

Peer Review

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

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This is a useful and interesting piece of work that maps out the basic facts of the 2024 riots and assesses them against claims about whether they were "protests" or not, who the main groups were and their roles in the riots, and a near-contemporaneous account of how the events were policed. In reading, I was reminded of the Scarman report on the 1981 Brixton riots in terms of structure and style – whether intentional or not, I think that sober descriptive approach is very helpful and informative. Setting out the details of what happened based on triangulated evidence from eye-witness accounts, interviews, public data, and media helps cut through the hyperbole surrounding the riots and the claims made about them.

At one point, the authors point out that there isn't the infrastructure to respond to such events in this way – rapid, near-time, and multi-pronged. On that, I think it would be useful to see what they think, having done this work, would be necessary in terms of infrastructure, perhaps informed by the COVID pandemic and the scale/speed of research that happened there? Similarly, to make the case for such a responsive research enterprise, it would help to know if and how *this* research has been used or been useful, or how it could be useful to e.g. inform policing responses in the future, or wider policy considerations about the role of those 'influencers' who accelerated tensions with mis/dis-information?

This work will be useful to those who study mass gatherings and protests, and want to see a modern template for how to research and report on such events.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.