

abstracts

“Trial by media”: Policing, the 24-7 news mediasphere
and the “politics of outrage” 23

CHRIS GREER, EUGENE MCLAUGHLIN

This article analyses the changing nature of news media-police chief relations. Building on previous research (Greer and McLaughlin, 2010), we use the concepts of “inferential structure” (Lang and Lang, 1955) and “hierarchy of credibility” (Becker, 1967) to examine former Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Commissioner Sir Ian Blair’s “trial by media”. We focus on the collective and overwhelmingly hostile journalistic reaction to Blair’s declaration in 2005 that: (a) the news media are guilty of “institutional racism” in their coverage of murders; and (b) the murders of two 10-year-olds in Soham, 2001, received undue levels of media attention. A sustained period of symbolic media annihilation in the British mainstream press established a dominant “inferential structure” that defined Blair as the “gaffe-prone Commissioner”: his position in the “hierarchy of credibility” was shredded, and his Commissionership de-legitimized. The unprecedented resignation of an MPS Commissioner is situated within the wider context of “attack journalism” and the rising news media “politics of outrage”.

Keywords: *Hierarchy of credibility, Inferential structure, Institutional racism, 24-7 news mediasphere, Politics of outrage, Soham, Trial by media*

A Villains’ Charter? The Press and the Human Rights Act..... 57

LIEVE GIES

The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), a key piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the protection of human rights in the United Kingdom, has suffered from a bad press for as long as it has been in existence. Supporters of the legislation are concerned that it is being portrayed as a “villains’ charter” which benefits only the least deserving in society. This article analyses the newspaper frames that have been applied to landmark events involving the HRA, while also giving an insight into run-of-the-mill reporting. The findings suggest that the framing is more subtle and more nuanced than the “villains’ charter” epithet suggests. Focusing on broadsheet coverage of the HRA when the legislation came into force in England and Wales, it will be shown how the coverage on this occasion revealed some striking ideological differences. On the other hand, considering another milestone in the rights debate, the introduction of the controversial Identity Card scheme, it is apparent that the issue attracted a unanimous press, even if the discussion on that occasion tended to be couched in the language of civil liberties rather than that of human rights. Finally, considering tabloid coverage of a landmark ruling by the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, the article considers who qualifies as a worthy victim in tabloid narratives about the HRA.

Keywords: *Framing, Human Rights Act, National press, Storytelling*

Much ado about nothing? Representations and realities of online soliciting of children..... 85

YVONNE JEWKES

This paper is concerned with where the public's ideas come from about online risks to children and young people. Combining perspectives from criminology, sociology and media studies, it will be argued that as a culture we are confused about childhood and hold on to highly ambiguous ideas about children and sexuality. Further, despite the media's inclination to present adult attraction to children as a uniquely "modern" phenomenon, conflicting notions of childhood have always underpinned social and legal norms and were particularly salient in Victorian society. More recently, at precisely the same time as individuals have retreated from public spheres to the "security" of domestic and privatized spaces, we have seen the emergence of one of the most feared phenomena of the age: the online sexual abuse of children.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, "Grooming", Internet, Media, Moral panic, Social retreat

Newsmaking criminology. The role of intellectuals in the construction of a new discourse on crime in the media..... 107

MARÍLIA DE NARDIN BUDÓ

The results of different studies on the relationship between crime and media in several parts of the Western world have some substantial matters in common: the news often over-represent street crimes, promote stereotypes of the criminal and victim, dedicating great space to official sources, etcetera. Following this observation, the main conclusion is that the media legitimizes the selective and stigmatizing performance of the criminal justice system, justifying social inequalities and stimulating their reproduction. To deal with this process, we seek in this work to set out a proposal for action by intellectuals intervening in important debates on crime in the media. We apply the Gramscian assumptions about the role of intellectuals to the subject of the criminal justice system, revealing the emancipatory potential of the media.

Keywords: Mass media; Crime; Intellectuals; Newsmaking criminology

Performative dimensions of the judiciary portrait: elaboration, reception – and rhetorical autonomy 125

LEONOR SÁ

Following a brief introductory presentation of the origins of the judiciary portrait (front/profile) in the nineteenth century, within the wider context of the criminal identification system known as "Bertillonage", the first article section is dedicated to the demonstration of a series of performative features of this kind of

photograph, on many levels, and considering recent theories around the notion of performativity. The second part of this article argues that, as a performative construct, the judiciary portrait acquires renowned dimension and relevance, especially by means of transvisuality and 'remediation' (Bolter and Grusin, 2000), resulting in its autonomization as a rhetorical model in contemporary media.

Keywords: *Judiciary portrait, Criminal identification, Performativity, Remediation, Rhetoric model, Autonomy*

The "Realengo Massacre": Emotions in the suicide letter
written by Brazilian Wellington Oliveira 159

ARGUS ROMERO ABREU DE MORAIS, IVAN VASCONCELOS FIGUEIREDO

This paper aims to analyze the intended emotional effects suggested by the suicide letter written by Wellington Menezes de Oliveira, author of the crime that became known as the "Realengo Massacre". We assume the slaughter and the letter as a speech act produced by the crime's author in order to engage with his audience. We consider that the relationship between emotions and social representations might lead to re-actions in the social rules internalized by subjects. Under the historic domain of subjectivity, we agree with Foucault's (2002; 2004) perspective. Furthermore, we subscribe to Charaudeau's (2006; 2007; 2008a; 2008b) contributions towards thinking about the social construction of emotions, the intended effects of emotions, political discourse and media discourse.

Keywords: *Intended effects of emotions, "Realengo Massacre", Subject, Emotions, Social representations, Enunciative Act*

Living on the edge. Black metal and the refusal of modernity..... 175
SÓNIA PEREIRA

In his in-depth study of extreme metal, Keith Kahn-Harris (2007) states black metal has sought to provide the most radically transgressive discourse within all music genres that compose the overall scene ever since its emergence in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Misanthropy, elitism and individualism, verging on the radical antisocial, have all become a part of the black metal community identity with its sense of longing for an idyllic vision of the past and some return to ancient traditions accompanying an absolute refusal of modernity and a wish for liberation from all its constraints. With death and time representing privileged and central themes in black metal music, recent developments in its study have originated what is now deemed Black Metal Theory, a philosophical approach to the genre that has been pushing the boundaries for a deeper understanding and exploration of its relationships with alternative visions of nature and the universe, existence and experience, life and death, religion and theology. This

essay will attempt to shed some light upon the darker side of black metal and the way it has explored and often contested the meanings of modernity.

Keywords: *Black metal, Modernity, Transgression, Transcendentalism, Abject, Death*

Childhood “at risk”, “dangerous” childhood: Children as subjects
and objects of delinquency and crime in the news 191
MARIA JOÃO LEOTE DE CARVALHO

Crimes against children are committed daily just as children daily commit acts qualified as crime under criminal law. These are not new social phenomena; there has been always delinquency and crime in societies and in all social groups with only the forms varying in how these social problems become visible over time. This article seeks to analyze, identify and understand the role media play in the social construction of these issues regarding children as subjects and objects of delinquency and crime in the news, in addition to how its visibility is built up among public opinion. We emphasize the need to deconstruct the stereotypical images of an “at risk” childhood vs. a “dangerous” childhood, and we discuss some of the main constraints identified in news reporting these matters.

Keywords: *Childhood, Delinquency, Crime, Media, Press, News*

Angels or demons? Children, Youth and Crimes in the Media.
A Debate on Journalistic Ethics and Children’s Rights..... 207
LIDIA MARÔPO

The news representation of crimes involving children and youths (0 to 18 years old) as victims or perpetrators has raised criticism regarding a perceived disrespect for privacy, the propagation of stereotypes and the shortage of public-political framings. These issues refer back to the relationship between journalistic ethics and children’s rights, here analyzed based on an extensive review of the literature and normative documents which allow us to reflect upon the role of journalists, sources and other social actors in producing news coverage that acts to protect and promote children’s rights.

Keywords: *News on children and crime, Journalistic ethics, Children’s rights*