

**Abstract**

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**Case Study: the Syrian Conflict in  
«Twitter» and Mainstream Media**

The Syrian conflict is the most socially mediated conflict in history. It has generated an exceptional number of comments, videos, photos and news, circulating on social networks. A large amount of information posted online by citizen journalists has been broadcasted in the mainstream media outlets. But how did they select the information? Have the mainstream media managed to represent all opinions or have they become a part of so-called ideological «bubbles»? Firstly, we used «Twitter» data to carry out an empirical study of 34,913,309 tweets, which mentioned a hashtag «Syria» in English or Arabic for the period from April 2008 (when the hashtag «Syria» in English was used for the first time) to December 2017. We created a graph that shows the dynamics of change in the number of tweets in English, Arabic and other languages about Syria by months. We found out a certain level of polarization in «Twitter»: the peaks of the discussions in English and Arabic sometimes differed significantly. Secondly, we downloaded from the «Newspaper Source» database all articles of «The New York Times», «The Washington Post» and «The Wall Street Journal» about Syria for the same period (67,280 articles) and created a graph, showing the dynamics of change in the number of articles about Syria by months. Finally, we compared 2 graphs and made a conclusion about inclusiveness of the mainstream media and their level of political polarization by juxtaposing quantitative and qualitative research methods.