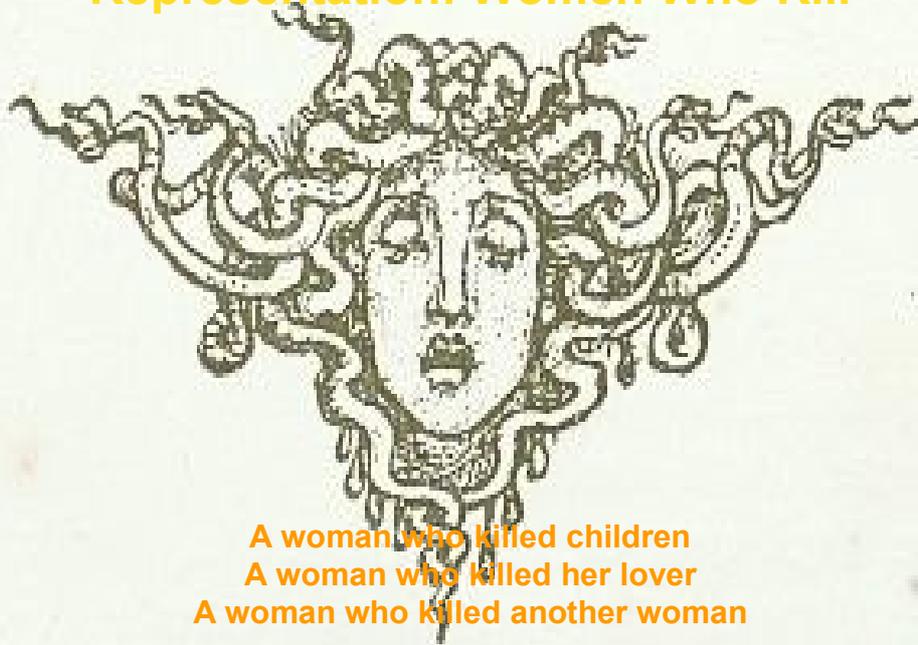


Syllabus

		Lecture
wk 1	Mon 7 Oct	Introduction
wk 2	Mon 14 Oct	Narrative
wk 3	Mon 21 Oct	Genre
wk 4	Mon 28 Oct	Representation
wk 5	Mon 4 Nov	Intertextuality
wk 6	Mon 11 Nov	Transmediality
wk 7	Mon 18 Nov	Conclusions

Representation: Women Who Kill



A woman who killed children
A woman who killed her lover
A woman who killed another woman

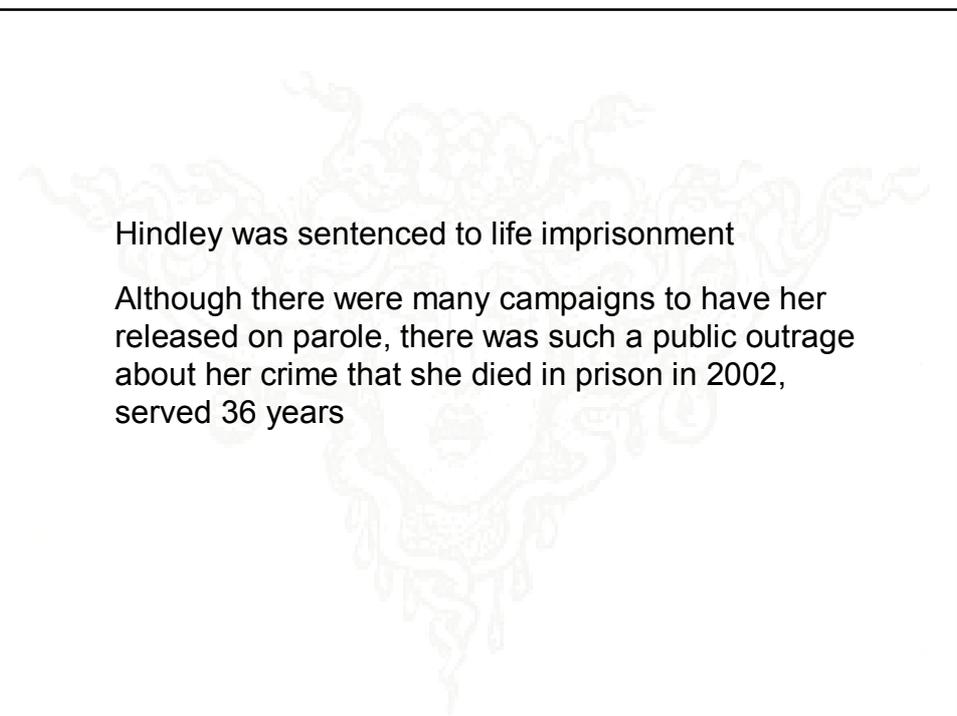


Who is this?

Myra Hindley

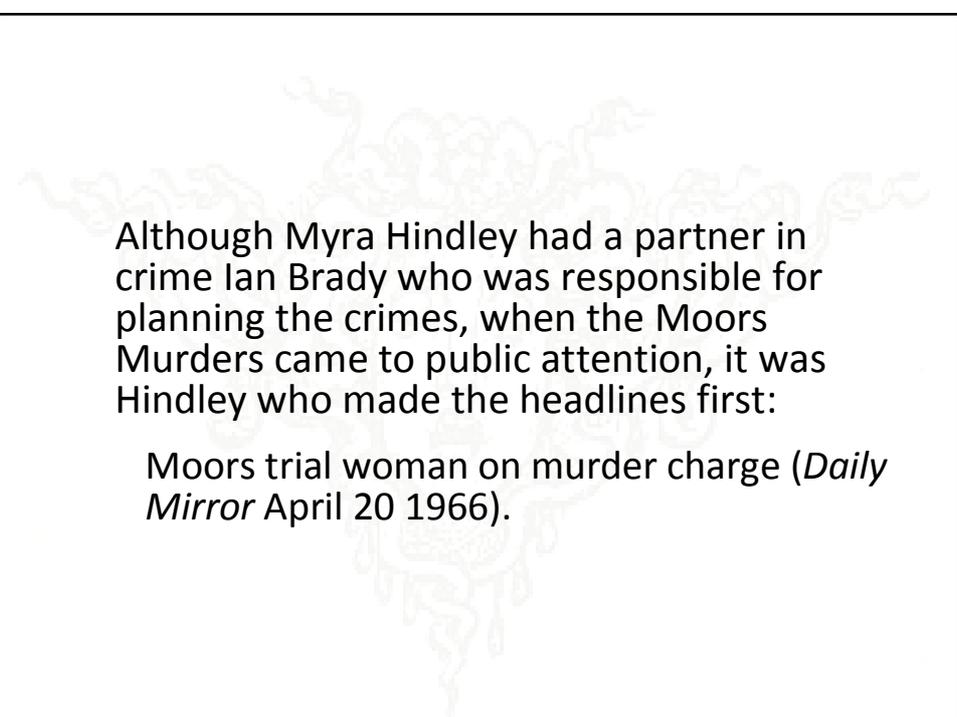
In 1966, Myra Hindley was convicted of the murder of two children and being an accomplice in a third murder. She and her partner, Ian Brady, tortured their victims before murdering them and then buried the bodies on the Moors, near Manchester.





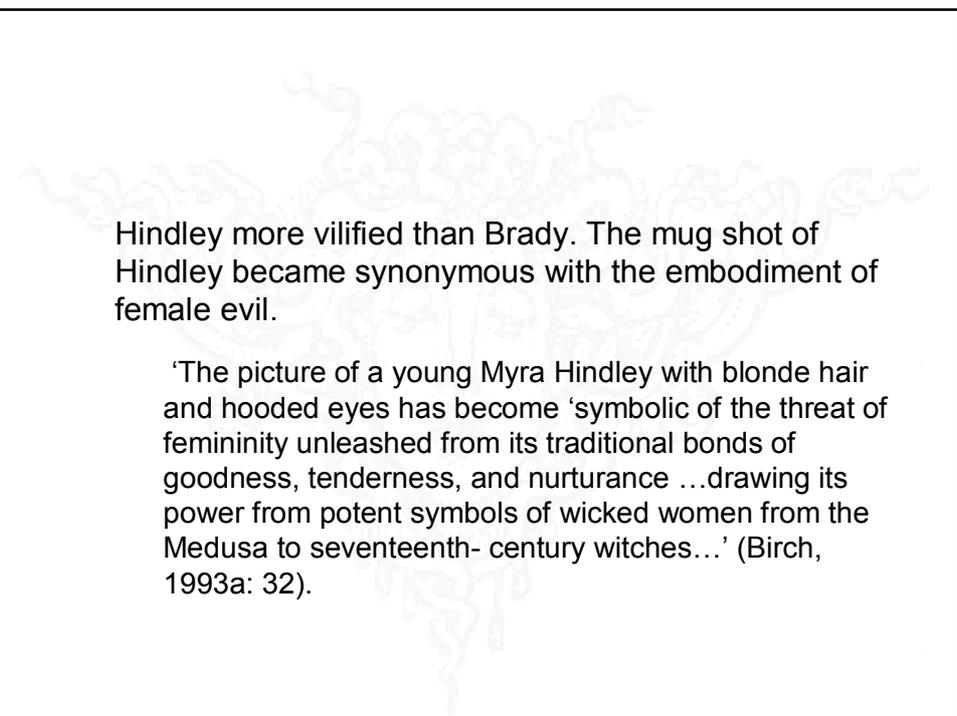
Hindley was sentenced to life imprisonment

Although there were many campaigns to have her released on parole, there was such a public outrage about her crime that she died in prison in 2002, served 36 years



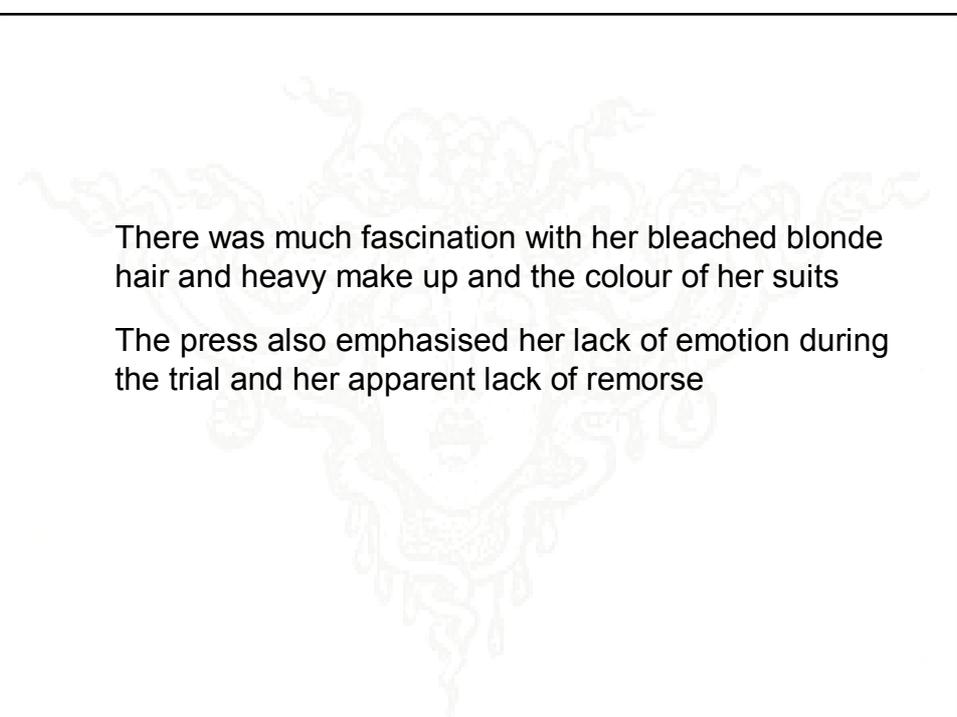
Although Myra Hindley had a partner in crime Ian Brady who was responsible for planning the crimes, when the Moors Murders came to public attention, it was Hindley who made the headlines first:

Moors trial woman on murder charge (*Daily Mirror* April 20 1966).



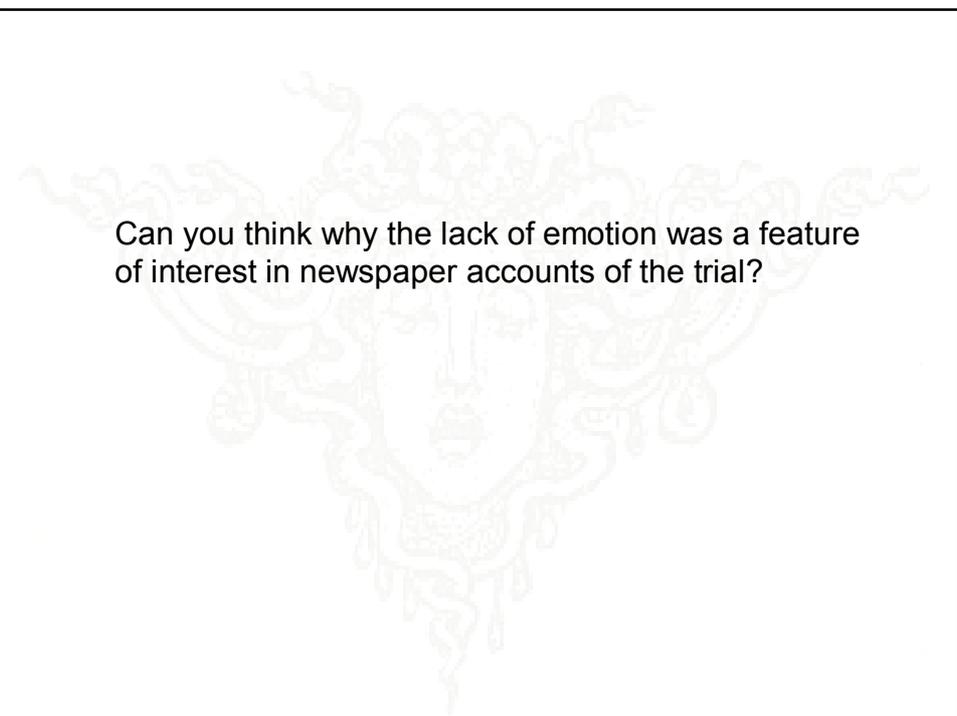
Hindley more vilified than Brady. The mug shot of Hindley became synonymous with the embodiment of female evil.

‘The picture of a young Myra Hindley with blonde hair and hooded eyes has become ‘symbolic of the threat of femininity unleashed from its traditional bonds of goodness, tenderness, and nurturance ...drawing its power from potent symbols of wicked women from the Medusa to seventeenth- century witches...’ (Birch, 1993a: 32).

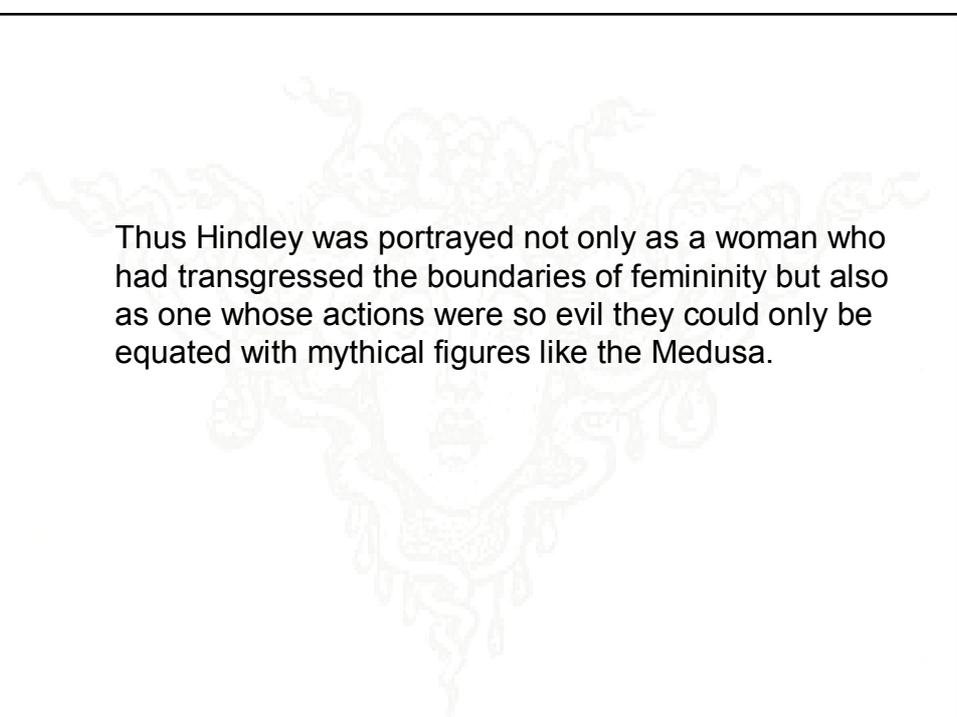


There was much fascination with her bleached blonde hair and heavy make up and the colour of her suits

The press also emphasised her lack of emotion during the trial and her apparent lack of remorse



Can you think why the lack of emotion was a feature of interest in newspaper accounts of the trial?



Thus Hindley was portrayed not only as a woman who had transgressed the boundaries of femininity but also as one whose actions were so evil they could only be equated with mythical figures like the Medusa.

Medusa

Medusa was a monster, a Gorgon, generally described as having the face of a hideous human female with living venomous snakes in place of hair. Gazing directly upon her would turn onlookers to stone.





Whilst Brady was seen as a dangerous psychopath, Hindley was portrayed as a complicated and threatening individual: a mixture of feminine dependence (she did it for her man) and of gross inhumanity

Notably the death penalty was abolished whilst Hindley and Brady were awaiting trial, prompting 42,000 to sign a petition to have it restored.

Seminar Task 1

Identify the similarities in the representations of Myra Hindley and Ruth Ellis

Media reports widely criticised Hindley and Ellis for being unemotional during the trials. Discuss why the lack of emotion was a feature of interest in newspaper accounts of the trial?

Ruth Ellis was subject to emotional and physical violence from David Blakely but was condemned to hang for his murder. Discuss how normative views of femininity and ideology may have led to this conclusion

Seminar Task 2

Analyse the representation of Beth Gallagher and Alexandra Forrest in Fatal Attraction. What stereotypes of femininity and crime are evident in the representation of both women

Using knowledge from the lecture notes identify the typologies used in portraying them

The following clip analyses the hidden ideology in Fatal Attraction
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3xkNDx3IZI>

Highlight any other interesting points from the clip

Lunch Task

1. Select a certain group of women from one of these: women as victims of crime, women as perpetrators of crime, mothers who kill their children or battered women who kill their partners/husbands. Look at different representations of this topic/phenomenon in magazines, film, TV, newspapers, literature. Films you can consider looking at may include but are not limited to:

- ✦ Dance with a stranger <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0088987/>
- ✦ Fatal Attraction <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0093010/>
- ✦ 'The hand that rocks the cradle' <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0104389/>
- ✦ TV -The rape of Anna Bates in Downton Abbey series four
- ✦ The archive at <http://www.ukpressonline.co.uk> may be used to get news stories as well as Lexis Nexis or just google
- ✦ Stories of mothers who kill may include the deaths of Baby P, Daniel Pelka and Khyra Ishaq

2. Note patterns in these representations in terms of stereotyping or essentializing categories noting how class, race, sexuality etc may further affect the representation of the women in question.

3. Note value assumptions in terms of who has power, who solves problems, how problems are solved.



Group Tutorials 28 OCT

	ETG22	ET135
1.30	Group 4	Group 9
1.45	Group 5	Group 10
2pm	Group 1	Group 6
2.15	Group 2	Group 7
2.30	Group 3	Group 8

Each week, we will assign you a group task to be performed over lunch. Bring your completed task back to your group tutorials for discussion.

Tutorial times for today above. Each week we will rotate times for fairness, so make sure you note this down each week. Please be on time!