

Review of: "From Baking Competitions To Forced Repatriations: Patriotic Alternative And The Hybridity Of The Radical Right"

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The article, by Chris Allen, an expert in far-right groups in the UK, provides a significant assessment of the rise, ideological approach, and activities of a relatively new radical right group, the Patriotic Alternative. His analysis of the group's diversification from existing white nationalist groups in the UK is significant in demonstrating its attempts to respond to contemporary conditions and gain a wider appeal. It is interesting in detailing the demarcation between this and more traditional far-right groups using a conceptual framework that draws on ideas of authentic and inauthentic nationalism. I found this helpful to some extent, but the argument would have been strengthened if it were soundly underpinned by scholarly work rather than using the distinctions (or their conceptualisation of these) made by the groups under study. Do not all social movements adapt and evolve to changing socio-political contexts? Does this make them inauthentic? This does appear slightly reductive. What do their own categorisations (good and bad), for example, tell us about their own boundary work? The distinction between the PA and others is helpful, but perhaps these concepts could be further problematised to demonstrate the complexity in the evolution of these groups (as part of a process of adaptation). For example, I found the point about the 're-emergence of race' intriguing and would have liked to have seen more evidence/exploration of this.

The argument about the potential 'positives' of the group in the pick-and-mix section is possibly misleading. Is the author implying that its significance is in drawing people away from more extreme right groups? This may need rephrasing. Similarly, the sentence about 'Islam and Muslim communities, and by consequence, the threats they were also seen to pose,' is also a bit confusing.

Some more information about the approach/sample would have also been useful. What type of content analysis was used? How big was the sample of news reports? What was the range, etc.? What are the problems with this approach? Equally, some analysis of their online presence would make an interesting addition as evidence of their approach. Overall, this article makes some important contributions to the literature on far-right groups, in detailing their activities and ideological/political approaches, and the distinctions between them, particularly in the UK.