

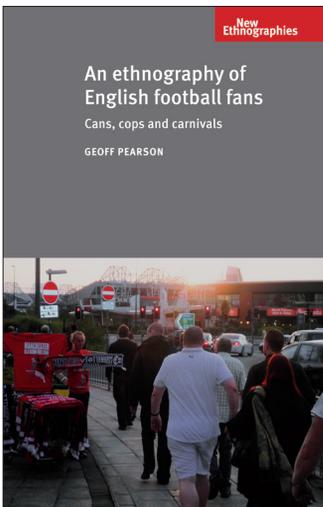
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New Ethnographies

An ethnography of English football fans

Cans, cops and carnivals

Geoff Pearson



Geoff Pearson is Lecturer in Law at the University of Liverpool's Management School

New Ethnographies
234x156mm 272pp
HB 9780719087219 £65.00- £32.50

This is an ethnographic account of English football fans who travel home and away following their team, based upon sixteen years' participant observation. The author identifies a distinct sub-culture of supporter – the 'carnival fan' – who dominated the travelling support of the three teams observed - Manchester United, Blackpool and the England National Team. This accessible account follows these groups home and abroad, describing their interpretations, motivations and behaviour and challenging a number of the myths about 'hooliganism' and crowd control.

An Ethnography of English Football Fans identifies the primary motivation of these fan groups to be the creation of a carnival – a period of transgression from the norms of everyday life based upon congregating in groups, alcohol consumption, humour and tomfoolery, and expressions of identity. In achieving these aims, the fan groups were frequently brought into conflict with the football authorities, police and 'hooligan' groups and this account includes explanations of some of the most serious instances of crowd disorder involving English fans in the last two decades. The book also looks at issues such as attitudes to gender, sexuality and race, and the impact of technology upon football fandom.

The text will be of value to anyone studying,

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researching or interested in the behaviour of football fans, or ethnographic modes of enquiry more generally. It will be of particular value to those in the academic disciplines of policing, criminal justice, sociology, criminology, sports studies or research methods and to practitioners involved in the policing and management of sports crowds.

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