

## COMMENTARY

# Mediatization, Suffering and the Death of Philosophy

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In this brief intervention the contributor makes the case that our preoccupation with media and cultural analysis has alienated/detached us, as scholars of media and cultural studies, from a key experiential moment: a philosophical pre-moment. In a world of chronic crises (economic, ideological, ecological), we have forgotten what it means to encounter suffering through the face of the sufferer. We seek refuge in Plato's cave again – not because of inability to tell the real from shadowy reflections, but because the reflections (as mediated experience) offer us refuge, comfort and distancing. Our forgetfulness of suffering and the face of the sufferer have immersed us deep into a kind of 'sequestration' where language (academic language/language games/turf wars) take precedence over experiencing a world in crisis. Heidegger was wrong: we have not forgotten about being-in-the-world, we have remorselessly turned philosophy on its head – philosophy has itself become a tool of sequestration – a shelter from the face of the sufferer.

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### Competing Interests

The author has no competing interests to declare.

### Author Information

Dr Tarik Sabry is Director of the Arab Media Centre and Reader in Media and Communication Theory CAMRI at the University of Westminster where I am a member of the Communication and Media Research Institute. He is Co-Founder and Co-Editor of the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication and the Co-Founder of the journal Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture.

The author of *Cultural Encounters in the Arab World: On Media, the Modern and the Everyday* (2010), Dr Sabry is the editor of *Arab Cultural Studies: Mapping the Field* (2012) and coeditor of *Arab Subcultures: Reflections on Theory and Practice* (2016). His research interests include Arab audiences, Arab children and the media, Arab popular cultures, Arab contemporary philosophical thought and cultural policy.

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