

ELDERCIDE: HOW TO BE VICTIMISED TWICE

In England and Wales, women aged over 65 years are statistically more likely to be murdered than men. Despite the demographic profiles of the victims and the nature of the murders recurrently aligning with Christie's (1986) conceptualization of an 'ideal victim', the findings of my study reveal that newspaper coverage of unsolved female eldercide cases is scant.

Aims

To explore the extent to which female 'eldercide' has been reported by the media in England and Wales

Method

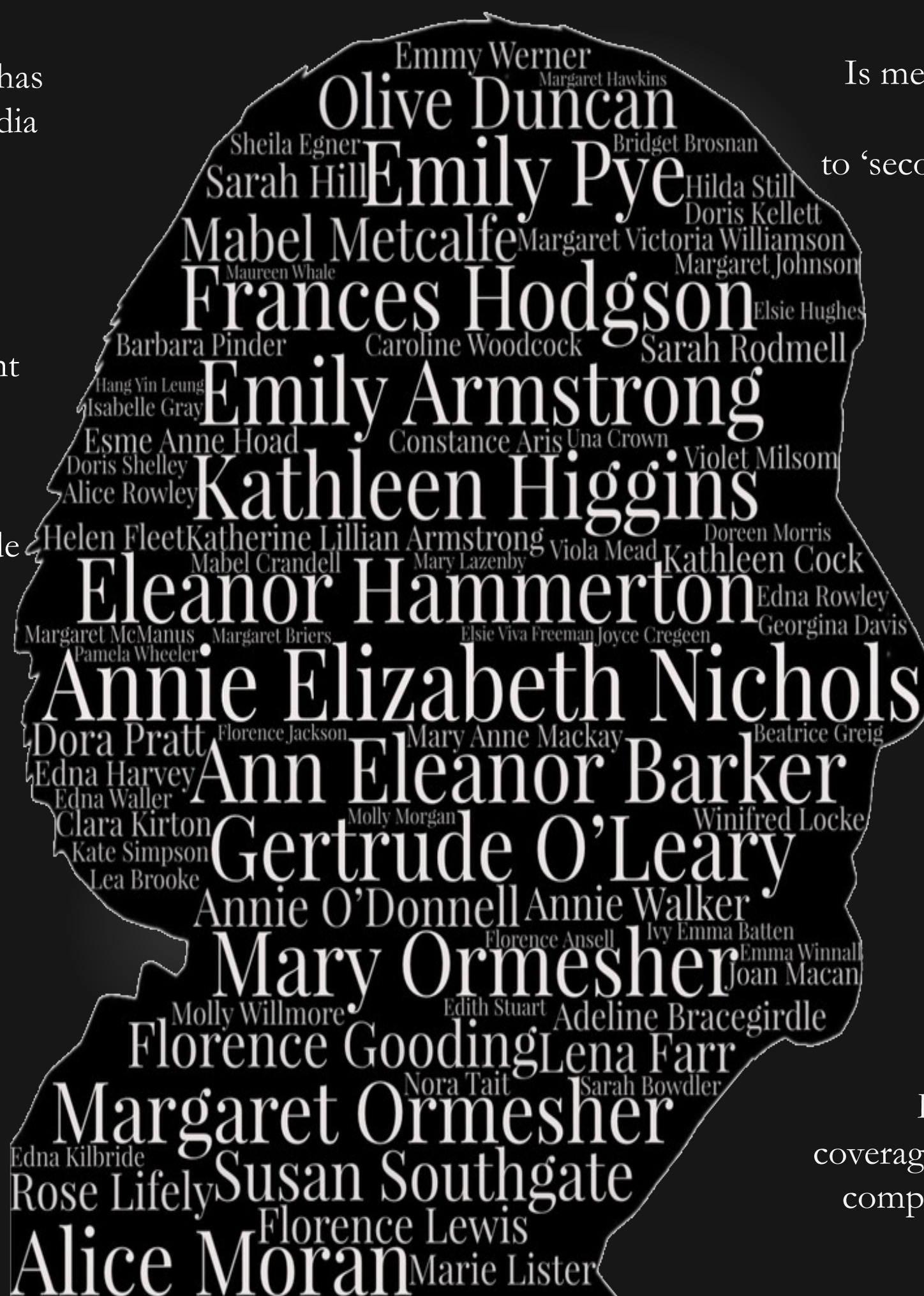
A comprehensive content analysis of newspaper headlines published in relation to 78 cases of unsolved female eldercide in England and Wales (1945 – 2018)

Key Findings

25% of cases received no newspaper coverage

72% of headlines did not include the victim's name

The language used to describe the victims centred around their age, marital status and child-bearing status



Reflections

Is media neglect of female eldercide tantamount to 'secondary victimisation'?

Does lack of media coverage reflect the societal value placed on older women?

Is there a relationship between media coverage of female eldercide and the solving of cases?

How does newspaper coverage of female eldercide compare with that of male eldercide?