Contributors

Leonisa Ardizzone is executive director of the Salvadori Center in New York City and taught at Fordham University’s Graduate School of Education. She is a former high school teacher who is interested in peace education, youth culture, science, and spirituality and the author of *Gettin’ My Word Out: Voices of Urban Youth Activists*.

Randy Blazak is an associate professor of sociology at Portland State University. He is the director of the Hate Crimes Research Network (www.hatecrime.net), which connects academic work on bias criminality. He is also the co-founder of Oregon Spotlight, which monitors hate groups in the state of Oregon, and chair of the Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes. He has published his research on youth and hate in journals, book chapters, and books, including his text with Wayne S. Wooden, *Renegade Kids, Suburban Outlaws: From Youth Culture to Delinquency* (2001), and an upcoming text for Wadsworth on juvenile delinquency. His most recent work appears in *The Encyclopedia of Terrorism* (2002) and *Home-Grown Hate* (2004). Blazak is currently researching racist Odinism among white supremacist inmates.

Barbara Brents is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has published research on political conflict, social policy, social movements, sexuality, and the sex industry. She is currently co-authoring a book on the brothel industry in Nevada.

David C. Brotherton is a professor and chair of sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the City University of New York. In 1994, Dr. Brotherton came to John Jay College of Criminal Justice to continue his research on street subcultures, youth resistance, and marginalization, co-founding the Street Organization Project with Luis Barrios in 1997. He has received numerous research grants from private and public agencies and has published widely in journals, books, newspapers, and magazines. His research interests include the transnationalization of gangs and the intersection of social control.
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Barry Checkoway is a professor of social work and urban planning at the University of Michigan. His research interests include increasing involvement of diverse groups in community organization, social planning, and neighborhood development. He is founding director of the Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning and of the Michigan Neighborhood AmeriCorps Program, involving graduate students and community-based organizations in Detroit neighborhoods. He has been a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Richard Curtis is chair of the Anthropology Department at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He has more than 25 years of experience conducting ethnographic research in New York City neighborhoods. At John Jay College, he was the director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse–funded “Heroin in the 21st Century” project, a five-year ethnographic study of heroin users and distributors in New York City. He is currently working on three projects: a study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to examine drug injector behaviors in Long Island and New York City; a study of drug dealing and violence in Rochester, New York; and a study of teenage prostitutes in New York City. Dr. Curtis serves on the boards of directors of several local social service organizations, including the Family Services Network and the After Hours Project in Brooklyn and CitiWide Harm Reduction in the Bronx.

Ana Daza is a senior research fellow with the Bogotá Crime and Violence Observatory. Over the last nine years she has developed conceptual models to approach problems such as conditions produced by the presence of illegal groups in urban neighborhoods, prevention of extortion and kidnapping, analytical approaches to crime prevention through baseline investigations, educational models and research tools for the prevention of antipersonnel mine accidents, victimization research, and local and community justice in relation to public action.

Donna DeCesare, an award-winning photojournalist, is widely known for her ground-breaking coverage of the spread of Los Angeles gangs in Central America. She is currently on the faculty of the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and a member of the Advisory Board of the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas. DeCesare’s photographs have appeared in the New York Times Magazine, Life, Newsweek, the Atlantic, Aperture, DoubleTake, and Mother Jones, among other publications. DeCesare is the recipient of fellowships and grants that include the Dorothea Lange prize (1993), the New York State Foundation for the Arts Photography grant (1996), the
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**Suzanne Discenza** is an associate professor of healthcare management and the director of gerontology programs at the Metropolitan State College of Denver. She is also an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. Her primary research interests have focused on the needs of homeless youth in Colorado and access to healthcare for disadvantaged populations. She serves on the board of directors of Urban Peak—Denver and the board of directors of the Colorado Culture Change Coalition, and she is immediate past president of the Colorado chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

**Gipsy Escobar** is a lecturer in sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Ph.D. candidate in criminal justice at the City University of New York. She worked for three years for the National Council for Urban Security, an office within the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, where she helped design and evaluate policies to prevent and fight urban crime in that country. Her research interests are related to the measurement of violent crime, collective violence, social capital, and social networks; the evaluation of public policies dealing with such issues; and the comparative analysis of criminal justice systems, particularly in the United States and Latin America.

**Lisa Figueroa** is a community youth organizer at YouthForce, located in the Bronx, New York.

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**Marni Finkelstein** is the author of *With No Direction Home: Homeless Youth on the Road and in the Streets*. She has taught at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and was a senior research associate at the Vera Institute of Justice, both in New York City. Her work focuses primarily on urban populations at risk. In addition to her research with street kids, she has conducted ethnographic studies on substance abuse, adolescents in the New York City foster care system, and victims of sexual assault.

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Nick Freudenberg is a professor and director of the Program in Urban Public Health at Hunter College, City University of New York. He is founder of the Center on AIDS, Drugs and Community Health and served as its director from 1987 to 1999 and again in 2000 to 2001. For the last 25 years, he has worked with community organizations in New York City to develop and evaluate interventions to reduce HIV infection, substance abuse, environmental threats to health, childhood asthma, and other conditions. Since 1992 he has led the center’s Health Link project, a model program designed to reduce drug use, HIV risk, and rearrest among women and adolescents returning to New York City neighborhoods from the city jail.

Simon Hallsworth is a principal lecturer in the Department of Applied Social Science and director of the Centre for Social Evaluation Research at London Metropolitan University. His current work with the center includes projects with the Metropolitan Police and the Youth Justice Board studying gang activity and gun-related crime from a European perspective. He is the author of Street Crime and editor of The New Punitiveness: Trends, Theories, and Perspectives.

Anita Harris is a lecturer in sociology in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University. Her research interests include youth identities; citizenship, rights, and social change; feminist, political, and social theory; new social movements; and postmodern politics. Her current research explores the impact of globalization and deindustrialization on contemporary constructions of youth, especially girlhood, and young people and new forms of civic engagement. She is co-editor of the Journal of Intercultural Studies.


Dana M. Nurge is an associate professor of criminal justice in the School of Public Administration and Urban Studies at San Diego State University. Before coming to San Diego, she taught at Northeastern University College of Criminal Justice in Boston, where she completed a four-year qualitative study of girls’ involvement in gangs and cliques. Her book on this subject, Nobody’s Punk: Respect, Survival and Sisterhood Among Gang/Clique Girls, is being published by the University Press of New England. She is currently involved in research on girls’ prostitution in three U.S. cities; this research examines the role that gangs and pimps play in prostituting girls and how the
justice and youth service systems are addressing this problem. Her primary research interests relate to juvenile justice policy, youth violence and gangs, and girls’ prevention and intervention programming.

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Martin Ruck is an associate professor in the Ph.D. program in psychology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He was the recipient of a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship in Developmental Psychology and was a senior researcher with the Commission on Systemic Racism in the Ontario Criminal Justice System. Professor Ruck’s research examines the overall process of cognitive socialization—at the intersection of race, ethnicity, and class—in terms of children’s and adolescents’ thinking about human rights, educational opportunity, and social injustice.

Jean Scandlyn is senior instructor of anthropology and health and behavioral science at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center and visiting faculty in anthropology at Colorado College. Her research interests include migration, medical anthropology, gender, and urban anthropology, with a focus on social justice. Since 2000 she has been working in collaboration with Urban Peak, the only state-licensed shelter for homeless and runaway young people in Colorado, and the Spot, a recreation-based program for urban young people. She also served as a curriculum consultant to Project Liftoff, a privately funded program for students at risk of dropping out of high school at Cherry Creek High School from 1996 to 2004.

Michael Shively is a senior associate at Abt Associates Inc., serving for the past six years at the Center for Crime and Drug Control Policy. He previously served for three years as deputy director of research for the Massachusetts Department of Correction and for six years as an assistant professor in the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. He has conducted a wide range of studies in criminology and victimology and evaluations of criminal justice programs and policies.
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James van Leeuwen is project manager for Denver’s Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Before taking this position, he served in leadership roles for Urban Peak, the largest provider of services to homeless youth in metro Denver. He has published on substance dependence, affordable housing, and public health among homeless youth and on strategic outreach interventions to provide youth with testing services for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

James Diego Vigil is a professor of social ecology at the University of California at Irvine. An expert on street gangs and Mexican American culture, Professor Vigil has testified in numerous court trials and, when necessary, provided deposition and declaration testimony for attorneys. He has lectured on the subject throughout the United States and in Europe, Asian, and Latin America, and he is developing a transnational approach to the emergence of street gangs globally. As an urban anthropologist focusing on Mexican Americans, he has conducted research on ethnohistory, education, culture change and acculturation, and adolescent and youth issues, especially street gangs. This work has resulted in such publications as From Indians to Chicanos: The Dynamics of Mexican American Culture, 2nd edition (1998), Personas Mexicanas: Chicano Highschoolers in a Changing Los Angeles (1997), and Barrio Gangs (1988). He has two recent books, A Rainbow of Gangs: Street Cultures in the Mega-City (2002), which takes a cross-cultural look at the street gangs of Los Angeles, and The Projects: Gang and Non-Gang Families in an East Los Angeles Housing Development (2007), a four-year community study that involves observations and interviews with adults and children.