Threatening Behaviour & Online Social Media

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Lecture on "Young People, Place and Identity"

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Outline

- Introduction
- Context
- Project
- Next steps
- Summary

Introduction

- 2nd Year ESRC PhD Student
- Irish Masculinities in NE England
- Intergenerational Relations
- Place, Age and Identity

Context

- Scottish Government and ESRC Internship Scheme
- Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

The Act

"It criminalises the communication of threats of serious violence and threats intended to incite religious hatred, whether sent through the post or posted on the internet. The Bill will only criminalise behaviour likely to lead to public disorder which expresses or incites hatred, is threatening or is otherwise offensive to a reasonable person"
(Scottish Government, 2012, Online).

Project

From "Sectarianism and Offensive Behaviour in Scotland"...

to

..."Threatening Behaviour and Online Social Media"

Literature Review

McMenemy, D. & Poulter, A. (2005): "An Identity of Two Halves? Glasgow Celtic Supporters, Identity and Scottish Society". <u>Irish Studies Review,</u> 13(2): 139-150

McMenemy, D., Poulter, A. & O'Loan, S. (2005) "A Roboust Methodology for Investigating Old Firm Related Sectarianism Online." <u>International Journal of Web Based Communities,</u> 1(1): 488-503

Research Implications

- **Design and Coordinate National Level Education Initiatives**
- **Promote Digital Citizenship as a National Priority**
- **Learn from Online Expertise from Wider Offensive Behaviour Initiatives**

1. Education Initiatives

"netiquette –

or rules of courtesy in an
electronic environment"

(Pauwels, 2006, 366)

2. Digital Citizenship

"Promote digital citizenship in education as a national priority, promote instruction in digital media literacy and computer security in education nationwide and create a digital literacy corps for schools and communities nationwide"
(de Zwart et al, 2011, 88).

3. Borrow Expertise

"The lessons of the experience are several. The most obvious is that social networks are simply tools: when used for activities of which we approve – like riot cleanup, or the Arab sprin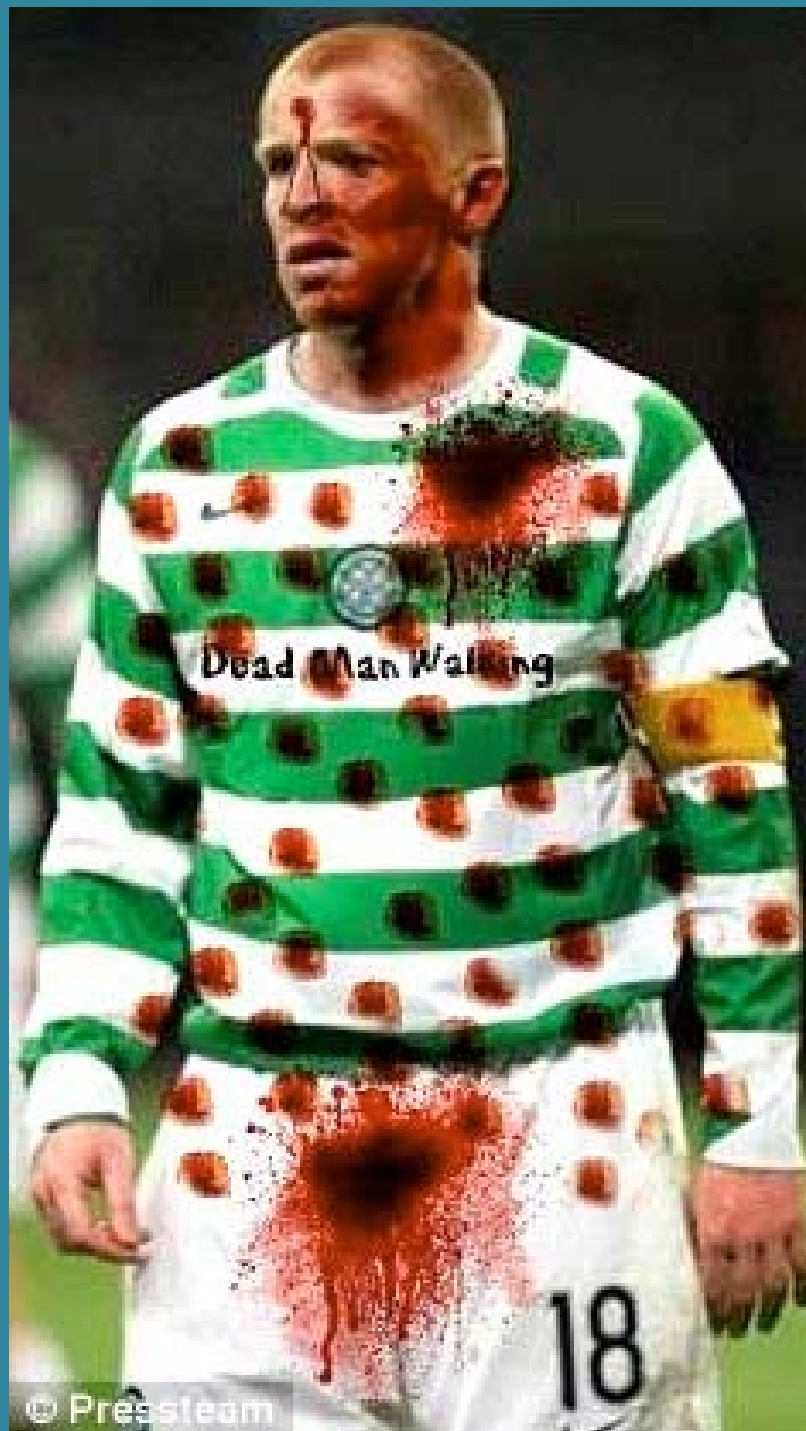g – their power seems unambiguously positive. When used for other causes, it is portrayed as sinister. There's no way to embrace the immense good such tools can use without learning to live with, and mitigate, their downsides"
(Ball, 2011, Online).

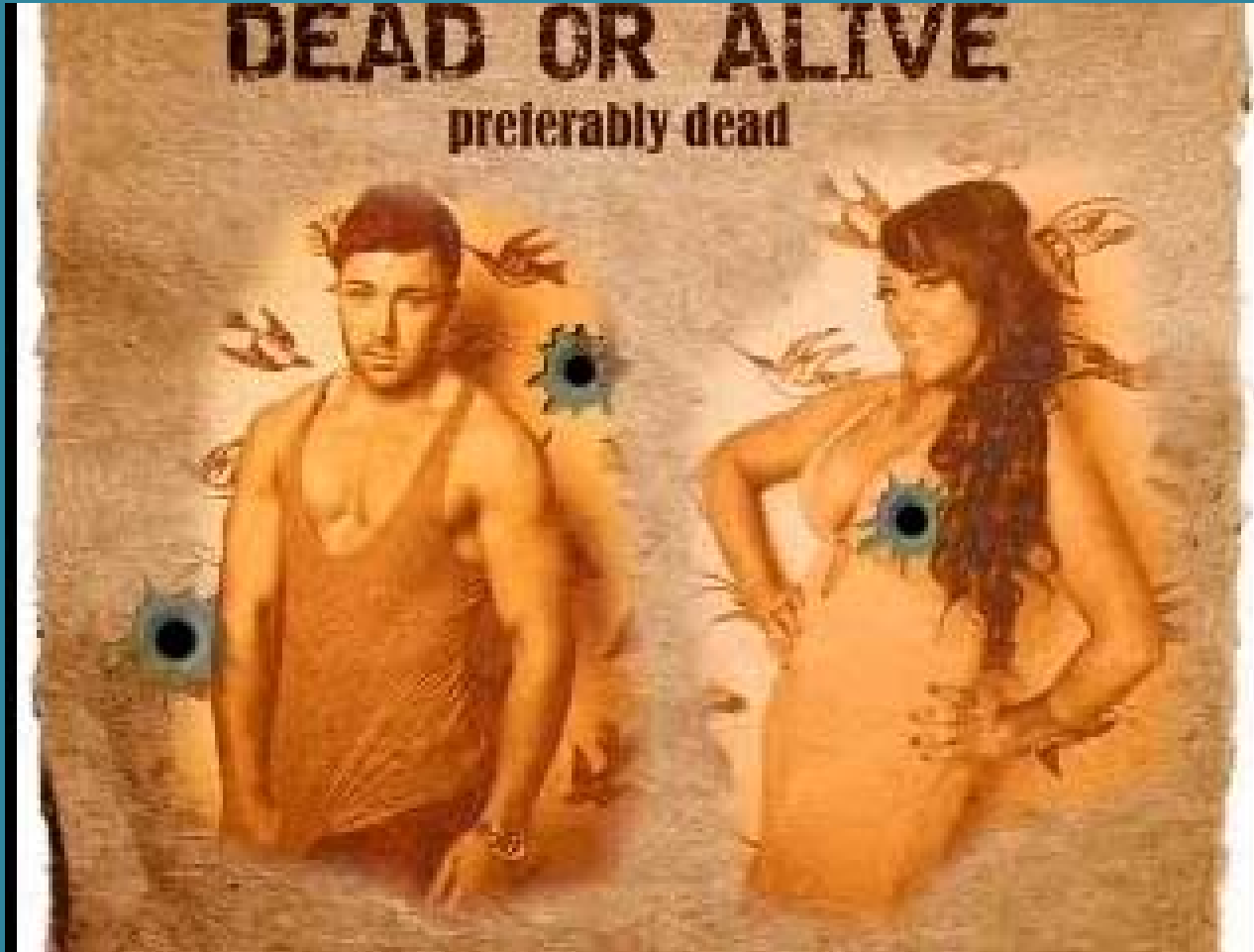"One of the basic tenets of criminology holds that crime can be explained by three factors: motivation, opportunity, and the absence of a capable guardian. This explanation can apply to an individual incident as well as to long term trends. Derived initially to explain conventional 'street' crime, it is equally applicable to crime in cyberspace"

(Reyns *et al*, 2011, 1151 citing Grabosky, 2001)

Reading The Riots

Next Steps

- Tailored Educational Activities
- Legal Literacy Education
- Intergenerational Approach
- Self-Regulation
- Robust Challenge
- Pedagogical Implications

Summary

- **Research Implications**
  - Education
  - Digital Citizenship
  - Borrow expertise

- **Next Steps**
  - Education
  - Family
  - Challenge
  - Methods

Thank You

Any Questions?

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