# Invited Panel Is Social Media making News Generation and Consumption Better?

Sihem Amer-Yahia Principal Research Scientist Qatar Computing Research Institute

International Conference on Web logs and Social Media Monday July 18, 5:30PM-7PM





# **Our Panelists**

#### Editors:

- Marcus Mabry, Editor at large of the International Herald Tribute and the New York Times
- Catherine Quayle, Interactive Editor-in-Chief of Need to Know, an American news magazine show on PBS

#### Academia:

- Krishna Gummadi, leads the Networked Systems research group at MPI-SWS, Germany
- Mor Naaman, Assistant Professor at Rutgers U., runs the Social Media Information Lab

## Industry:

- Jimmy Lin, Associate Professor at U. Maryland, on leave at Twitter
- Gilad Lotan, VP Research & Development, SocialFlow





# Social Media and News

"Shift from broadcast media to a network of people and information"

"Streams of Content, Limited Attention: The Flow of Information through Social Media", Web 2.0 Expo 09 - Danah Boyd (Microsoft Research)



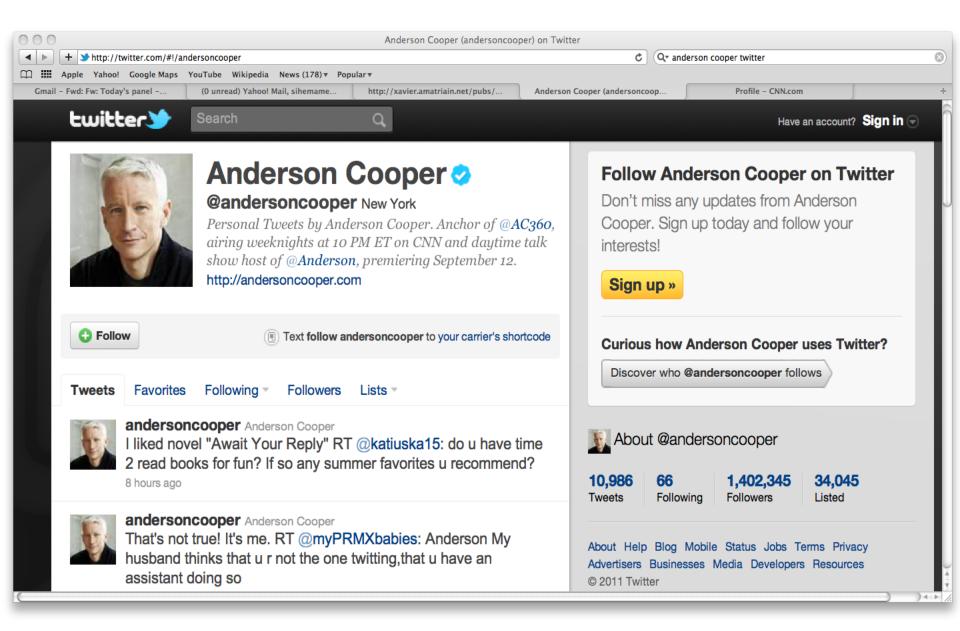


# Is News Generation Better? (than traditional media)

- News sources are now virtually infinite
- Information brokers get credit for content they did not create
- Major news agencies cannot claim credit for news on Egyptian revolution
- "We use Facebook to schedule protests, Twitter to coordinate and YouTube to tell the world" – lay person in Tahrir square











# Is News Consumption Better? (than traditional media)

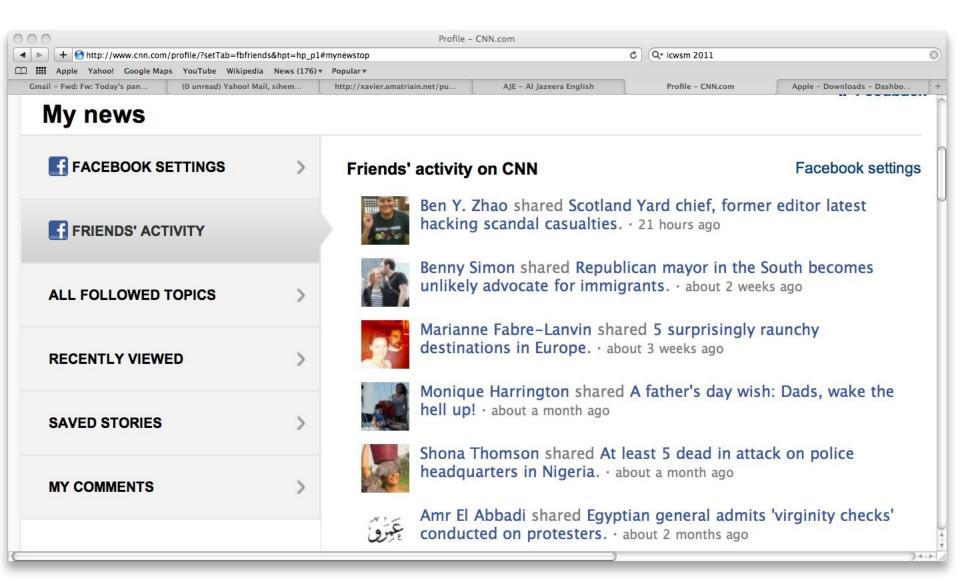
"the barriers of content distribution are collapsing making distribution less important than consumption"

"Some people are more in the flow than others"

"Streams of Content, Limited Attention: The Flow of Information through Social Media", Web 2.0 Expo 09 - Danah Boyd (Microsoft Research)

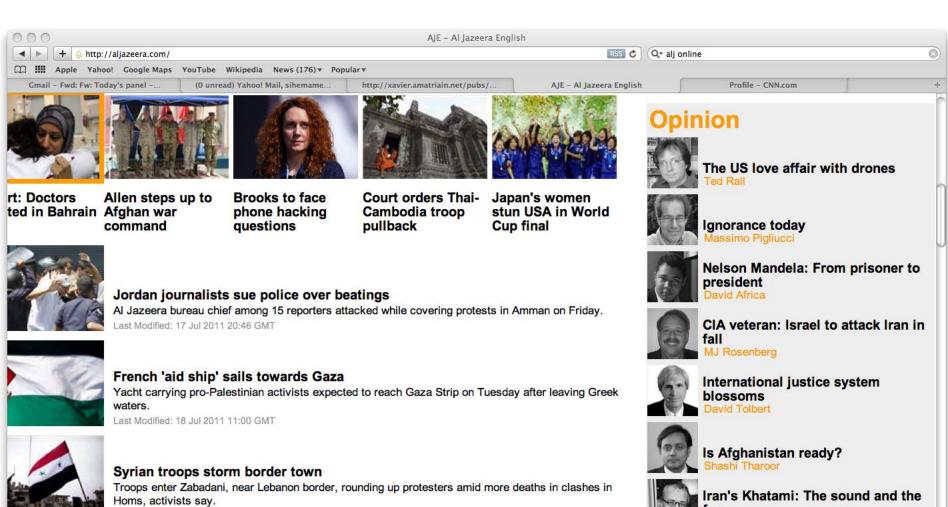














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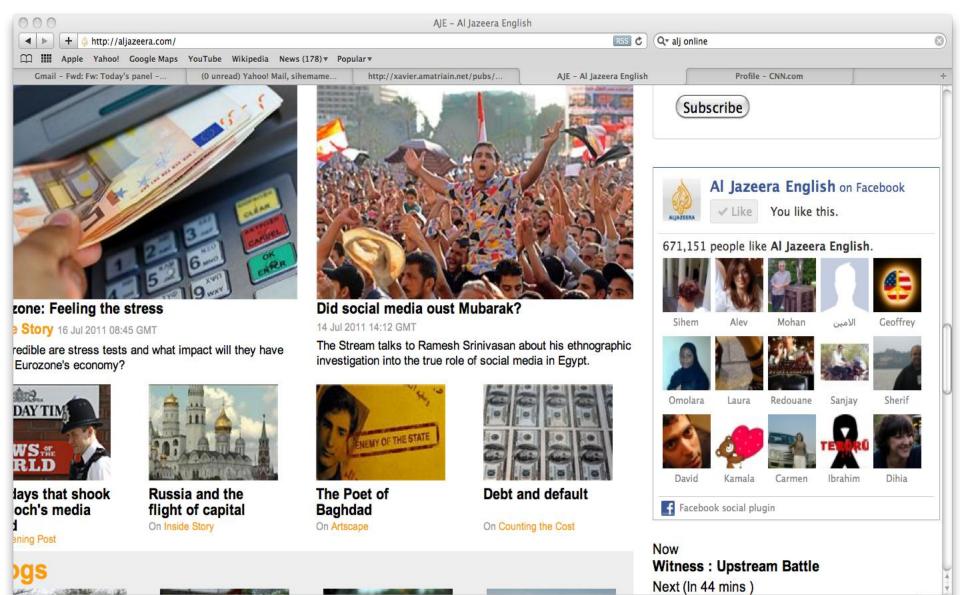
fury

Hamid Dabashi













# Is News Consumption Better? (than traditional media)

- Massive amounts of data streaming in
- People do not necessarily give attention to what is best: e.g., content in their language is easier to consume
- News need to be found "automatically" amongst status updates





# In France and Australia it is illegal...

- ....to say this on radio or TV
  - Find us at Facebook.com/ICWSM"
  - Or follow us on "Twitter.com/ICWSM"

Instead "Find us on social networking sites!"



# This panel

#### is about:

- the benefits and pitfalls of citizen journalism
- how technologies can be used to channel people's energy and enable the continuous generation of relevant, timely and trusted content?
- how technologies can be used to complement journalists' and editors' work?
- how technologies can be used to find relevant content?

### is not about:

– "Is Social Media making revolutions better?"





# Panel Order

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