CALL FOR PAPERS

Seeking contributions for the edited collection: ‘Researching the far right: theory, method and practice’

Editors: Stephen Ashe, Joel Busher, Graham Macklin and Aaron Winter

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In recent years, Europe and America have witnessed a resurgence of the far right in the form of both party electoral support and street level protest movements, as well as an increase in hate crimes. There has also been an increase in right-wing nationalist politics and party success in other parts of the world too. This comes at a time when ‘extremism’ more broadly defined, but including the far right, is also very much on the agenda for the media, public, policy makers, activists and academics. While there has been an upsurge in empirical research on the far right and extremism, there has been a comparative dearth of detailed discussion in relation to the methodological, ethical, political, personal, practical and professional issues and challenges that arise from it.

We are currently compiling ‘Researching the far right’, an edited collection that directly addresses these issues. The collection will offer disciplinary perspectives from leading scholars in this field of study. Confirmed contributors include Professor Kathleen Blee (Sociology, University of Pittsburgh), Professor Nonna Mayer (Political Science, Sciences Po Paris), Professor Barbara Perry (Criminology, University of Ontario), Professor Nigel Copsey (History, Teesside University), Professor Bert Klandermans (Social Psychology, University of Amsterdam) and Professor Peter Hervik (Anthropology, Aalborg University).

In this call for papers, we are inviting proposals for contributions which analyse and reflect on the research process in this area. We are seeking 4000-5000 word chapters (excluding references) on a range of areas and topics, including though by no means limited to:

- Research design
- Safety, harm and risk
- Methods
- Objectivity and subjectivity
- Data analysis
- Reciprocity
- Comparative research
- Reflexivity
- Ethics
- Gender and research
- Emotions
- Working with/for the state or security services
- Access
- Activist research
- Politics
- Impact
- Power
- Intervention strategies
- Bias
- Handling racism & racialisation
- Dealing with violence
- Post-fieldwork relations
- New concepts & frames of analysis
- Writing up

We are interested in receiving proposals that either address these issues from a specific disciplinary perspective (sociology, history, political science, anthropology, social psychology, political psychology, criminology, geography), or that adopt inter- or multi-disciplinary approaches. We would also encourage contributions grounded in research on the far right outside the European and North American contexts, which have hitherto dominated the field. This can include comparative studies and research on transnational movements.
Proposed papers should be based around research into the far right and focus specifically on the theoretical, methodological and practical reflections on issues and challenges related to the research process in this field.

Abstracts should be 350-400 words, including a short biography stating your disciplinary background and be submitted to stephen.ashe@manchester.ac.uk by Friday 22nd July 2016.

About the Editors:

Stephen Ashe is a Research Associate in the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity at the University of Manchester where he is researching ‘hidden histories’ of Britain’s anti-racist civil rights movement between 1966 and 1990. Stephen is currently writing a monograph titled The Electoral Rise and Fall of the British National Party: A Sociological Analysis (Routledge, Fascism and the Far Right Series).

Joel Busher is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations. His research addresses processes of anti-outsider activism and the implementation of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism interventions. His monograph, The Making of Anti-Muslim Protest: Grassroots Activism in the English Defence League (Routledge, 2015), was awarded the British Sociological Association’s Philip Abrams Memorial Prize.

Graham Macklin is a Research Lecturer in History at the University of Teesside. He has published widely on a variety of aspects relating to the history and politics of the extreme right in Britain, Europe and North America. He is also an affiliated researcher with the Centre for Research on Extremism (C-Rex) at Oslo University, Norway, and co-edits the Routledge book series ‘Fascism and the Far Right’.

Aaron Winter is Senior Lecturer in Criminology at University of East London, Trustee of the British Sociological Association (BSA) and Convener of the BSA Race and Ethnicity Study Group. His research focuses on far-right racism and violence, with a focus on the US, UK and Canada. He is co-editor of Discourses and Practices of Terrorism: Interrogating Terror (Routledge, Critical Terrorism Studies, 2010) and Reflexivity in Criminological Research Experiences with the Powerful and the Powerless (Palgrave, 2014).