

Peer Review

Review of: "Understanding the 2024 Summer Riots in the UK: Three Case Studies"

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This is an interesting article that addresses a very important topic. The social sciences have, so far, been relatively slow to offer commentaries on the racialized riots that erupted in 2024. As such, the article can make an important contribution to this slowly emerging debate. By also utilising a robust mixed-methods approach that generated valuable primary data, it further enhances the paper's potential originality. However, in my view, the article possesses various core issues that it needs to address. These recommended revisions are intended to improve the paper and the arguments it makes. I hope the authors find these helpful:

p.2 – The discussion of the effects reads somewhat cursorily – a bit more detail here would be useful.

p.2 – In the third paragraph, there is a copious amount of social scientific evidence that outlined how – for example, the 2011 riots were driven by a range of social, economic, cultural, and political factors. See, for instance: Briggs, D (2011) *The English Riots of 2011: A Summer of Discontent*. Hampshire: Waterside Press. It might be worth citing some of this here.

In the introduction, it would be useful to, at the very least, highlight the below research by The Guardian that revealed how the riots occurred in some of the UK's most deprived neighbourhoods that felt 'left behind' by politicians and society more broadly – <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/25/local-left-behind-prey-to-populist-politics-data-2024-uk-rioters>

p.3 – To close the introduction, it may be useful to give a brief overview of how the article will unfold.

p.4 – The overview of the events feels somewhat rushed – it would be useful to add some more detail here via a couple of paragraphs.

p.4 – In the methods, it would be useful to add some information about the places where you conducted

the research. Stoke-on-Trent, for example, is a post-industrial and 'left behind' locality that is home to multiple social, cultural, and economic problems. This is important context for the research findings.

Across the analysis sections, hardly any of the qualitative excerpts from the interviews are utilised. It would considerably improve the quality of the paper if some of these direct quotations were deployed.

p.20 – It would be useful to discuss some of the social scientific research on the far-right and/or working-class discontent with immigration. See, for example: Winlow, S Hall, S & Treadwell, J (2017) *The Rise of the Right: English Nationalism and the Transformation of Working Class Politics*. Bristol: Policy Press.

p.22-23 – In the 'Comparison with the 2011 English riots' section, you could also spend a couple of paragraphs highlighting some of the other contextual factors – rising political discontent, austerity, and increasing inequalities, etc. Many of these issues were highlighted, for example, in the 2024 BBC documentary 'The Riots that Shocked the Country'.

p.23 – Should 'phases' be 'places'?

p.23 – Regarding the sentence that reads 'our enquiries suggested that potential interviewees were hostile and suspicious towards academic researchers' – a bit more detail on this would be useful for readers.

p.23 – Regarding the remaining questions, while the ones outlined are important, perhaps there also needs to be an increased focus on the structural factors that contributed to the riots? A recent BBC article, for instance, outlined how Stoke-on-Trent city council is looking into this in Stoke – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd0j197l0j2o> – In my view, this is one of the most important questions.

Very best wishes,

Dr Luke Telford.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.