television coverage of terrorist attacks by conducting qualitative content analyses of the coverage on the major American networks in the first 24 hours after the events on September 11, 2001, and interviews with 37 journalists who covered the events for ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC and FOX News. The results indicated that the major American networks coverage during and after the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, reflected some professional norms that supported the social structure and core values of society.

Allan (2014) aimed to highlight several challenges that confront photojournalism through visual analysis of the photo-reportage of two 'terror attacks' in the US and British press, and they indicated that the news organizations willing to recast photojournalism anew by forging co-operative relationships between professionals and their citizen counterparts.

Galily, Yarchi, Tamir & Samuel-Azran (2016) focused on the Boston Marathon Bombing and the Islamic State and illustrates how high-profile news coverage and coverage on social media (through user-generated content or “terrorist organization”-generated content) advance terrorist groups’ attempts to use large-scale sporting events to leverage their agenda and ideology.

Other studies have focused on examining the both traditional and new media framing of the terrorism (e.g. Fahmy, 2010; Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015; Handley, 2010; Mahony, 2010; Yarchi et al, 2013). Framing analysis of 1387 photographs from the International Herald Tribune and Al-Hayat newspapers were analyzed to investigate the visual news frames employed by English- and Arabic-language transnational press in covering the 9/11 attack and the Afghan war. The results revealed that the International Herald Tribune's frames emphasized the human suffering of 9/11, but the Arabic language Al-Hayat's frames focused on the material destruction of 9/11 and humanized the victims of the Afghan War (Fahmy, 2010).

Handley (2010) attempted to explain how did the U.S newspaper frame Israel as a military ally for Bush’s war on terrorism by analyzing the content of 156 articles from New York Times, Washington Post, and USA Today newspapers from September, 12, 2001 through December 2007. The study indicated that the newspapers noticed the emergence of an aggressive domestic campaign to reframe Israeli military strikes; international concerns receded to focus on the framing competition between the Bush administration and the domestic coalition.

By conducting discourse analysis and framing analysis of 332 articles from three major Australian daily newspapers and 145 articles from seven major Indonesian daily newspapers, Mahony (2010) highlighted the differences between Indonesian and Australian newspapers in portraying terrorists, Islamic groups and Indonesian.

Attitudes towards terrorism, he concluded that the Australian newspapers coverage presented orientalist images of Indonesians and Muslims, but the Indonesian counterparts framed the issues relating to terrorism and Islamic groups in Indonesia in more moderate ones. Yarchi, Wolfsfeld, Sheaffer, & Shenhav (2013) attempted to explain the framing of terror in the international news media in US, UK and Israel by using quantitative and qualitative content analysis of the official publications and Internet websites of these countries, and they found that journalists are more interested in constructing a dramatic story than putting the events into a more general political context.

A content analysis of 924 news articles from the two major newspapers *Verdens Gang* and *Aftenposten* in Norway was conducted to examine how the Norwegian newspapers framed the terrorist attacks in Oslo on 22 July 2011, and the study indicated that the Norwegian newspapers coverage of the attacks in Norway to be very descriptive, focusing on the perpetrator as an individual rather than a terrorist and this coverage ignored the perpetrator's wish to be regarded as a politically motivated terrorist (Falkheimer & Olsson, 2015).

A discourse analysis of terrorism in both traditional and new media was the area of interest for some researchers (e.g., Roy & Ross, 2011; Shaw, 2012). A critical discourse analysis of editorials in the leading newspapers of US, India and Scotland was conducted to examine the similarities and differences among the media's discursive treatment of the 9/11 attacks in the US, the 26 November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, and the 2009 release of the Lockerbie bomber in Scotland. The findings highlighted that the editorials of the three countries demonstrate a striking reliance upon global terror meta-discourses, and four meta-functions of terror discourse in these texts were identified: identification, unification, justification, and separation (Roy & Ross, 2011).



Likewis, Shaw (2012) attempted to determine the extent of the stereotypical representations employed and their implications for intercultural communication and terrorism prevention through conducting critical discourse analysis of eight British newspapers' coverage of the 7/7 London terror attacks. The results indicated that the most analyzed reports and commentaries of these British newspapers showed hostile stereotypes portraying Muslims in hateful and fearful ways.

Rare studies have focused on studying public and elite perceptions of how and why the media covers terrorism (e.g., Epkins, 2012; Kim, Jung, Cohen, & Ball-Rokeach, 2004); Telephone survey was conducted with 331 households pre- and post-September 11 2001 attacks to examine the relationship between 'internet connectedness' and communicative actions after these attacks. The study revealed that respondents heightened their dependency relations with traditional media after September 11, regardless of whether or not they had an Internet connection (Kim, Jung, Cohen, & Ball- Rokeach, 2004).

In-depth interviews with 35 Washington, DC-based national security journalists were conducted to examine their opinions on terrorism reporting in the digital age. The results indicated that a terrorist attacks news gathering culture has altered journalist routines and the respondents perceive that the traditional prestige press is dying with the emergence of new technologies and that the digital age has impacted their occupation at many levels (Epkins, 2012).

## **Research Questions**

Driven by the following six research questions, Arab Audiences' dependency on traditional and new media as a source of information about Paris attacks will be explored:

**RQ1.** To what extent did the Arab audiences depend on both traditional and new media as information source about Paris attacks?

**RQ2.** What are the reasons of using both traditional and new media as information sources about these attacks?

**RQ3.** What are the effects of using both traditional and new media as a source of information about these attacks?

**RQ4.** Are there differences in the Arab audiences' dependency on both traditional and new media as information sources about these attacks based on their gender, age, residence, and educational status?

**RQ5.** Are there differences in the effects of Arab audiences' dependency on both traditional and new media as a source of information about these attacks based on their gender, age, residence, and educational status?

**RQ6.** Is the intensity of Arab audiences' dependency on both traditional and new media as information sources about the attacks positively associated with the effects of this dependency?

## **Method**

An online descriptive survey was conducted with 400 Arab respondents from different countries (Arab Gulf countries, The Maghreb countries, and other Arab countries). We used a convenience sample of Internet users who are directed to the survey through online announcements and hyperlinks; since there is no mechanism for random sampling the population of web users, non-probability sampling is more appropriate when posting an online survey. Online surveys are commonly defined as volunteer samples because respondents are self-selected (Kaye & Johnson, 1999), therefore we can't generalize its findings.

The survey was administered in Arabic language. The Paris attacks occurred on the night of Friday, 13, November 2015, and we received the responses from December, 01, 2015 to January, 31, 2016.

### ***Measures***

The survey began with demographic questions about age, gender residence, and educational level. After these items, we used the following measures:

#### ***The intensity of dependence on both traditional and new media***

Respondents were asked to assess their dependency on both traditional and new media as information source about these attacks with a four-point Likert scale ranging from Never (0) to Often (3) for four traditional media: 1) newspapers, 2) magazines, 3) radio, and 4) satellite, and five new media: 1) news sites, 2) blogs, 3) SNSs, 4) mobile news, and 5) Whatsapp.

#### ***Reasons of the dependence***

To measure the reasons of these dependency, we used a series of six worded statements with a binary scale ranging from No (0) to Yes (1), these statements are:

1. To know the terrorists who did carry out these attacks
2. To know the victims of these attacks.
3. To know the French security procedures before, during and after these attacks.
4. To know my country's feedback towards these attacks.
5. To know the feedback of the world countries towards these attacks.
6. To know the feedback of the international organizations towards these attacks.

## **The effects of traditional and new media**

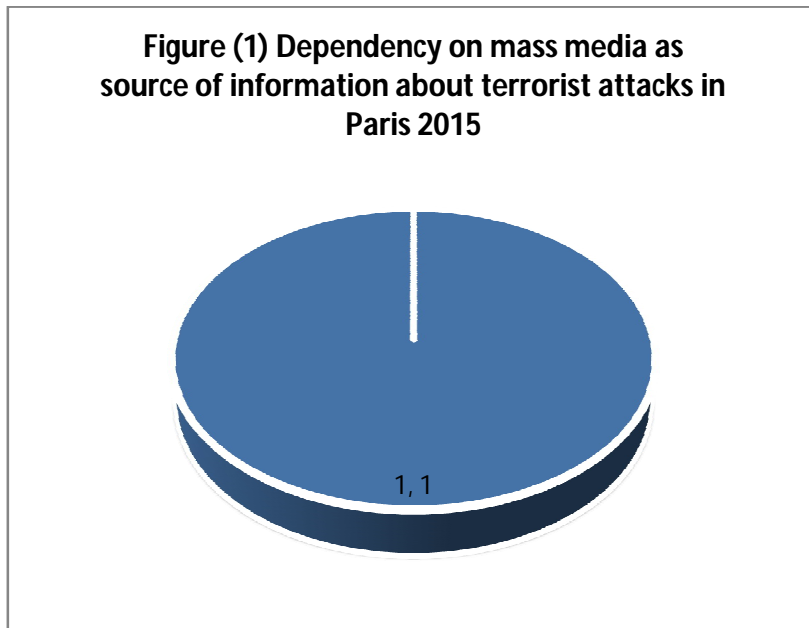
Media effects on respondents regarding aforementioned attacks were measured by nine worded statements with a four-point Likert scale ranging from Not at all (0) to Extremely (3), these statements are:

1. It got me information about the used tools in these terrorist attacks.
2. It provided me with information about the dimensions of these attacks.
3. It provided me with information about the attacks details
4. It created an atmosphere of fear from more terrorist attacks
5. It made me sympathy with the victims of these
6. It made me feel hatred towards everyone involved in these attacks.
7. It led me to condemn these attacks
8. It encouraged me to confront extremism and terrorism through various means.
9. It led me to discuss everything related to the attacks

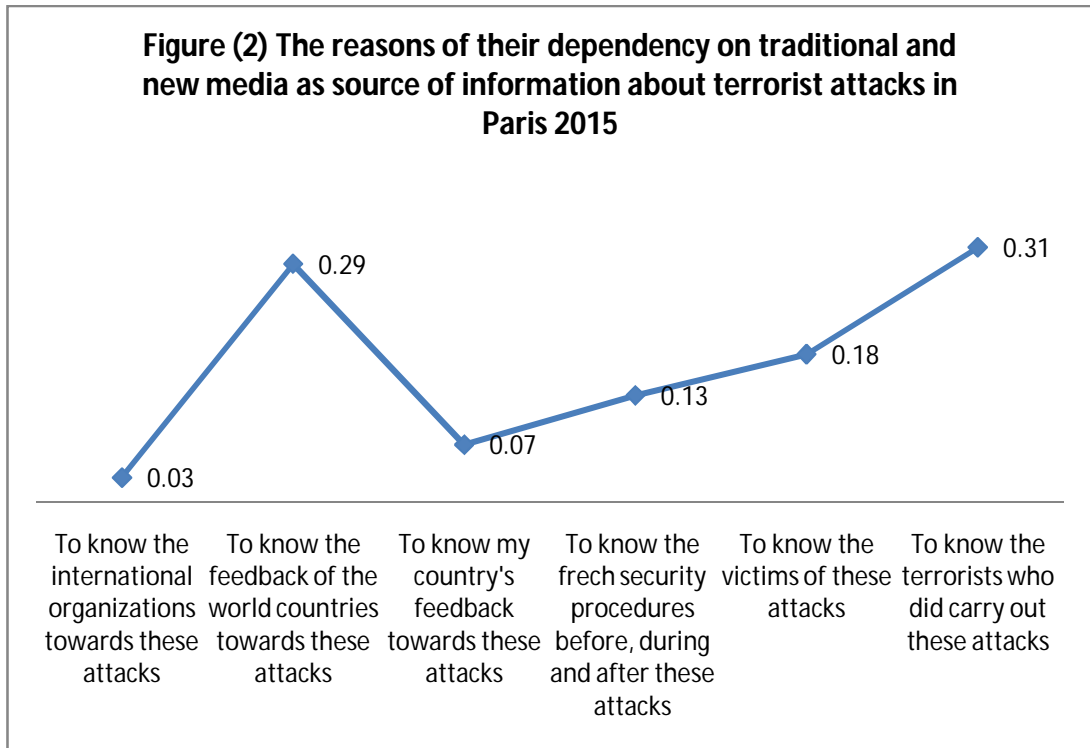
## **Results**

RQ1 asked to what extent the Arab audiences depended on both traditional and new media as information source about terrorist attacks in Paris 2015. To measure this extent, we used four-point Likert scales ranging from Never (0) to Often (3), average dependency of the respondents on both traditional and new media as information source about these attacks was somewhat weak ( $M = 1.47$ ,  $SD = 0.600$ ), and they reported that they depended on new media ( $M = 1.58$ ,  $SD = 0.680$ ) more than traditional media ( $M = 1.28$ ,  $SD = 0.713$ ) as information source about these attacks.

As shown in Figure (1), SNSs (M=2.38) were the most important information medium, for the respondents, about these attacks. This was followed by: news sites (M=2.11), satellite (2.06), WhatsApp (M=1.51), newspapers and magazines (M=1.14), mobile news (M=1.03), blogs (M=0.87), and radio (M=0.63).



RQ2 asked the reasons of this dependency. To explore the reasons of this dependency, we used a series of six worded statements with a binary scale ranging from No (0) to Yes (1). For respondents who did depend on both traditional and new media as a source information about these attacks, the reasons behind their dependency were: "To know the terrorists who did carry out these attacks" (M = 0.31), "to know the feedback of the world countries towards these attacks" (M = 0.29), "to know the victims of these attacks" (M = 0.18), "to know the French security procedures before, during and after these attacks" (M = 0.13) , "to know my country's feedback towards these attacks" (M = 0.07), and "to know the feedback of the international organizations towards these attacks" (M = 0.03), see Figure (2).

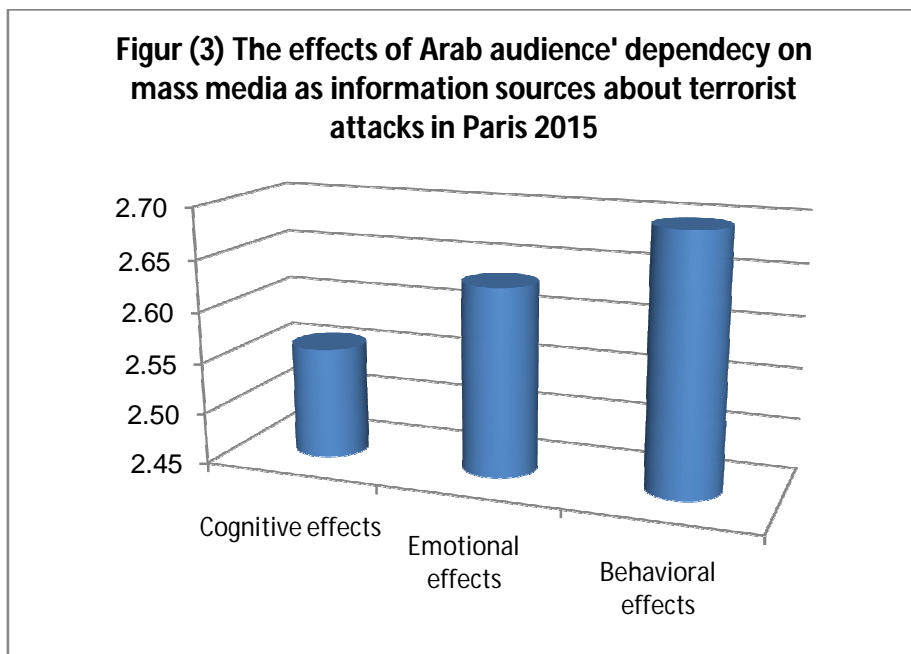


RQ3 asked the effects of respondents' dependency on both traditional and new media as a source of information about these attacks. Media effects on respondents regarding aforementioned attacks were measured by nine worded statements with a four-point Likert scale ranging from not at all (0) to extremely (3), the respondent reported that both traditional and new media impact regarding their dependency on these media as information sources about Paris attacks were strong ( $M = 2.64$ ,  $SD = .330$ ). These nine items or statements were divided into three part to measure cognitive, emotional, and behavioral effects: Cognitive effects ( $M = 2.56$ ) were measured by first three items from the nine aforementioned items, these items were: "It provided me with information about the dimensions of these attacks" ( $M = 2.71$ ), followed by "it provided me with information about the attacks details" ( $M = 2.65$ ), and "it got me information about the used tools in these terrorist attacks" ( $M = 2.32$ ).

Emotional effects ( $M = 2.63$ ) were also measured by the second three items: "It made me sympathy with the victims of these attacks" ( $M = 2.68$ ), followed by "it made me feel hatred towards everyone involved in these attacks" ( $M = 2.65$ ), and "it created an atmosphere of fear from more terrorist attacks" ( $M = 2.57$ ).

Likewise, behavioral effects ( $M = 2.70$ ) were also measured by the rest three items: "It encouraged me to confront extremism and terrorism through various means" ( $M = 2.85$ ), followed by "it led me to condemn these attacks" ( $M = 2.75$ ), and "it led me to discuss everything related to the attacks" ( $M = 2.50$ ).

As shown in Figure 3, behavioral effects ( $M = 2.70$ ,  $SD = .380$ ) had the greatest impact, followed by emotional effects ( $M = 2.63$ ,  $SD = 0.439$ ) and cognitive effects ( $M = 2.56$ ,  $SD = 0.419$ ).



RQ4 asked the impact of demographic variables on both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about Paris attacks. To measure the impact of respondents' demographic variables on their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks, one t-test for gender and three separate one-way ANOVA tests for age, place of residence, and educational level were run.

T-test revealed a significant impact for gender on both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks ( $t = 4.222$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .000$ ); since male ( $M = 1.52$ ) depended on both traditional and new media more than female do ( $M = 1.20$ ). T-test also revealed a significant difference between male ( $M = 1.33$ ) and female ( $M = 1.04$ ) regarding their dependency on traditional media ( $t = 3.241$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .001$ ), and it also found a significant difference between male ( $M = 1.64$ ) and female ( $M = 1.31$ ) regarding their dependency on new media ( $t = 3.898$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ).

One-way ANOVA indicated that there was a significant effect for respondents' age on their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [ $F(2, 397) = 5.054$ ,  $p = 0.007$ ], it also revealed that their age had a significant influence on their dependency on both traditional [ $F(2, 397) = 7.643$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ] but it failed to find any significant effect for age on new media dependency [ $F(2, 397) = 2.264$ ,  $p = 0.105$ ], since  $p$ -value  $> 0.05$  as information sources about these attacks. Post hoc analysis using the LSD technique revealed that significant differences occurred in overall, traditional and new media dependency based on respondents' age.

The significant differences in overall, traditional and new media dependency can be attributed exclusively to the category of "more than 45 years old"; since this



category was the highest compared to all other categories with the significant  $p$  value at 0.01. It was followed by “from 30-45 years old”, and “less than 30 years old”, see Table (1).

**Table (1): LSD Post Hoc comparison of both traditional and new media dependency based on respondents' age.**

| Dependent Variable             | Age (I)      | Age (J)            | Mean Difference (I-J) | <i>p-value</i> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Both traditional and new media | More than 45 | Less than 30 years | 0.225*                | 0.016          |
|                                |              | From 30-45 years   | 0.288*                | 0.002          |
| Traditional Media              | More than 45 | Less than 30 years | 0.372*                | 0.001          |
|                                |              | From 30-45 years   | 0.410*                | 0.000          |
| New Media                      | More than 45 | From 30-45 years   | 0.215*                | 0.038          |

One-way ANOVA failed to find a significant effect for respondents' place of residence on their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [ $F(2, 397) = 2.459, p = 0.087$ ], but it revealed that their place of residence had a significant impact on their dependency on traditional media [ $F(2, 397) = 4.872, p = 0.008$ ] only.

Post hoc analysis using the LSD technique also revealed that significant differences occurred in traditional media dependency only based on place of residence. The significant difference in traditional media dependency can be attributed exclusively to the category of “Arab West countries”. This category was the highest compared to all other categories with the significant  $p$  value at 0.01. It was followed by “Arab States of the Gulf”, and “Other Arab countries”, see Table (2).

**Table (2): LSD Post Hoc comparison of both traditional and new media dependency based on respondents' place of residence.**

| <b>Dependent Variable</b>      | <b>Place of residence (I)</b> | <b>Place of residence (J)</b> | <b>Mean Difference (I-J)</b> | <b><i>p-value</i></b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Both traditional and new media | Other Arab countries          | Arab States of the Gulf       | -0.294 <sup>*</sup>          | 0.003                 |
|                                |                               | Arab West countries           | -0.347 <sup>*</sup>          | 0.011                 |

The results also indicated that there was a significant effect for respondents' educational level on their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [F (2, 397) = 6.155,  $p = 0.002$ ], and one-way ANOVAs also indicated that their educational level had a significant influence on their dependency on both traditional [F (2, 397) = 4.684,  $p = 0.010$ ] and new media [F (2, 397) = 4.665,  $p = 0.010$ ] as information sources about these attacks.

Post hoc analysis using the LSD technique revealed that significant differences occurred in overall, traditional and new media dependency based on respondents' educational level. The significant differences in overall, traditional and new media dependency can be attributed exclusively to the category of "Secondary school or less"; since this category was the highest compared to all other categories with the significant  $p$  value at 0.01, it was followed by "Bachelor", and "Master and PhD", see Table (3).

**Table (3): LSD Post Hoc comparison of both traditional and new media dependency based on respondents' educational level.**

| <b>Dependent Variable</b>      | <b>Educational level (I)</b> | <b>Educational level (J)</b> | <b>Mean Difference (I-J)</b> | <b><i>p-value</i></b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Both traditional and new media | Secondary school or less     | Bachelor                     | 0.259*                       | 0.012                 |
|                                |                              | Master and PhD               | 0.357*                       | 0.001                 |
| Traditional Media              | Secondary school or less     | Master and PhD               | 0.358*                       | 0.004                 |
| New Media                      | Secondary school or less     | Bachelor                     | 0.280*                       | 0.017                 |
|                                |                              | Master and PhD               | 0.356*                       | 0.002                 |

RQ5 asked the impact of demographic variables on the effects of both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks. Likewise, to measure the impact of respondents' demographic variables on the effects of their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks, one t-test for gender and three separate one-way ANOVA tests for age, place of residence, and educational level were run.

The current study found that males ( $M = 2.66$ ) were influenced, more than females ( $M = 2.54$ ), by both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks ( $t = 2.936$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .004$ ). T-test also revealed that cognitive effects of respondents' dependency on both traditional and new media as information source about Paris attacks were significantly influenced by their gender ( $t = 2.997$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .003$ ); since males ( $M = 2.59$ ) were more than females ( $M = 2.43$ ) to have been impacted by cognitive effects.

T-test also indicated that behavioral effects were significantly influenced by gender too ( $t = 2.452$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .015$ ); since male ( $M = 2.72$ ) were more than females ( $M = 2.60$ ) to have been impacted by cognitive effects, but it failed to find significant impact for gender on emotional effects ( $t = 1.314$ ,  $df = 398$ ,  $p = .190$ ).

A one-way ANOVA indicated that there was a significant impact for respondents' age on the effects of their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [ $F(2, 397) = 7.184$ ,  $p = .001$ ], and it also revealed that there was a significant effect for respondents' age on the cognitive effects [ $F(2, 397) = 7.475$ ,  $p = .001$ ], emotional effects [ $F(2, 397) = 4.472$ ,  $p = .012$ ], and behavioral effects [ $F(2, 397) = 3.691$ ,  $p = .026$ ] of their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks.

As shown in Table (4), Post hoc analysis using the LSD technique indicated that significant differences occurred in overall, cognitive, emotional and behavioral effects based on respondents' age. The significant difference in overall, cognitive, emotional and behavioral effects can be attributed exclusively to the category of "the respondents who are more than 45 years old". "More than 45 years" category was the highest compared to all other categories with the significant  $p$  value  $< .05$ . It was followed by "from 30 – 45 years", and "less than 30 years".

**Table (4): LSD Post Hoc comparison of both traditional and new media dependency effects based on respondents' age.**

| <b>Dependent Variable</b> | <b>Age (I)</b>     | <b>Age (J)</b>     | <b>Mean Difference (I-J)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Overall effects           | More than 45       | Less than 30 years | 0.190*                       | 0.000          |
|                           |                    | From 30-45 years   | 0.128*                       | 0.010          |
| Cognitive effects         | Less than 30 years | From 30-45 years   | -0.123*                      | 0.006          |
|                           |                    | More than 45       | -0.227*                      | 0.000          |
| Emotional effects         | More than 45       | Less than 30 years | 0.173*                       | 0.011          |
|                           |                    | From 30-45 years   | 0.195*                       | 0.000          |
| Behavioral effects        | More than 45       | Less than 30 years | 0.146*                       | 0.013          |

One-way ANOVA revealed that there was no significant effect for respondents' place of residence on the effects of their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [ $F(2, 397) = .885, p = .413$ ], and it also failed to find any significant effect for their place of residence on the cognitive effects [ $F(2, 397) = 1.557, p = .242$ ], emotional effects [ $F(2, 397) = .124, p = .883$ ], nor behavioral effects [ $F(2, 397) = .210, p = .811$ ].

Likewise, One-way ANOVA didn't find any significant effect for respondents' educational level on the effects of their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks [ $F(2, 397) = .557, p = 0.573$ ], and it also failed to find any significant effect for their educational level on the cognitive effects [ $F(2, 397) = 0.993, p = 0.371$ ], emotional effects [ $F(2, 397) = .601, p = 0.549$ ], nor behavioral effects [ $F(2, 397) = .083, p = 0.921$ ].

RQ6 asked the relationship between the intensity of Arab audiences' dependency and the effects of this dependency?

Pearson's correlation revealed a relationship between respondents' overall dependency on both traditional and new media as a source of information about terrorist attacks and their overall effects of these dependency ( $r = .268, p = .000$ ). The most significant predictor of overall dependency is "cognitive effects" ( $r = .266, p = .000$ ). This was followed by "emotional effects" ( $r = .193, p = .000$ ), and "behavioral effects" ( $r = .153, p = .002$ ).

## **Discussions and Conclusions**

This study provides several contributions and implications for the relationships between both traditional and new media and terrorism, the audiences' dependency on both traditional and new media as information sources about terrorist attacks, as well as the reasons and effects of this dependency.

The findings indicate that the respondents' dependency on both traditional and new media as information source about these attacks is somewhat weak and they depend on new media more than traditional media as information source about these attacks. The results also reveal that SNSs have become the most important news medium about for respondents; Since, they are dependent on SNSs, more than other media, for information about these attacks. This finding is contrary to Kim, Jung, Cohen & Ball- Rokeach (2004) study which revealed that respondents heightened their dependency relations with traditional media after September 11, regardless of whether or not they had an Internet connection.

Regarding the reasons of this dependency, the respondents reported that "to know the terrorists who did carry out these attacks", "to know the feedback of the world countries towards these attacks", and "to know the victims of these attacks" were the most important reasons behind their dependency on both traditional and new media as information sources about this attacks.

The results also find that there is a significant effect for respondents' gender, age, and educational level on their both traditional and new media dependency as a source of information about these attacks. This result should warrant further research into the demographics' effects on both traditional and new media dependency as source of information in crises times. This finding is consistent with Ha, Yoon & Zhang (2013) study that showed a significant effect for gender and age on SNSs dependency.

Our findings that behavioral effects had the greatest impact regarding their dependency, followed by emotional effects and cognitive effects. As well as, one-way ANOVAs indicates that there was a significant effect for respondents' gender, and age on these overall effects, on the other hand, it fails to find any significant effect for respondents' place of residence and educational level on these overall effects.

Pearson's correlation reveals a strong relationship between respondents' dependency on both traditional and new media as a source of information about terrorist attacks and overall effects of this dependency. This study sheds light on both traditional and new media dependency as source of information about Paris terrorist attacks among Arab audiences; it also highlights reasons and effects of this dependency. It addresses also journalists and governments to exploit both traditional and new media, particularly SNSs, to provide their audiences by the right information about terrorism.

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