

Bullshiner—a billy, policeman's club  
 Shiners, shinkers—black eyes  
 Punk—a little boy  
 Rolling the bums or the "tinos," jack-rolling—robbing drunk  
 Shag—dance given by irate citizen  
 Gang shag—sex party in the alley  
 Gat, rod—revolver  
 Rag party—pay-as-you-enter dance (negro gangs)  
 Struggle—dance (negro)  
**A. Racism, Neighborhoods, and Gangs**  
 Cop, bull—policeman  
 To stool, squawk, squeak, peach, take—secrets of gang  
 "Dat stuff don't go by me"—expression of disapproval  
**B. Social Disorganization**  
 To hook 'em—to get drunks by the arms  
 To tipper-tapper—to spar back and forth with hands open  
 Loogins, yannigens—newcomers, second team, bumpkins

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**gangs**

- **Start as we did in defining "juvenile delinquency."**
  - **What are we talking about?**
  - **What is the police perspective?**
  - **The sociologist's perspective? The gang member's perspective?**
- **Your definitions vs. "classic" definitions**

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**produce a gang definition**

- **Include diverse distinctive gang behavior (but exclude the U of M football team)**
- **Start with a list of social characteristics that you think all gangs share**
  - Behaviors and activities
  - Attitudes and beliefs
  - Leadership
  - Patterns of social interaction
  - Legal and/or illegal activities
  - Demographics: age, sex, urban residence, income, etc.
- **Then formalize your definition, write it on a sheet of paper, and hand it in with the names of all group members**

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**classic soc. definitions - thrasher**

- **F. Thrasher (1927):** A gang is an **interstitial group**, originally formed spontaneously, and then **integrated through conflict**. It is characterized by the following types of behavior: **meeting face to face, milling, movement through space as a unit, conflict, and planning**. The result of this collective behavior is the development of tradition, **unreflective internal structure, esprit de corps, solidarity, morale, group awareness, and attachment to local territory**.
- **Elements**
  - form in "cracks" of social fabric
  - face-to-face interaction
  - conflict gives common enemies: "men are closest to their brothers when they join in stoning others"
- **Critique: too inclusive, fits football teams**

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**classic definitions - miller**

- **W. Miller (1982):** A youth gang is a **self-formed association of peers, bound together by mutual interests, with identifiable leadership, well-developed lines of authority, and other organizational features, who act in concert to achieve a specific purpose which generally includes the conduct of illegal activity and control over a particular territory, facility, or type of enterprise**.
- **Elements**
  - some level of organization
  - identifiable leaders
  - territory
  - recurrent associations
  - specific purpose
  - illegal activity

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**Esbensen/NYGS definition**

- **Finn Esbensen – Youth Gang has:**
  - 3 or more members
  - Shared identity (name, colors, symbols)
  - Limited age range (12-24)
  - Some permanence and degree of organization
  - Illegal activity
  - [association with geographic area]

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## usdoj (2020) centers crime: "a gang is defined as..."

(1) an association of three or more individuals; (2) whose members collectively identify themselves by adopting a group identity which they use to create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation frequently by employing one or more of the following: a common name, slogan, identifying sign, symbol, tattoo or other physical marking, style or color of clothing, hairstyle, hand sign or graffiti; (3) the association's purpose, in part, is to engage in criminal activity and the association uses violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives; (4) its members engage in criminal activity, or acts of juvenile delinquency that if committed by an adult would be crimes; (5) with the intent to enhance or preserve the association's power, reputation, or economic resources; (6) the association may also possess some of the following characteristics: (a) the members employ rules for joining and operating within the association; (b) the members meet on a recurring basis; (c) the association provides physical protection of its members from other criminals and gangs; (d) the association seeks to exercise control over a particular location or region, or it may simply defend its perceived interests against rivals; or (e) the association has an identifiable structure. (7) this definition is not intended to include traditional organized crime groups such as La Cosa Nostra, groups that fall within the Department's definition of "international organized crime," drug trafficking organizations or terrorist organizations.

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## how many gangs and members? [how would you measure? Rand in 2020]

- 2015 National Gang Intelligence Ctr (USDOJ)
  - Survey (fed, state, local, tribal) law enforcement
    - estimates ~30,000 US gangs (2012 report)
  - ~850,000 active gang members (precision?)
    - Pyrooz & Sweeten (2015) estimated 1.1 million using self-report NLSY97 survey data
    - 88% are in nbhd-based street gangs, 10% prison gangs, 3% outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG)
    - Tie to extremist groups, military, and government
  - Most on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter
- Thornberry et al: gang members responsible for large proportion (2/3 in some studies) of serious violent juvenile offenses
  - Most in gangs for relatively short time (< 2 years)
  - Blumstein: gangs/guns/crack and youth homicide

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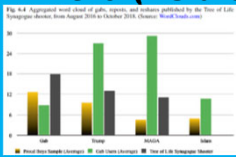
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## Ideology & Proud Boys, Militias, Antifa (Reid & Valasik 2020)



- "Youth-Oriented White Power Groups" (12-25)
- Youth participants (Kyle Rittenhouse, 17)
- Gab & CA JJS data
- Boog bois, others in MSP (Hunter, 19-28)

Table 2. Results for official risk factors and behavioral outcomes.

	Skinhead Youth (n = 14)	White Gang Youth (n = 25)	Black Gang Youth (n = 249)	Hispanic Gang Youth (n = 423)
<b>Individual Risk Factors</b>				
Single parent				
Yes	12	20	212	300
No	1	4	22	90
HSGED completion				
Yes	4	15†	92	133
No	10	10	157	290
<b>Institutional Behavior</b>				
Overall write-ups (rate)	1.75 (1.04)	0.44 (.14) †	1.02 (.09)	1.37 (.10)
Violence write-ups (rate)	0.19 (.10)	0.07 (.02) †	0.13 (.01)	0.19 (.01)
Gang write-ups (rate)	0.1 (0.00)	0.00 *	0.01 (0.03)	0.05 (0.05) **
Level-3 write-ups (rate)	0.56 (.37)	1.2 (.05) †	0.24 (.02)	0.32 (.02)

†p < .10; \*p < .05; \*\*p < .01

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### Law Enforcement Estimates of Gang Prevalence by State (NGIS 2011:13)

- Local (dis)organization
- MN in Context

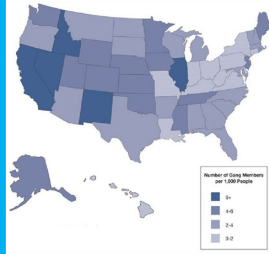
**As Twin Cities street gangs evolve, traditional hierarchies vanish**  
 Police say members are more mobile, violent and brazen.

By Lisa Kay Dalton | [www.startribune.com/twin-cities-street-gangs-evolve-traditional-hierarchies-vanish/](http://www.startribune.com/twin-cities-street-gangs-evolve-traditional-hierarchies-vanish/) and by Steven Weber | [www.startribune.com/twin-cities-street-gangs-evolve-traditional-hierarchies-vanish/](http://www.startribune.com/twin-cities-street-gangs-evolve-traditional-hierarchies-vanish/) | Star Tribune staff writers | February 3, 2016 - 10:06 AM

By the time the bullets stopped flying, more than 30 casing littered the northeast Minneapolis street.

As police detectives continued to search for suspects in the shootout that led to a killing last June, they started to connect seemingly unrelated dots: Some of the alleged shooters belonged not only to Minneapolis street gangs, but also crews from across the river in St. Paul.

In many ways, the episode was symptomatic of the Twin Cities' changing gang terrain. Youths that once fought bloodily but was ever drug sales have splintered into dozens of smaller, loosely organized cliques that aren't confined by geographical boundaries. Members are more mobile, more brazen, more violent, authorities say. And they're no longer beholden to traditional hierarchies, according to those who pursue and study them.



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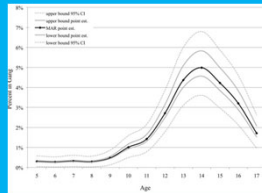
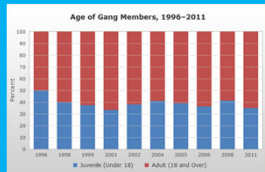
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### Age: Younger in self-report

- NYGS (Official) – Aging in urban gangs? (% adult)
- NLSY97 (Self-report) Pyrooz & Sweeten 2015 – Peak at 5% at 14



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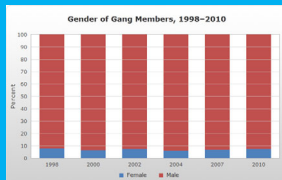
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### Sex: at least 92% male

- NYGS (Official) – ~8% of gang members female
- NLSY97 (Self-report) Pyrooz & Sweeten 2015
- “Have you ever belonged to a gang?” from age 5-17 – 29% of self-reported gang members were female



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### race/ethnicity

**[contrast self-report and official]**

- **NYGS (official):**
  - 46% Hispanic/Latino
  - 35% Black
  - 12% White
  - 8% other
- **NLSY (self-report): Pyrooz & Sweeten 2015**
- **Gang members**
  - 58% White
  - 24% Black
  - 2.5% Asian
  - 9.4% Other
- **Ethnicity**
  - 20% Hispanic/Latino

**Race/Ethnicity of Gang Members, 1996-2011**

Year	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	White	All Other
1996	10	10	45	35
1998	10	10	45	35
2000	10	10	45	35
2002	10	10	45	35
2004	10	10	45	35
2006	10	10	45	35
2008	10	10	45	35
2010	10	10	45	35
2011	10	10	45	35

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### agencies reporting gang problems (drop in late-'90s; stable since '05)

**Consistency of Gang Problems by Area Type, 2008-2012**

Area Type	Gang Activity Ever Reported, 2008-2012	Gang Activity Consistently Reported, 2008-2012
Larger Cities	90	80
Suburban Counties	65	40
Smaller Cities	45	20
Rural Counties	25	10

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### 8B. Social Structural Theories

- **Contrast with individual or social-psychological theories**
  - Social Disorganization
  - Anomie and Opportunity
  - Conflict
  - Gender-based
- **“Root” social and cultural causes**
- **Then, *Delinquent Careers in the Juvenile Justice System***

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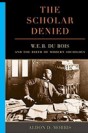
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## WEB Du Bois (1899)

### Social Account of "Negro Criminal"



- **Founder of US "scientific sociology"**
  - P. 24: peculiarities of 1. slavery and emancipation, 2. immigration & 3. social environment;
  - Hard to retain "self-respect" in this environment
  - P. 27-8: role of "color prejudice" (work)
- **Law traced from 1693: "carried to gaule" to be "publicly whipt"**
  - P. 22: "visit the corridors" of courts"
- **Statistics**
  - racial overrepresentation (Table 1); non-violent property (Table 2); "Discrimination greater then"
- **Policy: P. 30: encourages "criminal, lazy & shiftless," not "educated and industrious"**

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## Social Disorganization Theory



- **Background**
  - Race, ethnicity, and "Born Criminals"
  - Clifford Shaw & Henry McKay (1942): a sharp rebuke to racist stereotypes
- **Assumptions**
  - Delinquency due to breakdown of community institutional controls
  - Normative consensus
  - Disorganization is caused by rapid social change (industrialization, urbanization, immigration)
  - Social disorganization leads to self-perpetuating criminal values and traditions

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## Social Disorganization

- **Conceptual Tools**
  - Social disorganization #9, p. 387
  - Ethnic succession, #12-13, p. 388
  - Cultural transmission of delinquent traditions (p. 387 - "traditional behavior")
- **Methods**
  - Maps and descriptive statistics
  - Life histories, such as *The Jack-Roller*
- **Critique**
  - Ecological stability
  - Ethnic groups do not intermingle
  - Measurement: "disorganization" = crime

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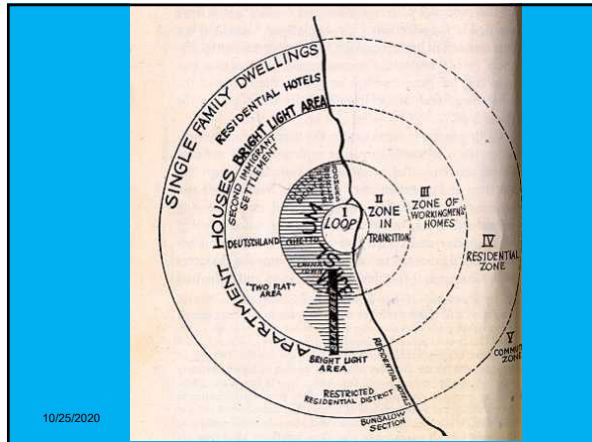
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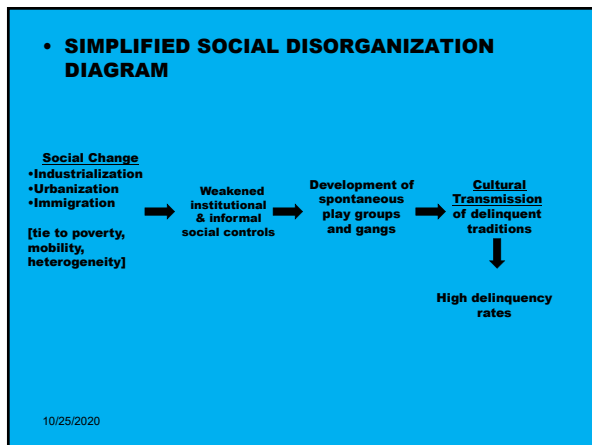
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**policy and extensions**

- **Policy: Chicago Area Projects**
  - Recreation, neighborhood health and sanitation, indigenous gang workers
  - Little evaluation data (Boston Midcity - no effect)
  - But, "moving to opportunity" experiment shows promise in reducing violent crime - at least for girls
  - Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) in Minneapolis?
- **Extensions: Robert Sampson (CWB) and "Neighborhood Collective Efficacy"**
  - Combines social cohesion with shared expectations for social control (p. 152)
  - Survey measures of reaction to kids hanging out, firehouse closing; plus trust/cohesion of neighbors (correlated -.3 with crime rates in meta-analysis)
  - Videotaping physical and social disorder

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**Robert Sampson (Immigration as Protective against Violence)**

- Neighborhoods that can realize their own values have lower crime rates
- But! Immigration story is different today
  - Not “suicidal maniacs” p. 29, but lower crime
  - “Latino Paradox”
  - higher perceptions of disorder, but lower disorder
  - Raise denominator/not numerator
  - Vibrant low-crime cities
- Stable (“intact”) families may be a mechanism (e.g., Kubrin)



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**Rios & Panopticon - Ch. 3-4**

- Inverting Foucault’s panopticon (89)
  - boy at center, surrounded by social control
  - no discipline; informal social or self-control
- Tyrell: Violence as collection agent
  - Electronic monitoring (p. 65)
- Jose: Gang-based attack on Puppet (p. 67)
  - 2 wks detention -> 6m group home -> Camp Sweeney for gun & culture of street justice
  - PO advice (p. 69) and police advice (p. 72)
- Schools, police, POs reinforced code Probation “magnifying glass” (p. 87)

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**Rios 4: “zookeepers”**

- Well-intentioned adults participated in criminalization of the boys
  - Victims: Spider stabbed at 15, erroneously registered as a gang member (p. 77-8)
- Teachers & “continuation school”
  - Criminalize via threats; drugs (exaggerated); narcs
- Parents & “courtesy stigma”
  - Parenting lessons from institutions
- Probation, CJ in community centers
  - Parents, teachers, POs, police
  - High expectations; little support p. 84;
  - magnifying glass effect -> minor arrests
  - Anger management; life skills courses taught by P.O.s (snitching); no funding for youth workers

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## Next: Anomie

- **Week 9 – 10/29 & 10/31: Anomie and Individual-Level Strain**

- **A. Social Structural Theories:**

- Anomie**

- Merton, Robert K. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3:672-82.
      - [(required for Honors) Contreras, Randol. 2014. *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream*. Chapter 1. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- **B. General Strain Theory**

- Rios, Chapter 5. "Dummy Smart: Misrecognition, Acting Out, and Going Dumb." Pp. 97-123.
      - Racine, N., Cooke, J. E., Eirich, R., Korczak, D. J., McArthur, B., & Madigan, S. 2020. "Child and adolescent mental illness during COVID-19: A rapid review." *Psychiatry Research*, 292, 113307. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113307>

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