

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

OVERALL COMMENTS:

This is a fascinating article that focuses on the far/radical-right group Patriotic Alternative (PA). Overall, I like the focus on PA and agree that more academic scrutiny is needed of the group and its on/offline materials. I also found the point about the re-emergence of race amongst the radical right as an ideological “quilting point” between groups on the far, radical, populist, and extreme right (see Lacan 1993; Zizek 1989 on quilting points). Indeed, more needs to be made earlier in the article on this point, as it seems to me the strongest contribution.

That said, there are a few areas where I felt the article could be strengthened. I list these section-by-section below, but they mainly focus on the contribution of the article and its methods. I am also more than happy to discuss any of these points in person (j.ahmad@sheffield.ac.uk).

ABSTRACT

- Rather than say “This article presents evidence in support of PA being a highly original and innovative radical right group...”, I would be bolder and state that “This article argues that PA is a highly original and innovative radical right group...”. I would also be clearer *why* this is important: What is so significant about PA being a hybrid organisation? What does this suggest about UK far-right activism/politics? Put simply, what do we learn from your article that was not known before? You begin to suggest this towards the end of the article (i.e., PA’s hybridity has the potential to appeal to new audiences on the political right, and the re-emergence of race as an area of concern amongst the radical right), but I think it’s worth being more upfront about this.

INTRODUCTION

- The concepts of “authentic”/“inauthentic” or “good” and “bad” British nationalism seem unclear to me and need defining early on in the introduction (this is also the case in regard to the notion of “hybridity”). Are you building upon any specific definitions, or are these concepts developed by ethnonationalist “ideologues” such as Ben Raymond? I say this because once your analysis begins at around p. 3/4, it is still unclear what these concepts refer to specifically.
- You mention that PA has not been subject to academic scrutiny, yet list Beatriz Buarque and Polina Zavershinskaia’s chapter comparing PA with Germany’s AfD Kompact (2022)? Researchers at HNH have also written extensively on PA

(albeit for a mass audience).

RESEARCH DESIGN

- I wonder if your point about the use of “externalist methodologies” is also a deliberately political position? Some might argue that engaging with groups such as PA legitimises them and therefore furthers their explicit ethnonationalism and white supremacy, something that is unethical from a scholarly perspective. Analysing their online materials, thus, allows you to provide deep insight into the group’s worldview without directly enabling it.
- I felt as if the research design section would be strengthened somewhat if you provided a clearer discussion of the amount of data consulted during the analysis. For example, you mention content analysis of its online materials: how much material did you analyse specifically? Similarly, in regard to the “participatory-type” methods used, roughly how much material was considered?
- I like the clear definition of PA as radical right and agree that this matches Ravndal and Bjorgo’s (2018; 2019) typology. However, it is unclear what those on the radical right are actually calling for. Indeed, even in the following section on PA’s origins, I don’t really get a sense of what the underlying ideologies are (e.g., white supremacy, racial nationalism, etc.).

ANALYSIS

- The following sentence needs rewording as it is quite dense: “Integral to the BNP’s modernisation and mainstreaming agenda, its ideological re-alignment resulted in a shift away from ‘race’, Judaism and Jewish people as also the threats each were perceived to pose to immigration, Islam and Muslim communities and by consequence, the threats they were also seen to pose” (p. 4)
- The claim about “re-emergence of race” is curious. While I agree that those on the radical right had shifted towards a form of cultural nationalism (primarily driven by Islamophobia), I was of the impression that groups such as BNP always retained an underlying ethnic and racial nationalism?

SPELLING/TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS:

- “noes” should be “notes” (p. 3)
- Space needed after “derision towards theBNP” (p. 3)
- Space needed after “andBritain First” (p. 3)
- No need to italicise “Davies and Raymond” (p.3)
- Space needed after “to createPatriotic Alternative” (p. 3)
- Space needed after “thatPatriotic Alternative” (p. 5)