



ANTI-MUSLIM HATE AND BRITAIN'S RACIAL ORDER: POLITICAL RELATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES

DR MEGAN MCELHONE

SENIOR LECTURER IN CRIMINOLOGY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MONASH UNIVERSITY

MEGAN.MCELHONE@MONASH.EDU

Image [via Rolling Stone](#)

Context & aims

- My contribution will centre around Islamophobia or anti-Muslim hate, and its co-constitution with essentialist accounts of white working-class racism
- Following Patel & Tyrer (2011), I want to consider:
 - + Hate as a political relation
 - + Its *affective* dimensions
- These questions have conceptual significance beyond the immediate case study:
 - + '[H]ate and its responses reveal the racialised boundaries underwritten by the rationalities of government, as they structure the moral and political limits of the social' (Patel and Tyrer 2011, p.33).

Patel & Tyrer's (2011) key contentions

- We should not subscribe to state-centric definitions of hate, e.g. in hate crime laws, policing and prosecutorial practices
- We must remain attentive to:
 - + Struggles over power and subjectification
 - + The radically intersubjective nature of hate
 - + Anti-essentialism in the construction of identities
 - + The political and processes of politicisation

The suturing of state & subjects via the affective

- '[R]acisms are steeped in the lingua franca of affect and emotion' (Patel & Tyrer 2011, p.36)
 - + Islamophobia is a good example of this
- Other scholars have also pointed out that hate and irrationality are central to racist acts and practices (see, e.g. Wolfe 2016)
- As such, racism is central to – not marginal to – the political and the social
- E.g., in consideration of Islamophobia:
 - + 9/11 & the Global War on Terror
 - + 7/7
 - + Official discourses questioning multiculturalism
 - + The production of suspect communities through domestic policing (Pantazis & Pemberton 2009)
 - + Prevent (Kundnani 2009)
 - + CSE post-Rotherham (Cockbain & Tufail 2020)
- Hate can function to link the state, state institutions, and subjects in racialised governance projects

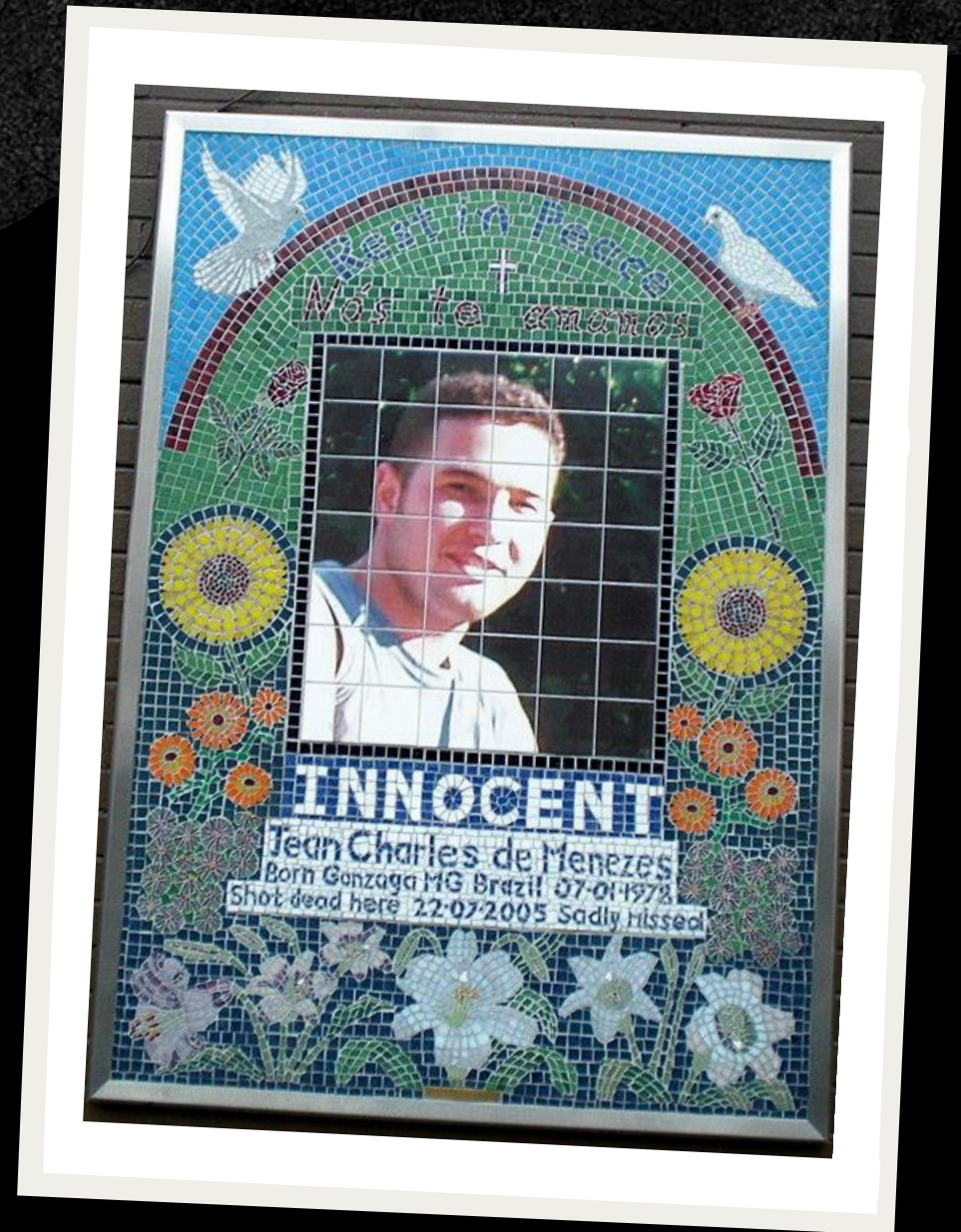


Image [via Wikipedia](#)

Neoliberal (racial) capitalism

- In neoliberal capitalist societies, technologies of power can be concealed and sustained by treating racisms as marginal, aberrational, and matters of individual recalcitrance
- Hate's affective dimensions here are tilted towards antagonism cultivated by political and social elite
- 'In today's politics of hate, sections of the post-industrial sub-proletariat are deviantised as a way of recuperating a pure sense of liberal whiteness at the centre one unencumbered with the question taint of racism' (Patel & Tyrer 2011, p.44)

What we did last summer (& since)

Seated a lot of Reform UK candidates

Spontaneous riots in 27 cities across the country

Huge number of arrests: as of 30 August 2024, 1,280 people had been arrested for their involvement; 796 people charged (Downs 2024)

Brought more than 500 people before the courts (Downs 2024)

Planned to open up 567 temporary prison places (Downs 2024)

Leading the PM to announce the creation of a National Violent Disorder Programme which will consider how to more widely deploy facial recognition technology

Home Secretary pledged to deport 14,500 'illegal' immigrants

