

Peer Review

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

Zana Vathi¹

1. Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, United Kingdom

This is an interesting and useful paper on a very important topic that remains understudied. The unpacking of the group of protesters is good, the inclusion of several data sources is useful, and there is very good mapping of riots in the urban space of the respective locations.

There are some limitations which I explain below to help the authors and clarify my position with the editors.

The focus on specific areas, far from the epicentre of the riots – Southport and Liverpool – is not well justified. While convenience is a good reason to conduct research, it is not sufficient, especially on sensitive topics such as this one.

The methodology shows that a substantial number of interviews were conducted, but there is no interview material quoted. This omission is not explained in the paper. I appreciate that the authors may have other plans for the rest of the material, but the key questions the paper focuses on would have been answered much better with at least some reference to the empirical material from interviews.

There is no clear mention of a data analysis method, or methods, for the material that was indeed included in this paper. How did the themes emerge? It would have been interesting to read about this, given the importance of the findings.

There is no theory or literature review section; this would have been helpful to understand the material and its analysis. As it stands, this looks more like a working paper rather than a journal article, albeit with credible findings.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.