



The Search for Justice in a Media Age

Reading Stephen Lawrence and Louise Woodward
Siobhan Holohan, Keele University, UK



January 2005
182 pages
978-0-7546-4380-7
Includes 3 b&w illustrations

234 x 156 mm
Hardback
£60.00

What can we learn from the legal cases of Stephen Lawrence and Louise Woodward?

How do the legal system and the media contribute to a collective understanding of class, nation, race and gender?

In this book, Siobhan Holohan explores media representations of law and order in the context of notions of multi-culturalism and victim-centred politics. Two high profile cases - the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the US trial of the British au-pair, Louise Woodward - are examined. Holohan argues that the stories built up around Woodward and Lawrence - the organization of public discourse around a sacrificial figure - have contributed to exclusionary patterns of social order.

The book offers a perceptive account of what makes some criminal legal cases prone to scrutiny and spectacle and provides a vivid illustration of the presence of power relations in legal decisions. In conclusion, the author draws on the model of the Macpherson report to propose a more inclusive form of social and legal judgement that takes into account social inequalities.

Contents

Introduction: society, regulation and representation; Gender and Power: The family as moral centre of social organization; Symbolic transformations; The scapegoat mechanism; Reading Racism: Ethnic subjectivity and identity reformation; The violence of discourse; Criminal justice and society; Conclusion: toward an ethic of representation; Bibliography; Index.

About the Author

Dr Siobhan Holohan is at Keele University, UK

www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754643807

ASHGATE

To order this book please visit www.ashgate.com, or email orders@ashgate.com
A 10% discount applies to orders placed through www.ashgate.com