

THE NED KELLY OF OUR (UK) TIMES?

Neocolonial media representations of the murder of a police officer by Gypsies/Travellers

1



Page 29

Comment

Let's not be afraid to challenge Traveller culture

PC Harper's death shines a spotlight on lack of school and structure that leads some in these communities to a life of crime

Caravan Park — but not that it

NEWSWORTHINESS

Jewkes (2015)

2

- 1) Threshold
- 2) Predictability
- 3) Simplicity and risk
- 4) Individualism
- 5) Violence, visual spectacle and graphic imagery
- 6) Conservative ideology
- 7) Cultural proximity

RACIALISED FRAMINGS

'The guilty men are all members of the travelling [sic] community – am I even allowed to say that?' *Daily Mail* 30 July 2020

- 1) Noting offenders' ethnicity and use of 'gang' trope
- 2) 'Caravans' and 'site' (symbolical location like 'ghetto')
- 3) High-end caravan (implied illegally attained)
- 4) 'Wokeness' and 'squeamishness' about Traveller cultures
- 5) Illiteracy and little formal education
- 6) Hare coursing and hunting
- 7) Claims of jury interference through court supporters
- 8) 'Pic of feral trio' and relative referring to 'bravest boys'
- 9) Irony of GT organisations policing racist commentaries

'We are asking for an understanding that we condemn this crime, that it was morally wrong' *The Guardian* 1 August 2020



WHY?



- Visceral hatred towards these groups evident in public (and political opinion)
 - Encampments and sites 'run counter to dominant landscape aesthetics' (Kabachnik and Ryder 2013: 95)
 - Linked to home ownership: economic and existential threat
- Centuries-long criminalisation of nomadism and seeking racial assimilation through sedentarisation
 - Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022



THE NED KELLY OF OUR (UK) TIMES?

Neocolonial media representations of the murder of a police officer by Gypsies/Travellers

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Q & A