Organizational constraints
A certain level of public opinion that agrees that there is a real threat that is caused by the group

News values held by media organizations

Convergence
Reference to elite narratives – The group may react to the over policing and protest in a deviant way, more arrests occur, therefore fulfilling the initial threshold – Increased public concern over the behaviour of a certain group/incident.

Jusifying laws that repress and police the problem groups
Follow up articles label them as a problem group (folk devils). The media gives certain characteristics for the public to be attracted

Buckingham (1996)

Overall, the presentation of the news by TV appears to convey objective truth.

The logics of collecting news may bias what news is gathered, this can be shown in different ways:
The collection of news itself as well as its presentation might be then biased before it is even reported

High tech studios where the news is presented shows the scientific lengths the broadcaster has gone to in order to become news

Media owners too are engaged in competition and the picture they present of moral panics and deviance amplification seems to be very structural.
The interacivist approach, the picture he presents of moral panics and deviance amplification seems to be very structural.

American investors who own TV stations in other countries so they can report the stories.

The bigger the size of the event, the more likely it will be nationally reported. Eg. Paris bombings had 24 hr coverage.

News values

The Marist Hall Journal has agreed that news is supportive of capitalist interests because those in powerful positions have in fact used the media to give them their positions.
The same journalists have also said that the media are used to give them their positions.

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Media is used to communicate important messages and to give the public a sense of what is going on.

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Most news outlets will attempt to balance the reporting of events. Eg. If there is an excess of gloomy events that are easy to grasp are more likely to be reported than those which are open to more than one interpretation. The more richly researched the story is, the more likely it is to be reported.

News values – Spencer (2000) notes that news values – assumptions about what makes an event newsworthy, are guidelines or criteria that determine its ‘newsworthiness.’ This may differ between Channel 4 and BBC News values are important as they will determine the success or failure of the news.

Cultural and geographical context
The size and the nature of the event.

Moral Panics
What is it?
Media reactions to particular social groups or particular activities which are defined as threatening societal values and consequently create anxiety among the general population.

Cohen’s study of Mods and Rockers in the 60s – Folk Devils and Moral Panics

Stan Cohen wanted to research the social reaction to the Mods vs Rockers in 1964. In his book, he noted the front pages (old and new, tele, riot, g ciągu). However, Cohen could find very little evidence for the clash of the gangs.

More recent examples of media reporting of moral panics

Cohen argued that there were 3 distinct elements in the media reporting of events:

A greater awareness of the problems of the young.

The bigger the size of the event, the more likely it will be nationally reported. Eg. Paris bombings had 24 hr coverage.

The social background of the journalists who are usually white, middle class.

The size and the nature of the event.

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