

## **FACEBOOK AS A PUBLIC SPHERE IN EGYPT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The current research discusses the social network “Facebook” as a public sphere and its role in shaping public opinion in Egypt, in particular, the correlation between Facebook and the expression of opinions whether in the virtual public sphere or real life among Egyptians. Results show that Facebook has become one of the most important sources of information for the majority of Egyptians. Facebook use is positively correlated with Egyptians’ feeling of freedom opinion and expression. This paper proves that despite some of Habermas’ ideas about public sphere are not available in Egypt; Facebook could create a public sphere on the case of “Tiran & Sanafir” islands that has helped in creating a public opinion in two sides with and against the government.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Facebook, Public Opinion, Public Sphere, Social Networks, Tiran & Sanafir, Egypt*

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