Bigotry, Football and Scotland brings together a range of contributors to offer up-to-date analyses and accounts of Scottish football and its relationship to what is often referred to more broadly and ambiguously as ‘sectarianism’.

At a time when the Scottish Government has implemented the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act (2012), with mixed reception, this inter-disciplinary collection seeks to question, critique and inform common assertions about the relationship between football and ethno-religious bigotry in 21st Century Scotland. Few politicians or commentators provide definitions of sectarianism or demonstrate knowledge of its subtleties, relying solely instead on their public opposition to it. Yet, failure to elaborate on a working definition or its associated subtleties risks fuelling mistrust and misunderstanding amid a vacuum of ignorance. This collection attempts to offer historically and contextually based accounts of football and bigotry in Scotland whilst differentiating religious, political and ethnic factors from the overarching pejorative term ‘sectarian’. It also begins to consider the views of football supporters themselves, who are too often overlooked as exclusively victims or perpetrators requiring protecting or ‘policing’. Therefore some chapters are informed by empirical work with football fans and two chapters are written by fans themselves, providing a voice from each of the two biggest clubs most commonly associated with ‘sectarianism’. We hope the collection offers stimulating arguments and enables future discussion, clarity and ultimately unity among the various stakeholders with an interest in football and Scottish society.

John Flint & John Kelly

‘A very welcome contribution to our national understanding’

– Lord Jack McConnell of Glenscorrodale

---

Bigotry, Football and Scotland, Edited by John Flint and John Kelly


TO REQUEST A REVIEW COPY OR TO INTERVIEW THE EDITORS, PLEASE CONTACT

Catriona Murray, Edinburgh University Press, 22 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LF
marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk 0131 650 4218

ABOUT THE EDITORS

John Flint is Professor of Town and Regional Planning and Head of Department in the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Sheffield.

John Kelly is a sociologist who lectures in Sports Management in the Moray House School of Education at the University of Edinburgh.

---