Moral Panics and the Media: ten years on

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Moral panics: exaggerated, distorted and disproportionate

- Moral panic models DO NOT imply that the issue is an illusion or a delusion
- Moral panics are almost always based on something which is really happening. But they misrecognise it.
- Its nature is EXAGGERATED AND DISTORTED so that reactions are DISPROPORTIONATE to the actual threat posed.
Five Aspects

1 The models
2 The old case studies
3 Possible new case studies
4 The key themes
5 Some new directions
1 THE MODELS
## Moral Panics: 8 stages

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<th>Moral panic stage</th>
<th>Constituents</th>
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<td>Stereotyping via folk devils / Sensationalism / sensitisation</td>
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<td>4 Experts</td>
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<td>5 Elite consensus</td>
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<td>7 Fade away</td>
<td>Volatility with possible recurrence</td>
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<td>8 Legacy</td>
<td>Moral boundaries and established discourses confirmed</td>
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2 THE OLD CASE STUDIES

THE SERIAL PAEDOPHILE

HUNTLER AND CARR

HIS LIFELONG LUST FOR UNDER-AGE SEX

HE RAPED OR ABUSED SIXTY SCHOOGIRLS

THE SUN

OUR DAMNING DOSSIER OF EVIDENCE 24-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE
THE OLD CASE STUDIES (6)

- AIDS
- VIDEO NASTIES
- ECSTASY
- PHYSICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN
- SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN
- PAEDOPHILIA
3 SOME POSSIBLE NEW CASE STUDIES
SOME POSSIBLE NEW CASE STUDIES (5)

- Terrorism
- Asylum / immigration
- Gun / knife crime
- Binge drinking
- Urban riots
4 THE THEMES
THE RECURRENT THEMES

- Childhood
- Media
5 NEW DIRECTIONS

- Risk discourses
- Autres directions
- Moral Regulation
Risk discourses

- Propensity to take risks
- Rewards
- Perception of risks
- Accidents
- Balancing behaviour
Autres directions

- Iconography
- Narrative
- Social psychology
- History
Moral regulation

- Agents
- Targets
- Tactics
- Discourses
- Allies