Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

ONE Researching Gangs as an Insider 19

TWO The War on Gangs in the Post–Civil Rights Era 40

THREE Racialized Oppression and the Emergence of Gangs 66

FOUR Demonizing Gangs Through Religious Righteousness and Suppressed Activism 94

FIVE Negotiating Membership for an Adaptation to Colonization: The Gang 118

SIX The Only Locotes Standing: The Persistence of Gang Ideals 147

SEVEN Barrio Empowerment as a Strategy for Transcending Gangs 172

Conclusion 198

Notes 215

References 219

Index 243