

**‘Crises of capitalism and the management of dissent’ comparing the way protest was/is represented in the 1930s and the present day**

**(with Peter Golding and Karen Williamson)**

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This paper examines the ways in which opposition to and dissent from governmental attempts to handle economic crisis are ideologically managed in the news media. Its immediate focus is the crisis in international capitalism in the last five years and, in particular, the reporting of and public discourse about popular reaction to austerity in the UK. We present empirical analysis of this news reporting. This research is set in context by comparison with the reporting of the reaction to austerity and financial crisis in the 1930s. In particular attention is given to the ideological framing in the media and in popular memory of the Jarrow ‘Crusade’ of 1936, which has its 75th anniversary in 2011, and which has sometimes been portrayed as the establishment’s “pet protest”, and to that of the earlier ‘hunger marches’ in the same decade. Their legacy in popular mythology and authoritative rhetoric explain much about how recent reporting of popular dissent manages the boundaries between the acceptable and the intolerable. The paper addresses the wider issues illuminated by these cases of the suppression of dissent. If the media are carriers of effective, if not dominant ideology, to what extent do they mute by labelling as illicit, opposition to palpable inequalities and inequity through a tacit acclaim for the ‘free market’? The paper argues that the parallels of the 1930s and the recent crisis are more than just suggestive, but exemplify the systematic ideological management of dissent.