

Blue Lives Matter Online: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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Recent shootings of unarmed minority citizens by police have prompted a variety of political responses. The 'Black Lives Matter' movement is perhaps the best known of activist responses, urging reforms that would reduce such violence and hold the police accountable for it. In response, some police officers have assembled under the name of 'Blue Lives Matter' – a reference to police lives. This study explores what they say and how they say it, using the critical discourse analysis. The objective of this study is to explore the discursive construction of police, policing and those who are policed, by the 'Blue Lives Matter' Facebook community. A critical discourse analysis of the postings on the 'Blue Lives Matter' Facebook page from two time periods from 2014 to 2016 will be conducted. An active program within critical discourse analysis examines the reproduction of racism; my work follows that tradition in the context of policing.