

Cinema, Controversy, Censorship

Lecture 1: Theories and Concepts





Structure of the lectures

Cinema, controversy, censorship

Lecture 1: Theories and concepts

Lecture 2: Cinema Censorship I: USA and Hollywood pictures around the world

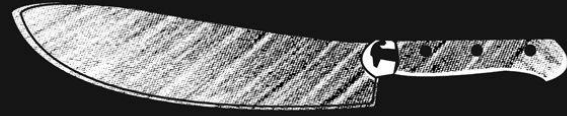
Lecture 3: Cinema Censorship II: varieties of control, censorship, discipline, surveillance

Lecture 4: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy I: traditions, methods, levels

Lecture 5: Researching Film and Cinema Controversy II: case risqué/sex cinema



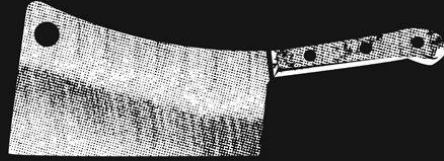
Theories and concepts as tools



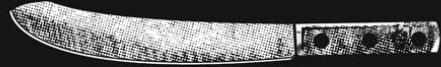
LAMB CLEAVER



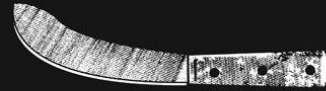
STICKING KNIFE



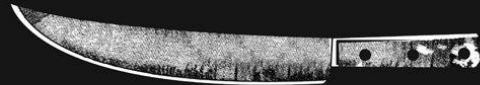
CLEAVER



CHOP KNIFE



SKINNING KNIFE



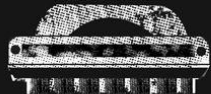
STEAK KNIFE



ROAST NEEDLE



SHARPENING STEEL



BLOCK BRUSH



LARDING NEEDLE



WATER THERMOMETER



BONE SAW

FIGURE 3: BUTCHER TOOLS



Cinema, controversy, censorship

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#MeToo: A timeline of 2018's sexual harassment scandals



1. What is cinema?

Film/Cinema
materiality

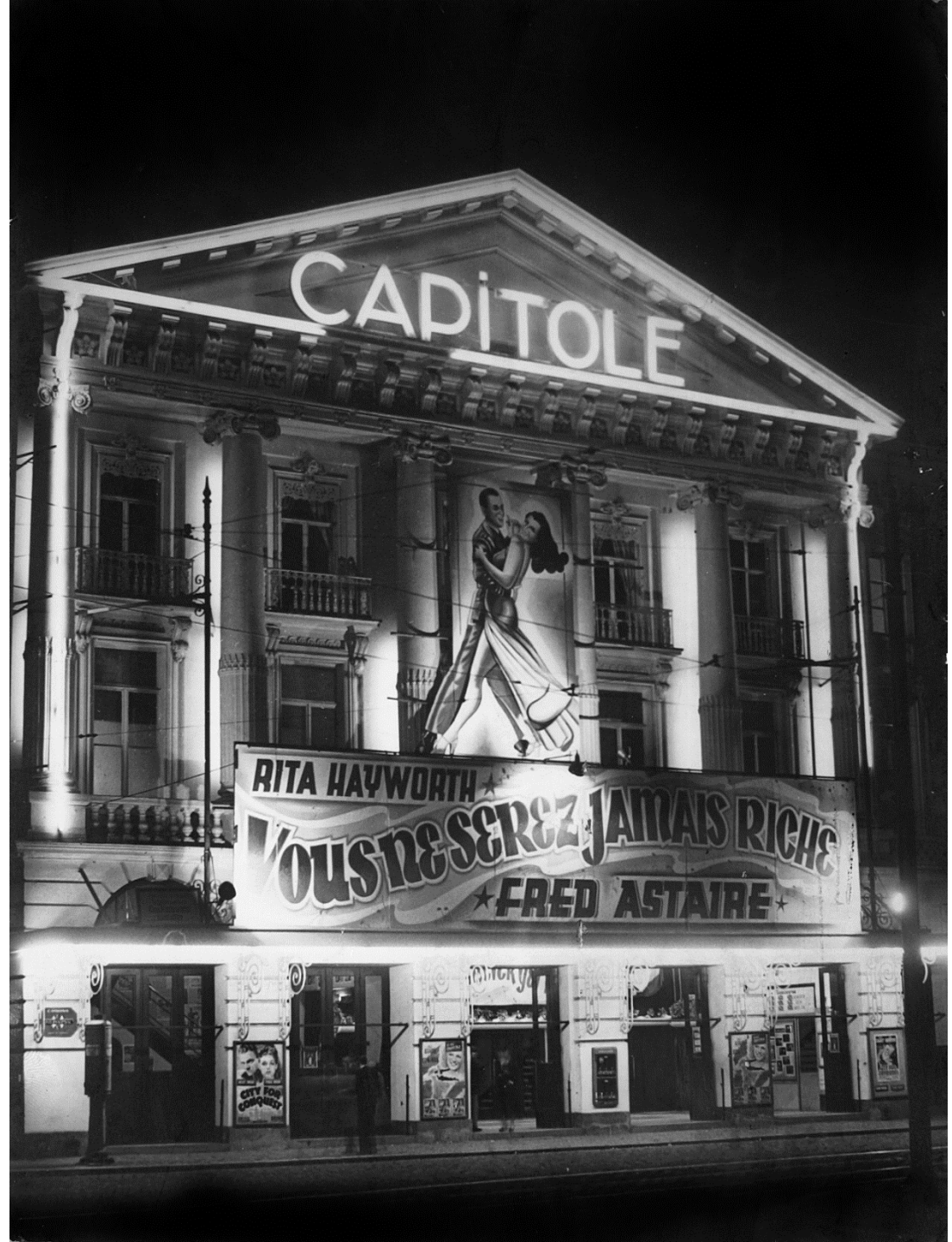


Film/Cinema

'movie', imaginary dimension



Film/Cinema
building, place



Film/Cinema
building, space



Film/Cinema

building, social geography



Film/Cinema

industry, political economy



Film/Cinema *industry, practices*



Welwyn Film Studios set interior | 1930s WGC 'Industry' leaflet held in WGC Heritage Trust archive

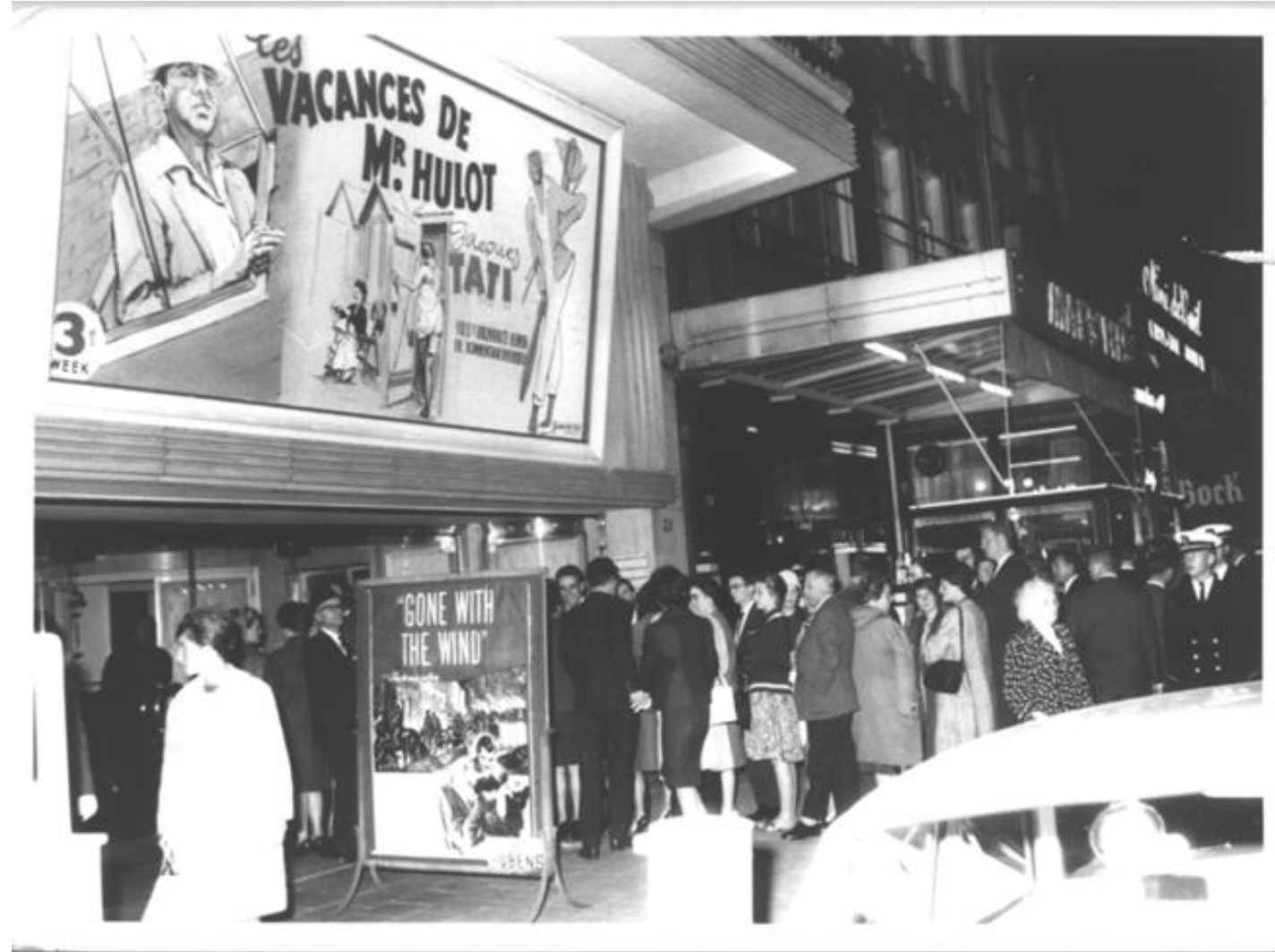
Film/Cinema *industry, materiality*



Film/Cinema
industry, labour



Film/Cinema
experience place/space



Film/Cinema

filmic experience



Film/**Cinema**
cinematic experience



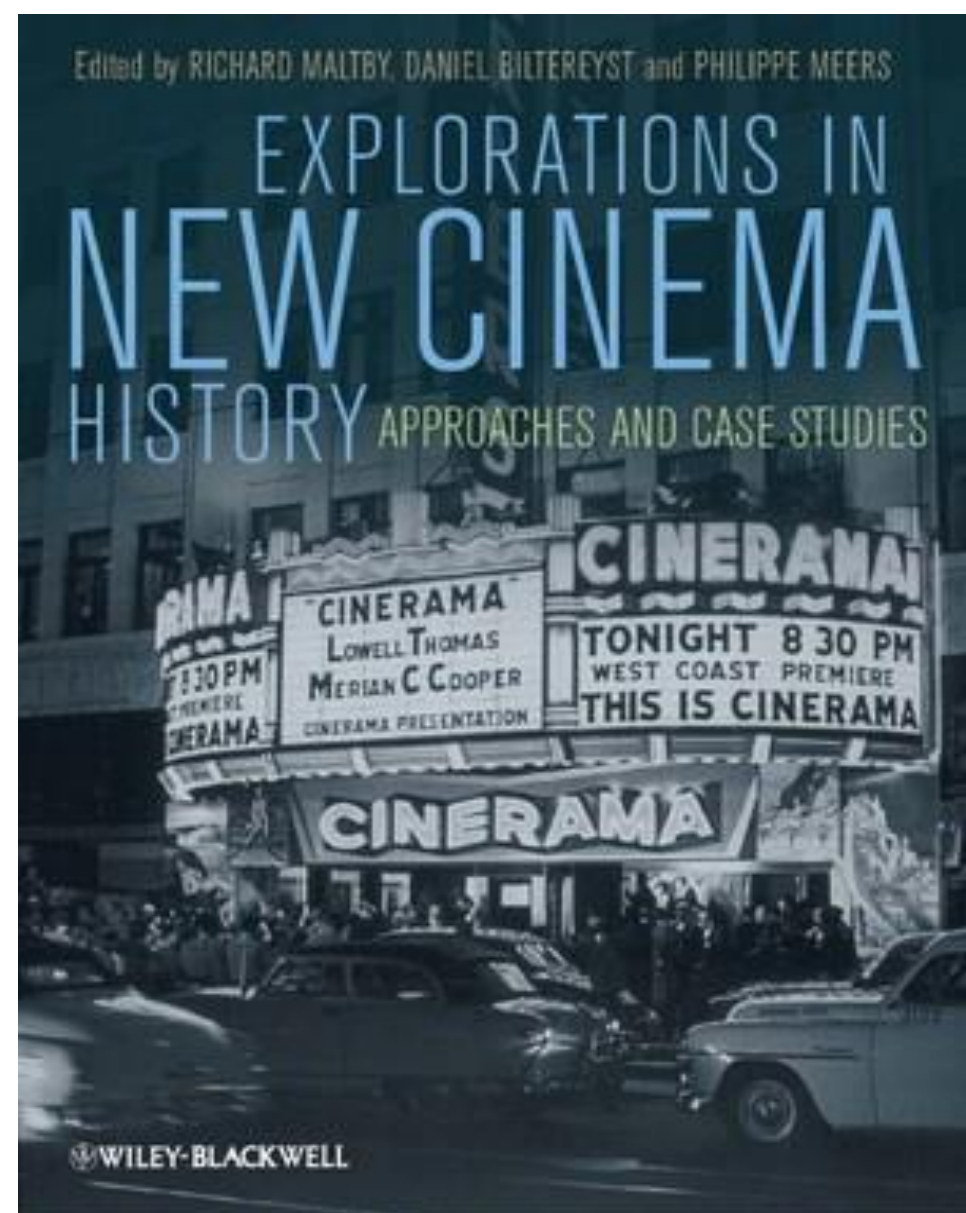
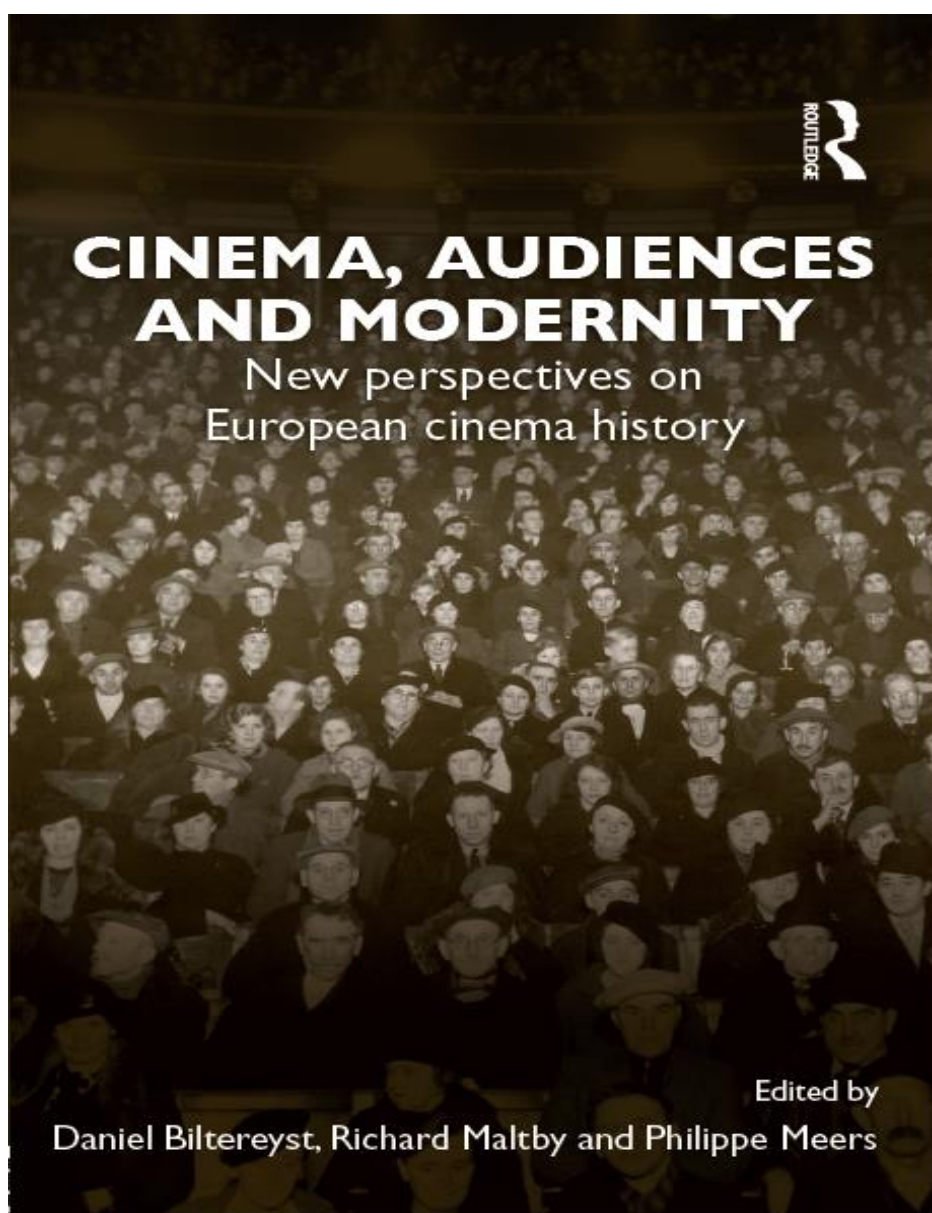
Film/Cinema *memories*



Film/Cinema

*imaginative dimension, the
'cinematic' in everyday life*







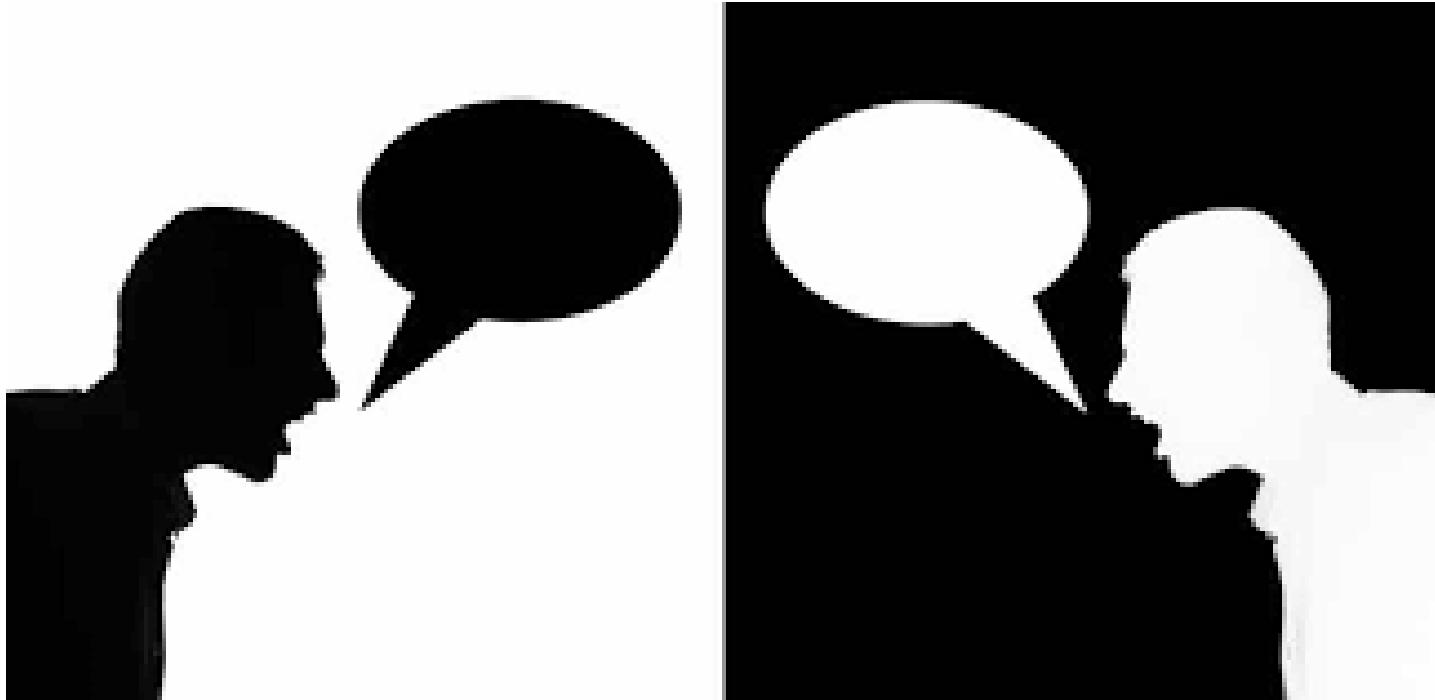
The Routledge Companion to New Cinema History



Edited by Daniël Biltereyst, Richard Maltby and Philippe Meers

2. What is (a) controversy?

Controversy/Consensus



Social problem

consensus ----- **controversy**

Arthur Jensen

Consensus and Controversy


Edited by
Sohan Modgil & Celia Modgil

 RoutledgeFalmer
Taylor & Francis Group

Anthony Giddens

Consensus and Controversy

Edited by Jon Clark,
Celia Modgil & Sohan Modgil

 The Falmer Press

Media & controversy

- Media & social problem:
 - detection,
 - definition,
 - debate/discussion,
 - stimulate action and outcome
- = platform and mediator of social debate

Solution social problem

Social problem



consensus



controversy

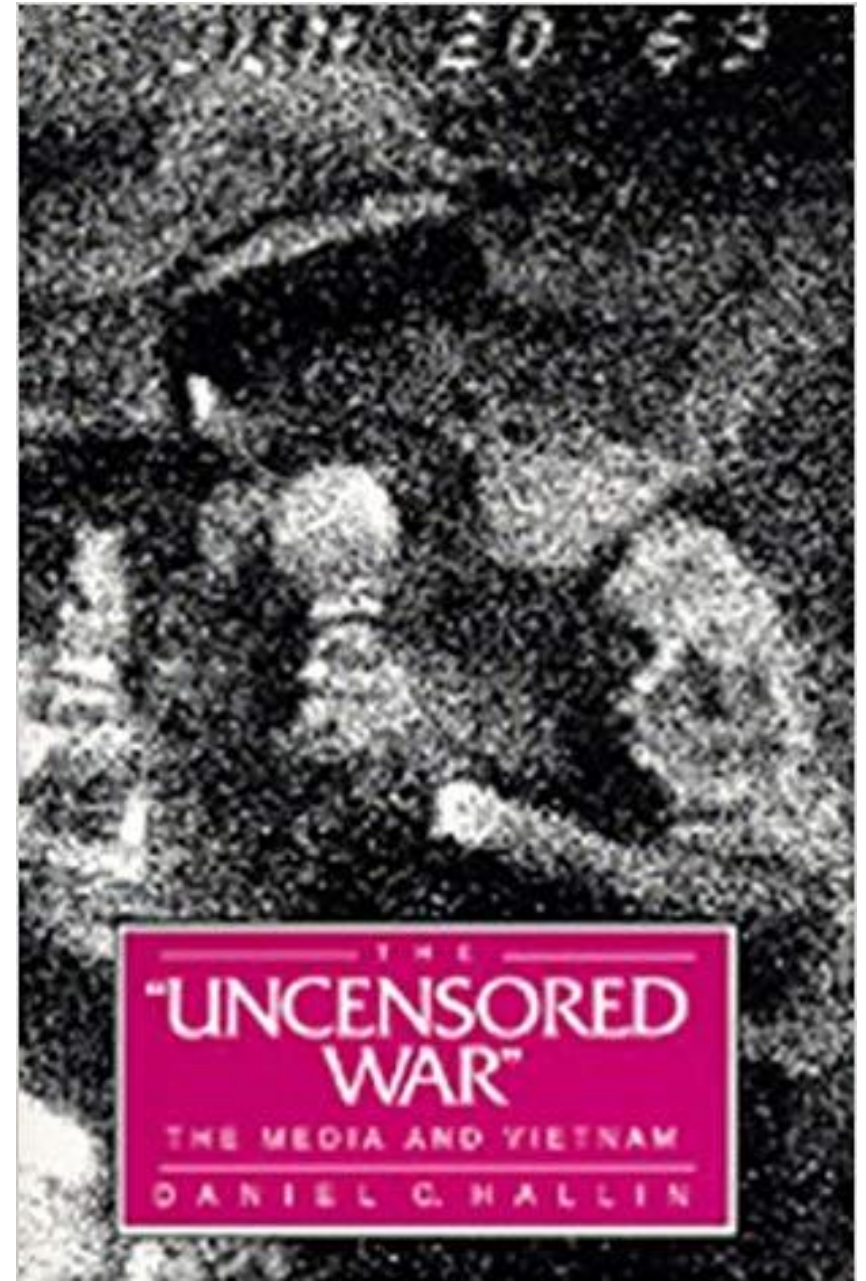
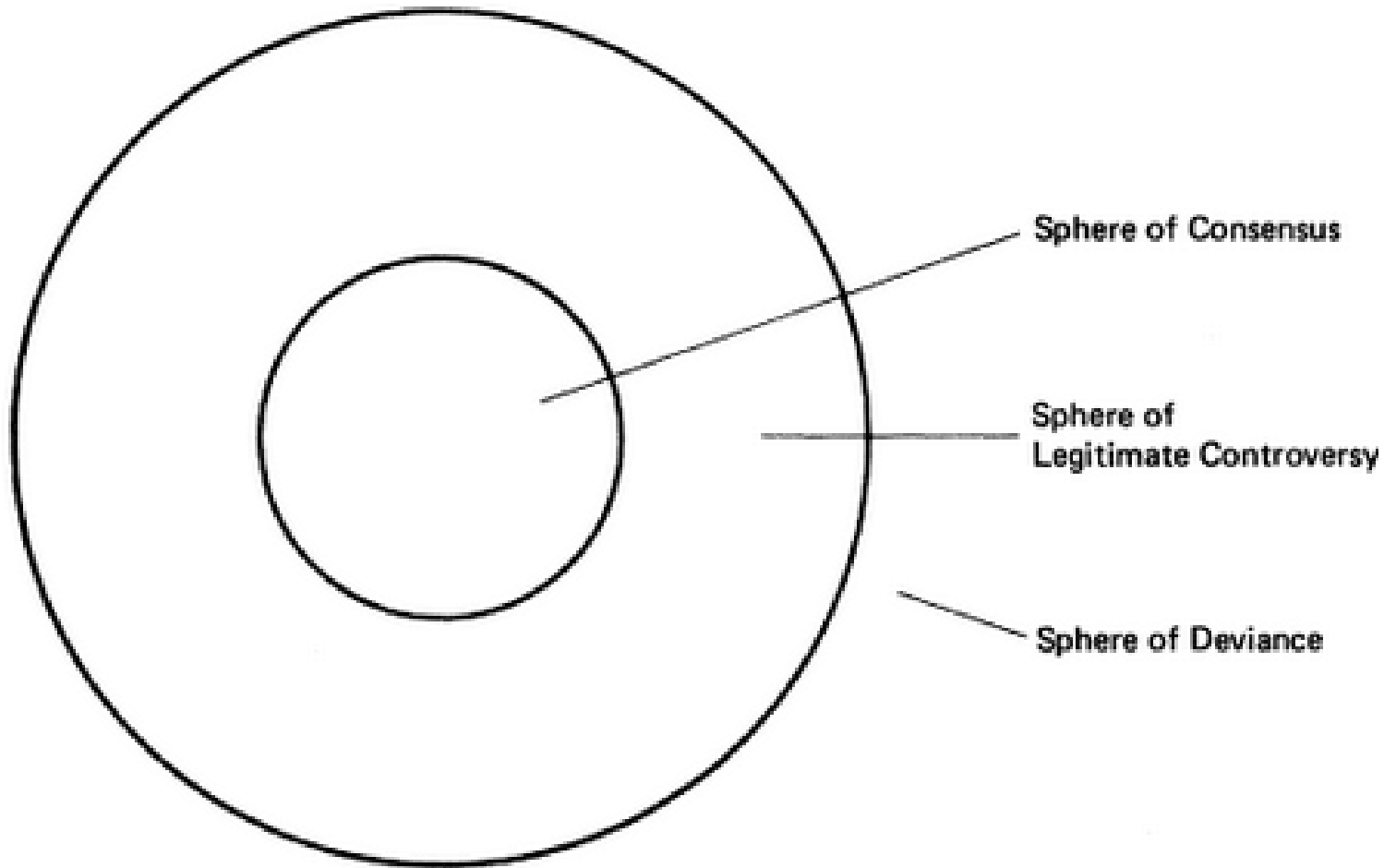
Liberal-pluralist position: *controversy is part of a rational consensus-seeking process for solving social problems in society*

Media & controversy

If journalism is good, it is controversial, by its nature.
Julian Assange



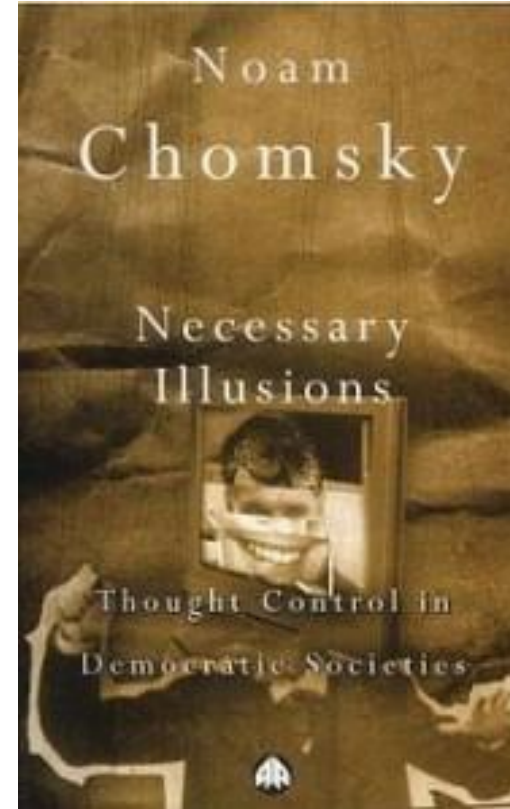
Media & controversy



Media & controversy: *Critical perspective*

*Controversy may rage as long as it adheres to the **presuppositions that define the consensus of elites**, and it should furthermore be encouraged within these bounds, thus helping to establish these doctrines as the very condition of thinkable thought while reinforcing the belief that freedom reigns.*

Noam Chomsky



Liberal-pluralist position: *controversy is part of a rational consensus-seeking process for solving social problems in society*

Critical position:

- *Controversy stays within elite consensus*
- *In a commercial environment media are **not interested in the social problem, but use controversy as a strategy to attract audience's attention***
- *Controversy is linked to deviant, dangerous, transgressive behavior and as a threat*
- *Coverage/framing of deviant events/groups:*
 - *Irrational*
 - *Highly emotionally charged*
 - *Morally polarized*
 - *Amplification*
 - *E.g. Media scandal*
 - *Moral panic*
 - *Media panic*

Scandal

J.B. Thompson:

“actions, events or circumstances which have the following characteristics:

- *“**transgression of certain values, norms or moral codes**”*
- *“an element of secrecy or concealment... by **individuals**”*
- *“some non-participants **disapprove** of the actions or events and may be offended by the transgression”*
- *“**disapproval** by publicly denouncing the actions or events”*
- *“disclosure and **condemnation** ... may damage the reputation of the individuals responsible”*

Political Scandal

POWER AND VISIBILITY IN THE MEDIA AGE



John B. Thompson

DAVID WALSH

OCTOBER 7 2018, 12:01AM, THE SUNDAY TIMES

Cristiano Ronaldo: notes on a scandal

DAVID WALSH, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

The world's richest footballer has embraced fame but rape claim has brought him global notoriety. With sponsors jittery, can he save his reputation?



Tn April last year the German weekly magazine Der Spiegel published a

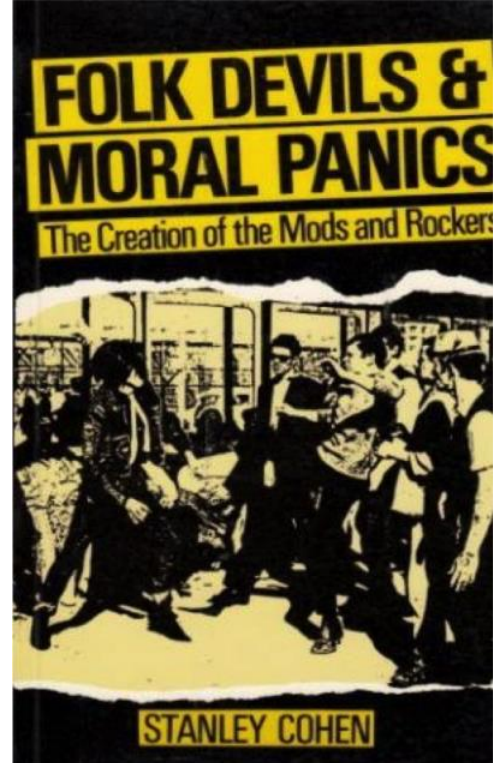
#MeToo: A timeline of 2018's sexual harassment scandals

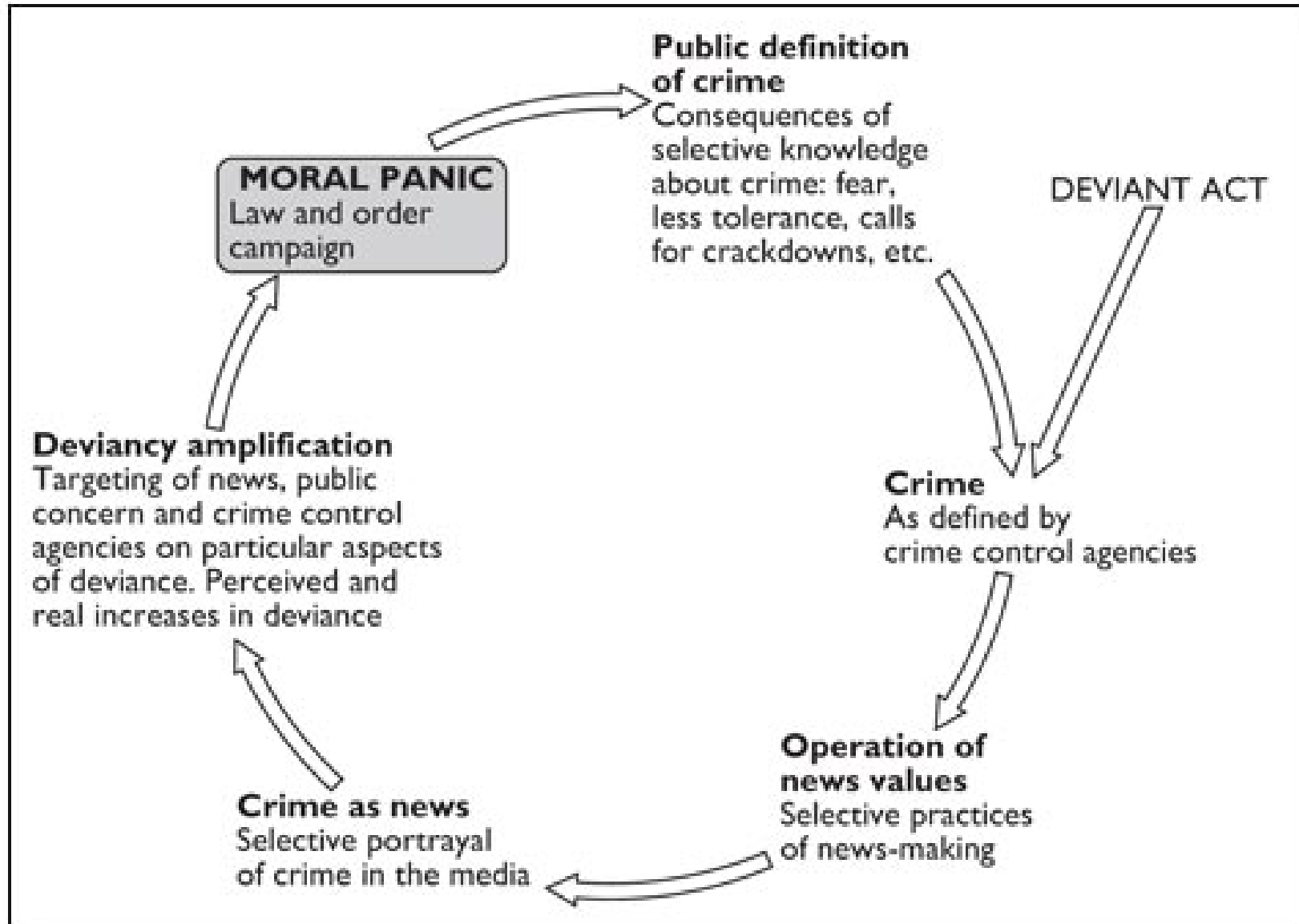


Moral panic

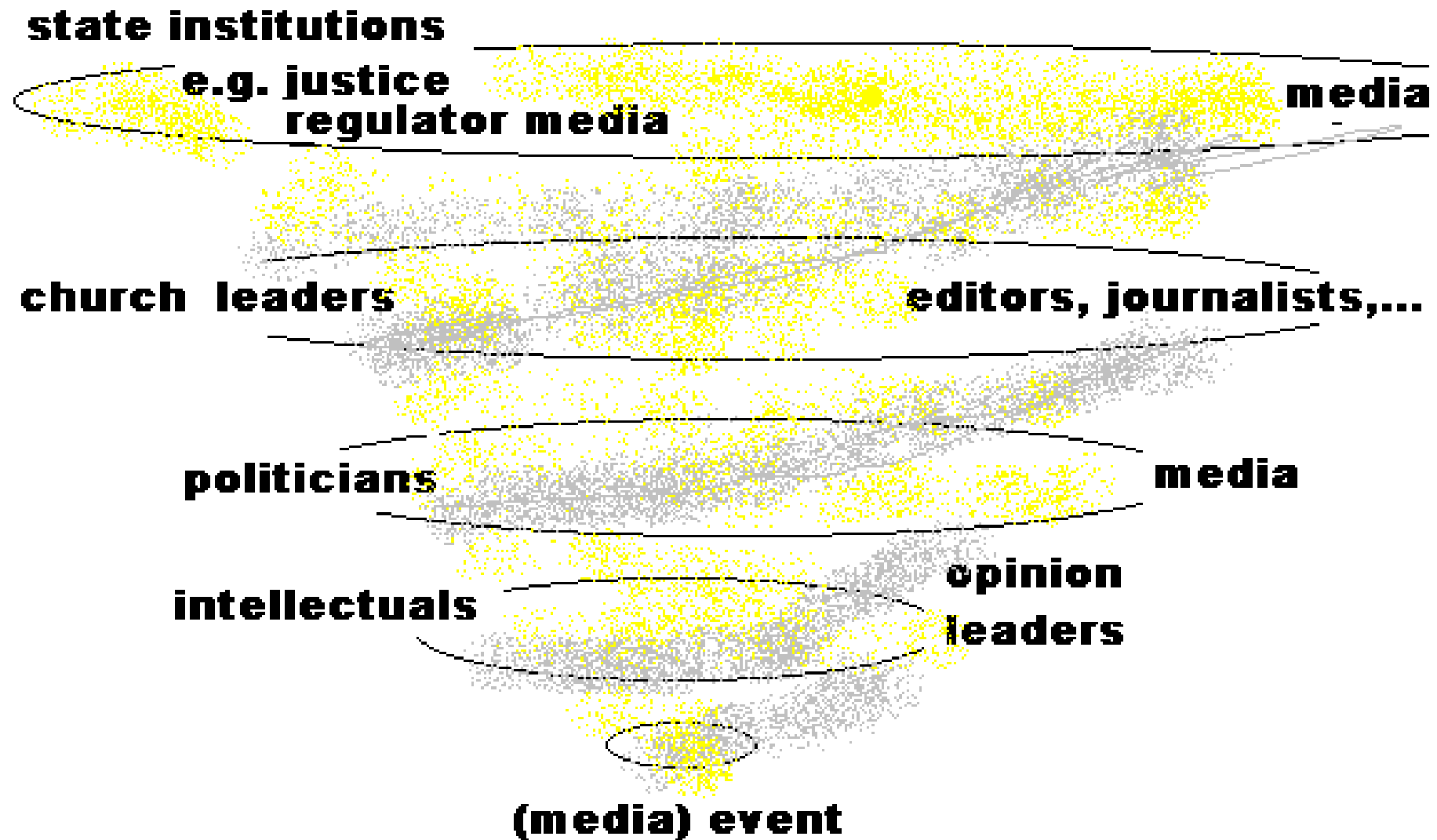
Stanley Cohen, *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* (1972)

“A *condition, episode, person or group of persons* emerges to become **defined as a threat to societal values and interests**; its nature is presented in a stylized and stereotypical fashion by the **mass media**; the **moral barricades** are manned by **editors, bishops, politicians and other right-thinking people**; socially accredited **experts** pronounce their **diagnoses and solutions**; ways of coping are evolved or (more often) resorted to; the condition then disappears, submerges or deteriorates and becomes more visible.”





Moral panic...



IVAN AT THE GATES! – ARMED CONFLICT AND THE MORAL PANIC IN POLAND

Marek Bodziany¹ and Paweł Kocouń²

¹*The General Kosciuszko University of Land Forces, Białystok*

²*University of Economics, Katowice*

Abstract. The authors describe the issue of moral panic in the conflict in Ukraine and the way it is reflected in the behavior, opinions and beliefs of the respondents. The notion is described through moral panic features, enumerated by Erich Goode and Nachman S. Guttman, and its relation to moral panic theory. The approach allows to data on people's reaction in the face of the potential threat that is probable. The authors ask what implications moral panic brings to a country neighboring the area of the conflict.

Keywords: conflict in Ukraine, hybrid war, moral panic, safety of Poland

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3176/tr.2018.2.03>

1. Introduction

At the very start of considering the notion of moral panic, one should ask the question of its sources and the reasons why Polish people starts

Published in *Discourse & Communication* (2018).

doi 10.1177/1750481318757772

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European spaces and the Roma: Denaturalizing the naturalized in online reader comments

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Abstract

With the entry of several Eastern European nations into the European Union (EU), a “third” space has developed in the discourse for nations as not fully integrated “inside” the EU system. This article investigates the construction of this “third space” in the resultant “moral panic” over the desired immigration from other EU countries and its potential drain on social services of the United Kingdom and links it to Euroskepticism in British media. The article uses construal operations from cognitive linguistics combined with critical discourse studies as a way of denaturalizing the discourse in online comments that focus on the Bulgarian/Romanian immigration issue which we then connect to anti-Roma discourse. The results reveal a view of the United Kingdom as contaminated by Roma and suggest the need for novel metaphors to be countered before they become entrenched and used as tools for political propaganda.

Keywords: Brexit, immigration, metaphor/metonymy, online comments, Roma, United Kingdom

Introduction

The construction of a European identity in the 21st century has been particularly complex given the recent entry of several Eastern European (i.e. former Communist) countries into the European Union. Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 and Croatia in 2013. This



Global Islamophobia Muslims and Moral Panic in the West

EDITED BY
George Morgan and Scott Poynting

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Media panic

*“In some cases, debate of a **new medium** brings about ... heated, emotional reactions: in that case we have to do with what may be defined as a media panic. It may be considered **a specification of the wider concept of moral panic**, and it has some basic characteristics: the media is both instigator and purveyor of the discussion; **the discussion is highly emotionally charged and morally polarised** (the medium is either "good" or "bad") with the **negative pole** being the most visible in most cases; the discussion is an adult discussion that primarily focuses on children and young; the proponents often have professional stakes in the subject under discussion as teachers, librarians, cultural critics or academic scholars.” (Kirsten Drotner)*

The Novel-Reading Panic in 18th-Century in England: An Outline of an Early Moral Media Panic

Ana Vogrinčič*

SUMMARY

The article explores the unfavourable reaction to the popularisation of novel-reading in 18th-century England in order to show that the outraged opposition to this leisure praxis could be understood in terms of the contemporary sociological concept – 'moral panic' – thereby revealing novel-reading as an early version of popular media culture. After outlining the cultural context of 18th-century England as well as the main characteristics of its novels, the paper discerns the anxieties, arising from the passion for fiction, and lays out the argumentation supporting the fear of reading as was advocated by the moral heralds of the time. The analysis reveals that the oppositional reaction to novel-reading indeed encompassed all the key constitutive elements of the proper moral panic phenomenon. Maintaining a dialogue between 18th-century and the present, the essay concludes by drawing analogies with contemporary reactions to television viewing, linking the worried response to the spread of novels with another related notion, the media panic, thus showing that what came to be seen as a feature of the modern (20th and 21st century) mass media culture has in fact a much longer history.

Ključne riječi: moral panic, novels, female readers, 18th-century England, media panic

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L'ENFANT ET LE CINÉMA

Enquête internationale concernant
la réglementation de la fréquenta-
tion des cinémas par les enfants.
- RESULTATS ET CONCLUSIONS -

BRUXELLES
1914

INDICE BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE :

371.52 : 77.853

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Rue de Fiennes, 61,
ANDERLECHT-
BRUXELLES.

Teaching Us to Fear

The Violent Video Game Moral Panic and the Politics of Game Research



PATRICK M. MARKEY AND CHRISTOPHER J. FERGUSON

In this excerpt from their new book, *Moral Combat: Why the War on Violent Video Games Is Wrong* (BenBella Books, 2017), the authors present an argument in defense of video games while dispelling the myth that such games lead to real-world violence. The authors define and examine moral panics and provide guidelines for identifying and understanding this phenomenon. They focus in particular on how the moral panic around video games has affected scientific research on games. **Key words:** gaming, moral panic, video game research; video games, video game violence;

Case: Reality TV/*Big Brother*

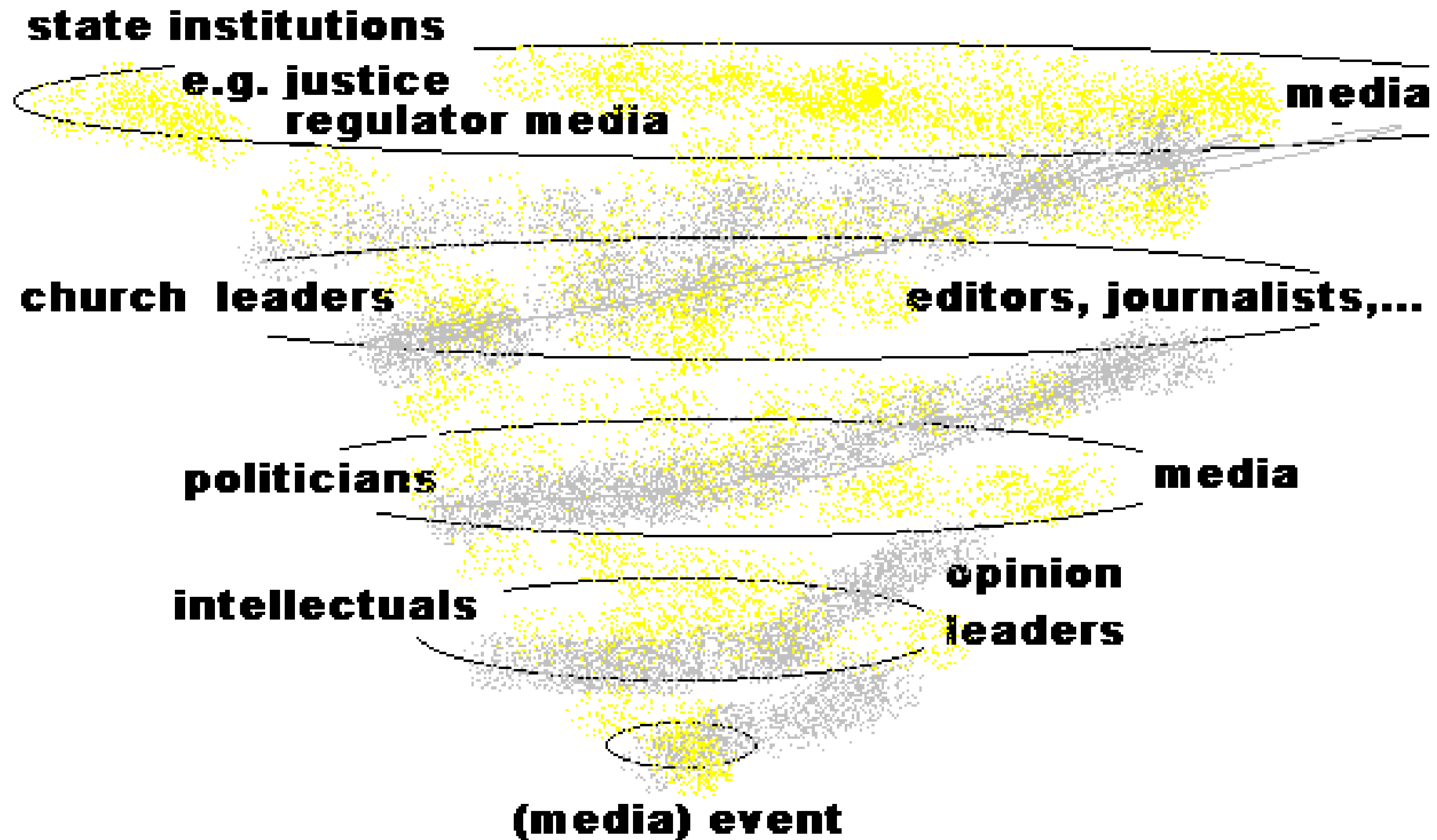


The logo for the television show "Big Brother" is centered on a white background. It consists of a blue, horizontally-oriented oval with a subtle grid pattern. Inside the oval, the word "Big" is written in a white, sans-serif font, positioned above the word "Brother". The word "Brother" is written in a larger, white, sans-serif font. The letter "o" in "Brother" is stylized as a camera lens, with a black circle in the center and two smaller white circles above it, representing the lens elements. The entire logo has a slight drop shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

Big
Brother



Moral panic...

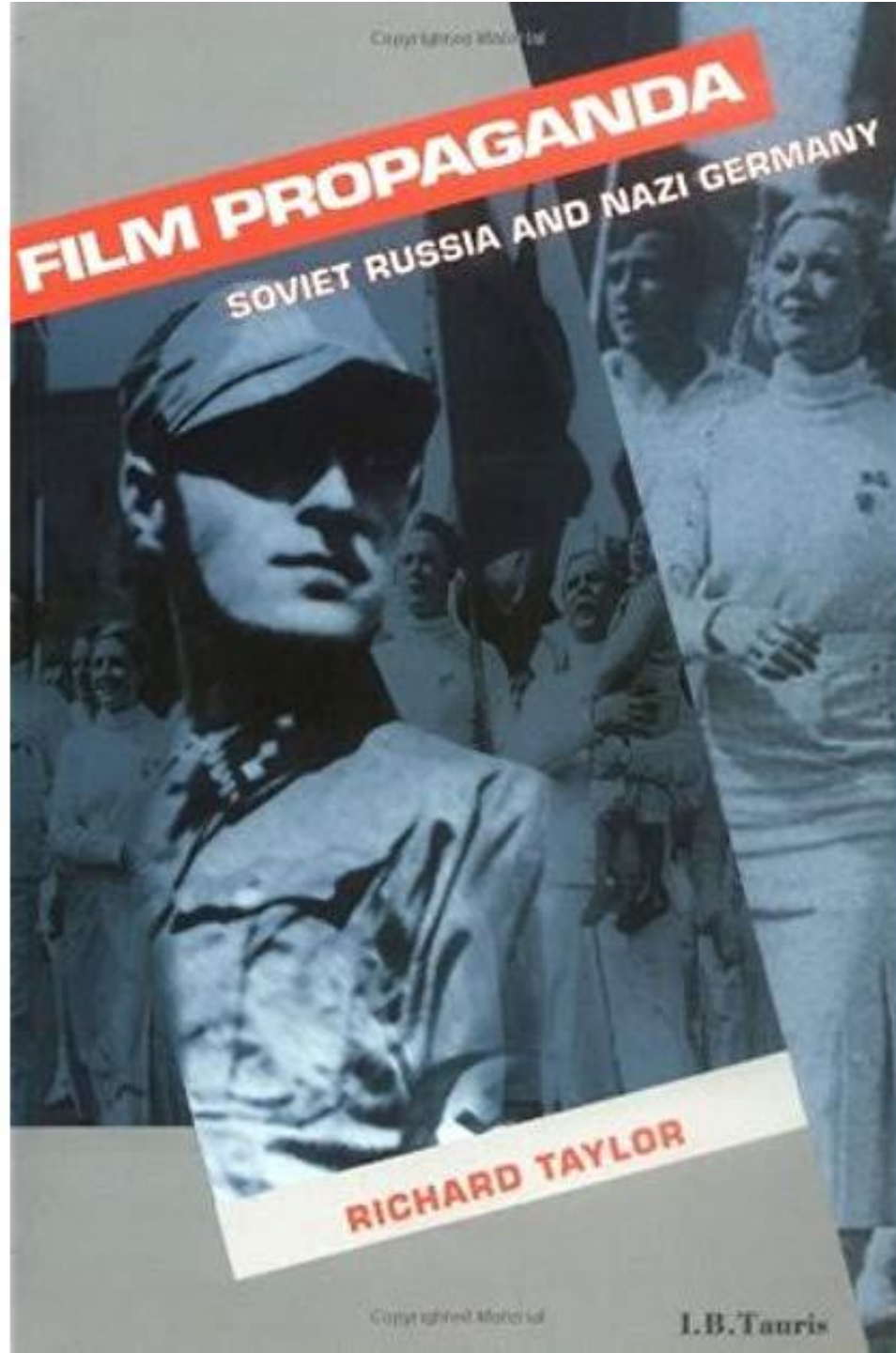


3. What is censorship?

Copyrighted Material

FILM PROPAGANDA

SOVIET RUSSIA AND NAZI GERMANY



RICHARD TAYLOR

Copyrighted Material

I.B.Tauris



Seated in the Beverly Boulevard projection room (circa 1957) are Production Code staff members Al Van Schmus and Harry Zehner (*front row*); Milton Hodenfield, PCA Director Geoff Shurlock, and Morris Murphy (*second row*); Eugene Dougherty, Jack Vizzard, and M.A.J. Healy (*back row*). Laura Greenhouse (*seated at the desk*) charted the number of kisses and killings, lawyers and doctors, bedroom scenes and mental diseases in the three features she screened each day.

Censorship I

- Regulatory intervention by political authorities (mostly the state and the church)
 - Pre-censorship, e.g. licensing, control of media material before ‘publication’
 - Post-censorship, e.g. hindering dissemination and reception after ‘publication’
- Censorship= concrete set of measures from an authority (cf. censorial institution/person) to hinder/control:
 - Production (e.g. ban, or change of content/form)
 - Distribution
 - Exhibition
 - Reception

TEXT 3 MULLER

Censorship: restricted vs. extended

REGULATORY CENSORSHIP

- Authority/sovereignty
- Censor – censored
- Power - subject
- Institutionalized
- Top down
- Repression
- Negative

CONSTITUTIVE CENSORSHIP

- Various powers
- Repression & resistance
- Non-institutionalized forces
- Top-down & Bottom-up
- Possibility of productivity
- Process of negotiation

Censorship Pyramid

<http://wikileaks.org/Transcript-Meeting-Assange-Schmidt>





Mon 12 Nov 10:20

Belgian blow-job scene too hot for Netflix

The movie 'Girl' is a hit in Belgium, but also in the US. The film will soon be distributed via Netflix, but in a special cleaned up cut suitable for the more prudish US market.

Producer Dirk Impens is keen to stress that only two, maybe three and at most four scenes, will have to be changed to suit American sensitivities. Talks on what exactly will have to be changed are underway with Netflix. Some here have called this American censorship! It is believed a scene involving a blow job or oral sex and a second scene in which actor Victor Polster appears nude are most at issue.





Culture > TV & Radio > News

Netflix removes chromosome explanation of sexes from Bill Nye the Science Guy

It seemed to stand at odds with his new Netflix show

Christopher Hooton | @christophhooton | Thursday 4 May 2017 09:09 | 27 comments





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Barefaced cheek: Rubens nudes fall foul of Facebook censors

Flanders tourist board chides firm for removing ads featuring the Flemish master's works

Is

2,434

sted



▲ As not seen on Facebook: Detail from *Leda and the Swan*, by Peter Paul Rubens. Photograph: National Gallery, London

Rubens nudes have entranced those visiting the world's great art galleries for some 400 years. Contemporaries on whom the Flemish master is said to have had a profound impact include Van Dyck and Rembrandt ... but none of this has passed muster with Facebook's censors.

In a move that has prompted a semi-playful complaint to the company's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, it has taken down a series of promotions on social media for the Belgian region of Flanders because they feature works by the artist famous for his Baroque paintings of voluptuous women

Advertisement

An advertisement for a Breitling Premier watch. The watch is the central focus, shown against a black background. It has a silver-tone case, a white dial with two sub-dials, and a black leather strap. Above the watch, the Breitling logo (a stylized 'B') is displayed in gold, followed by the text 'BREITLING 1884' in white. Below the watch, a yellow button contains the text 'DISCOVER PREMIER'. At the bottom, the text 'BREITLING BOUTIQUE PARIS & PRAGUE' is written in white.

'It's ridiculous. It's Picasso': Facebook reviewing anti-nudity policy after blocking Montreal museum ad



Montreal's fine arts museum complained after Facebook blocked ads featuring cubist nude paintings

CBC News - Posted: Aug 02, 2018 2:12 PM ET | Last Updated: August 2



Facebook initially objected to an ad for the exhibit From Africa to the Americas: Face-to-Face Picasso, Past and Present, which runs to Sept. 16 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. (Matt D'amours/CBC)

[154 comments](#)

Social media giant Facebook is reviewing its nudity policy after the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts complained the site kept blocking its ads for a Picasso exhibit.

The museum initially used an image of the artist's 1956 painting *Femmes à la toilette* — a cubist work that features two naked women — to advertise an ongoing show called From Africa to the Americas: Face-to-Face Picasso, Past and Present.

- [Leaked Facebook documents show types of content it allows, says report](#)

But when the museum tried to circulate the ad on Facebook, it was rejected because of the site's anti-nudity policy.

"It was funny for us, you know, like unbelievable," Pascale Chassé, a museum spokesperson, told CBC Montreal's *Daybreak*.



is Open
nal[Turkey Blocks YouTube and, Briefly, Twitter Over Hostage Photo](#)ROME JOURNAL
[Hollywood Takes a Roman Holiday ... Again](#)['Lumière! Inventing Cinema' in Paris Celebrates the Birth of Movies](#)

Celebrating John F. Burns, War Reporter and Witness to Era-Defining Events



Between Big Cities, a Road Passes the Russia Left Behind

WORLD
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EUROPE

Turkey Blocks YouTube and, Briefly, Twitter Over Hostage Photo

By TIM ARANGO APRIL 6, 2015

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ISTANBUL — As a hostage crisis at the central courthouse gripped this city last week, a photograph coursing through social media conveyed the situation more concisely than any words: a beret-wearing militant, face obscured by a red scarf, holding a gun to the head of a well-known prosecutor.

After an [evening raid](#) by Turkish special forces ended with gunfire, leaving two militants and the hostage dead, the debate that ensued was not over the wisdom of the raid but over the publication of the photograph.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called the outlets that circulated the photograph “tools of terrorist propaganda.” The day after the crisis, reporters representing Turkish newspapers that had published the photograph were barred from covering the prosecutor’s funeral in Istanbul.

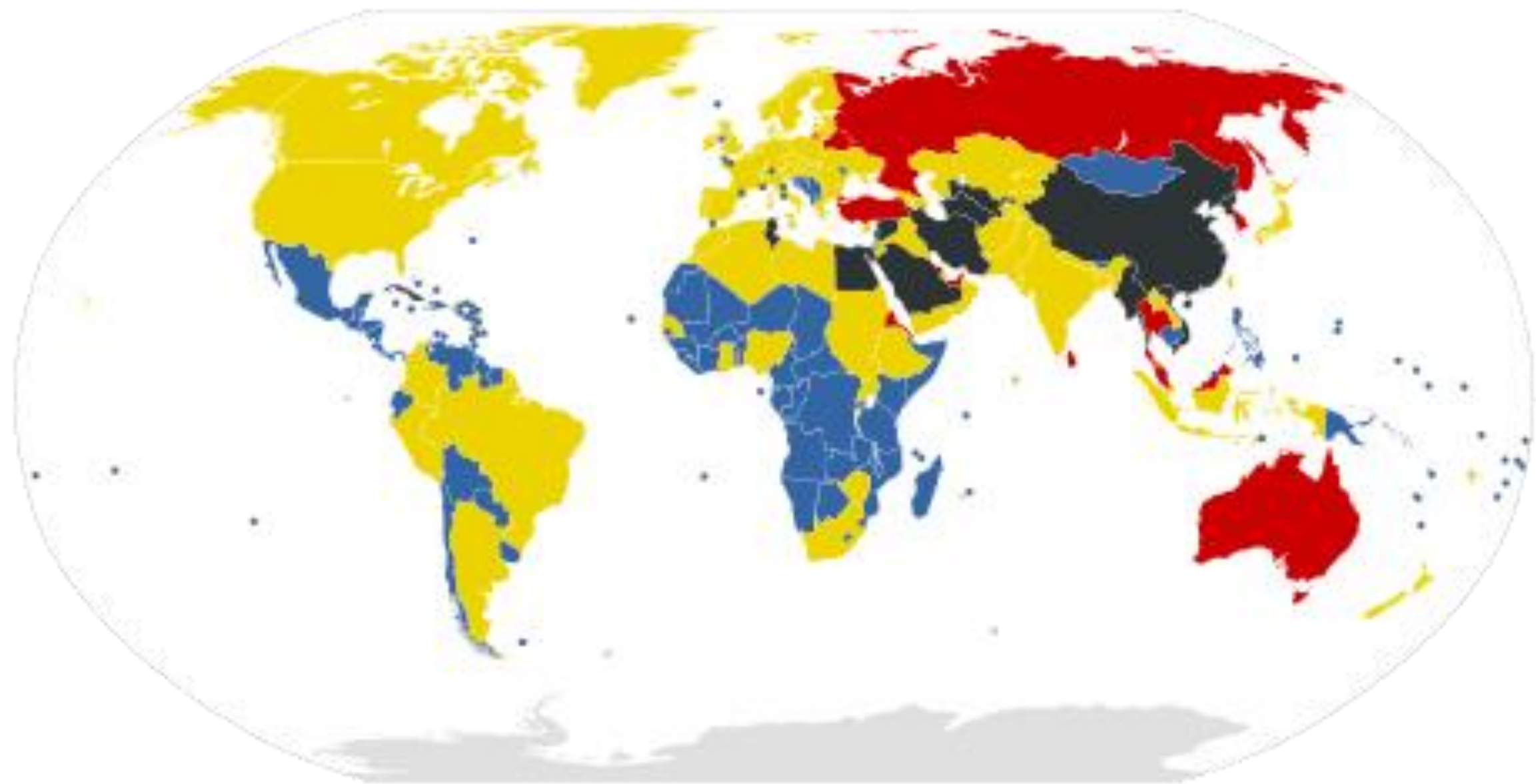
On Monday, the Turkish authorities went further: An Istanbul court issued a ruling blocking Twitter and YouTube, which the semiofficial Anadolu



The funeral for the prosecutor Mehmet Selim Kiraz was off limits for Turkish newspapers that ran a photo of him in captivity. Sedat Suna/European Pressphoto Agency

ENROLL NOW







MEDIA

The Most Important Scene Is Missing From The James Foley Beheading Video... Why Did ISIS Censor Itself?

By DNA on September 2, 2014

4127
SHARES



SHARE



TWEET



SHARE



SHARE

22 COMMENTS



ADVERTISEMENT



Final thoughts

Controversy / Censorship

- Similarities:
 - Multifaceted concepts
 - Boundaries of social values: what can be shown, what not?
 - Transgression
 - Shifts, changes over time & place
 - Continuity
- Difference
 - Controversy: towards and over the boundaries?
 - Censorship: restricting the boundaries?



3 Minutes Intermission
While Changing Pictures

