

Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies

Series Editor
Dave Cowan
School of Law
University of Bristol
Bristol, UK

'Children, Young People and the Press is exemplary critical criminology: an original interdisciplinary study of young people and the print media in Northern Ireland under transition. This multifaceted empirical investigation shows how the press has targeted and demonised 'deviant' youth, and to what effect. Gordon's work is thoughtfully structured, clear and lively in expression, and forceful in argument: a rich asset for students of youth, media, law and society.'

—Scott Poynting, *Western Sydney University
and Queensland University of Technology, Australia*

'Every generation seems to succumb to fears about the generations that follow. Such moral panics about "the kids today" appear particularly misplaced in the context of a society in transition from a troubled past like Northern Ireland. In this insightful and rigorously evidenced analysis, Gordon argues instead in favour of listening to the voices of young people themselves as they represent our best hope for a brighter future.'

—Shadd Maruna, *University of Manchester, UK*

'Conflict takes away childhoods and its legacy into the peace can destroy children's future. This expertly argued book draws on detailed research to address how children are represented in the print media in transitional societies and how these representations contribute to the problems youth are seen as presenting. It is cogently argued, very well written and erudite in its coverage. It is a wonderful addition to youth studies and transitional justice.'

—John D. Brewer, *Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland*

'This book offers a valuable contribution to criminological literature, in particular the growing body of empirically-informed critical youth justice scholarship. Gordon examines an issue of international significance in an incisive, cogent and articulate manner. A must-read for students and professionals with an interest in media influence upon constructing understandings of youth offending.'

—Stephen Case, *Loughborough University, UK*

The Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies series is a developing series of monographs and textbooks featuring cutting edge work which, in the best tradition of socio-legal studies, reach out to a wide international audience.

More information about this series at
<http://www.palgrave.com/gp/series/14679>

Faith Gordon

Children, Young People and the Press in a Transitioning Society

Representations, Reactions and
Criminalisation

palgrave
macmillan

Faith Gordon
University of Westminster
History, Sociology and Criminology
London, UK

Palgrave Socio-Legal Studies
ISBN 978-1-137-60681-5 ISBN 978-1-137-60682-2 (eBook)
<https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-60682-2>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018933518

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s) 2018

The author(s) has/have asserted their right(s) to be identified as the author(s) of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: northlightimages

Printed on acid-free paper

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

The registered company address is: The Campus, 4 Crinan Street, London, N1 9XW, United Kingdom

For my God-daughter, Iona

Acknowledgements

The subject of children, young people and media representations has been with me now for over a decade and throughout my journey, there were many people who provided encouragement.

The writing of this book commenced during my time working in the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast. Thank you to my PhD supervisors, Professor Phil Scraton and Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden, for their comments and suggestions on my PhD study, which became the foundation for this monograph. I would like to acknowledge The Department of Education and Learning in Northern Ireland who provided me with a PhD scholarship, which made the extended empirical research possible.

At Queen's University, Professor Sally Wheeler, Head of School, Professor Anne-Marie McAlinden, Director of Research and Professor Scott Poynting, External Examiner (University of Auckland), were supportive in encouraging me to submit a book proposal. Many thanks to Professor Dave Cowan, Series Editor and Aléta Bezuidenhout, Palgrave for their support, guidance and patience throughout the writing process. Most recently thank you to Steph Carey and Josie Taylor for their support at the final stages of the submission process.

Sincere thanks to the 28 interviewees who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in the primary research. I am extremely grateful to the 33 children and young people who so generously gave up their leisure time to participate and share their insights and experiences with me and to the subsequent 171 children and young people I met and engaged with during my post-doctoral research project.

At home in Northern Ireland, I have a number of former colleagues and friends who have maintained ongoing interest in my research and career

development and have provided guidance and friendship along the way: Professor Norma Dawson; Professor Shadd Maruna; Professor Laura Lundy; Professor John Brewer; Professor Joanne Hughes; Dr. Ciara Hackett; Dr. Cheryl Lawther; Dr. John Stannard; Dr. Heather Conway; Dr. Bronagh Byrne; Dr. Sharon Thompson; Koulla Yiasouma; Tara Mills, Ronan Lavery QC; Sharon Whittaker; Natalie Whelehan; Edel Quinn; Niall Enright; Sara Boyce.

The monograph has travelled with me to my new home in London and I am grateful to the new friendships and working relationships formed at the University of Westminster, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and further afield.

At the University of Westminster, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Department of History, Sociology and Criminology for assisting me to settle into a new city and the Department. In particular, I have benefitted from the excellent mentoring of Professor Lisa Webley and Mr. Tony Burke. Professor Webley has offered a tremendous amount of insight, support and friendship – she remains an inspiration in terms of her teaching and research achievements and she is one of the most collegial and supportive people I have met in academia to date.

At the University of Westminster, encouragement has also been provided by Neena Samota; Professor Sarah Niblock; Elaine Fisher; Dr. Margherita Sprio; Juliet Allen, Dr. Petros Karatsareas; Dr. Russell Orr; Dr. Victoria Brooks; Dr. Simon Flacks; Dr. Ed Bracho; Dr. Andy Aresti and Dr. Sacha Darke and many others working in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Further to this, thanks are due to Professor Andrew Linn, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Dr. Martin Doherty, Professor Terry Lamb, Dr. Thomas Moore and Professor Malcolm Kirkup for their support regarding the establishment of the *Youth Justice Network*, which I am Director of at the University of Westminster.

My greatest thanks is to David Manlow, Course Leader in Criminology, for his ongoing encouragement, positive energy and belief in me (especially when my own self-belief wavered!) that I could make it across the finish line with this project. His dedication to our students is truly inspirational and I am learning a lot from him. It was the coffees and chats with David about the monograph (plus his music suggestions) that has gotten me over the finish line!

More recently, I am grateful for the collegial support of the Information Law and Policy Centre at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. The Director of the Centre, Dr. Nora NiLoideain has been extremely supportive of my research interests and the development of my latest work in the area of children's rights in the digital age. I am very excited about undertaking my role as a Research Associate of the Centre.

Encouragement was kindly provided by a number of family, friends and neighbours in Annaclone, Belfast, London and further afield, in particular: Dr. Therese O'Reilly; Adrian Marshall; Phil Luney; Ronan Doran; Nuala Cosgrave; Annette MacArtain-Kerr; Kat Mervyn; Una Murphy and Brian Pelan; Margaret Dodds; Madeleine Hillis; Patrick McAnearney; Frankie McKinley; Betty, Raymond and Fiona McCullough; Betty Johnston, Elizabeth Heath and family; Katie Barron and Rob Thompson; Jack Nouril; Clover Southwell; Rev. Diane Clutterbuck; Bob Matthews; Ellie-May, Clare and Paul Horrell; Dr. Humera Iqbal and husband, Hak; Dr. Keir Irwin-Rodgers; Holly Powell-Jones; Emma Nottingham; Monika Baylis; Dr. Victoria Knight; Lucy Baldwin; Dr. Paul Reilly; Dr. Stuart Miller; Professor Steve Case; Professor Bernard Schissel; Dr. Helena Gosling and colleagues at Liverpool John Moores University; James Lee; Paul Jordan; Assan Ali; Dr. Emily Falconer, partner David and Iona; Dr. Ludivine Broch and Elliott; Mary and John Hicks; Miriam, Adam and Ezra Kennedy and my Flatmates in London (Karin, Ash, Matt and Will).

The staff working in the following organisations: Headliners, IARS, Include Youth, Save the Children NI, Terry Enright Foundation and London Youth, continue to inspire me. I am honoured to be a trustee of Headliners and to see first-hand the difference staff make to the lives of children and young people who are experiencing marginalisation and exclusion.

On a personal level, the greatest thanks of all is due to my parents, Kenny and Isobel, my sister, Serena and her husband, Jonathan. Over the years, they have been so supportive and encouraging of my work. Their belief in me completing the monograph never wavered and that is what truly kept me going.

Contents

Part I	The Theoretical Context	1
1	Researching the Media Representations of Children and Young People	3
2	The Significance and Impact of the Media in Contemporary Society	17
3	The Impact of Social Reaction on Contemporary Policy Responses to Children and Young People	47
Part II	Media Representations, Social Reaction and the Impact	73
4	Print Media Content Analysis: Language, Imagery and Prominent Themes	75
5	Reading the ‘Riots’	113
6	<i>‘It’s the Nature of the Beast’</i>: Responses from the Media and Other ‘Moral Entrepreneurs’	139
7	‘The Hidden Voices’ in the Media: Responses from Children, Young People and Their Advocates	177

Part III Challenges and Future Policy Responses	211
8 Conclusion: Reading Between the Headlines – Demonising and Scapegoating of Youth in Transition	213
Appendix 1: Sample Newspapers and Media Coverage	239
Appendix 2: Interview and Focus Group Schedule	241
Bibliography	243
Index	279

Abbreviations

ABC	Audit Bureau of Circulation
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
AEPs	Attenuating Energy Projectiles
ASBO/ASBOs	Anti-social Behaviour Order/s
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BECTU	Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CD	Compact Disk
CDA	Crime and Disorder Act 1998
CJI	Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland
CJR	Criminal Justice Review
COPs	Colloquial Term for Police Officers
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CRC	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
CS GAS	2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile/Tear Gas
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
DHSSPNI	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Northern Ireland
DOJ NI	Department of Justice Northern Ireland
DPP	District Policing Partnership
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
EU	European Union
FOI	Freedom of Information
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
HRA	Human Rights Act 1998
IRA	Irish Republican Army
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly

xiv Abbreviations

MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NI	Northern Ireland
NIACRO	Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
NICCY	Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner
NIHRC	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
NIO	Northern Ireland Office
NUJ	National Union of Journalists
OAP	'Old Age Pensioner'
OFCOM	Office of Communications
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989
PCC	Press Complaints Commission
PHA	Public Health Agency
POCVA	Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003
PPS	Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland
PR	Public Relations
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
RA	Irish Republican Army (colloquial abbreviation)
ROI	Republic of Ireland
RUC	Royal Ulster Constabulary
SAS	Special Air Service
SBN	<i>South Belfast News</i>
SDLP	Social and Democratic Labour Party
SF	Sinn Féin
TV	Television
UDA	Ulster Defence Association
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US/USA	United States/United States of America
UTV	Ulster Television
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party

List of Tables

Table 4.1	Content analysis themes	87
Table A1.1	Sample newspapers circulation figures, December 2010	240
Table A1.2	Other local newspapers cited	240
Table A1.3	National and international print media	240
Table A2.1	Focus groups schedule and reference system	241
Table A2.2	Interview schedule and reference system	241