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Reporting Murder: Rethinking News Media Criminology

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This paper discusses ongoing research into the reporting of murder in the British press. The paper begins by briefly setting out the theoretical, methodological and empirical focus for what we term a, 'news media criminology'. Of particular significance are the reformulation of traditional research questions to adequately account for crime reporting in the information age, a wider theorisation of the 24-7 global news media sphere, a focus on the ethnographic and the visual, and a preference for in depth case studies over generalisation. After establishing what a news media criminology research agenda might look like, we seek to illustrate how it can be applied to the challenge of interrogating contemporary crime reporting. This is achieved through analysing press coverage of a recent UK murder case.