About the Contributors

**Simon Harding** is a senior lecturer at Middlesex University and joint Head of the Urban Neighbourhoods Research Unit (UNRU). He has extensive practitioner and professional experience in crime reduction and community safety including working for the Home Office as Regional Crime Advisor (London). He is the author of numerous community safety audits, strategies and award winning projects. Simon’s recent work has focussed on urban street gangs in the UK. In 2005-08 he organised the Lambeth Gangs Commission and managed London’s largest anti-gangs project (The Phoenix Project). Since 2012 Simon has published three books, *Unleashed: the phenomena of status dogs and weapon dogs* (2012); *Unleashed* (2014) reprinted with new chapter; and his latest theoretical exposition on gang crime, *The Street Casino: Survival in Violent Street Gangs* (2014). This latest work has just been awarded the Frederick Milton Thrasher Award for 2014 for Superior Gang Research.

**Marek Palasinski** is a lecturer in psychology at Liverpool John Moores University in the UK. He specializes in forensic and social psychology. His research interests include juvenile delinquency, cybercrime and security in general. He gained his PhD from the Department of Psychology at the University of Lancaster. He uses both qualitative and quantitative research methods, serving as a reviewer for scientific journals, like Psychology, Crime & Law, Computers in Human Behavior and Cyberpsychology, Behavior & Social Networking, where he published some of his research. He also gives conference presentations and collaborates extensively with institutions in the UK and overseas.

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**Kevin Borgeson** is associate professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Salem State University, Salem, Massachusetts, where he teaches courses in crime scene investigation, profiling, and bias crimes. Borgeson’s work has appeared in Journal of Applied Sociology, Michigan Sociological Review, and American Behavioral Science.

**Ami Carpenter** (Ph.D., George Mason University) is Associate Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Carpenter has worked on numerous initiatives as a mediator, facilitator, trainer, and conflict resolution consultant including United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Navy. She is a member of Interpeace’s Advisory Group for Assessing Resilience, and is a founding member of San Diego County’s Advisory Council on Human and Child Sex Trafficking. Her
research focuses on resilience to violence, particularly in conflict zones in which criminal and political networks are tightly interconnected. Currently, she is researching the connection between transnational gangs and criminal networks in Central America, and is the Principal Investigator of a Dept. of Justice study on gangs and human trafficking in the US-Mexico border region.

Alice Cepeda is currently Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. She received her PhD in Sociology from the City University of New York, Graduate Center. Her research examines the complex of social determinants that influence the development of drug abuse health disparities across generations of Mexican-origin populations. Dr. Cepeda has been a recipient of several National Institutes of Health federal grants. Her most recent National Institute on Drug Abuse funded study is following up a cohort of Mexican American adolescent females who were affiliated with male gang members during their adolescence.

Sarah Daly is a Ph.D. student at Rutgers University-Newark. She has spent much of her career working with at-risk students as a teacher and counsellor. Her areas of research and teaching include mass shootings, juvenile gang membership, and victimization.

Melissa Freitag graduated with her undergraduate degree from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2014. She is currently a graduate student in sociology at Bowling Green State University, Ohio. During the summer of 2014, she volunteered to work with Dr. Hansen on data collection on gang initiation rituals. In the process, Ms. Freitag was instrumental in creating a coding scheme that fit well with the grounded theory approach envisioned by Dr. Hansen for this project. Her current research interests include criminology and gender.

Jarrod Gilbert is considered to be New Zealand’s leading gang expert. Dr Gilbert is a sociologist at the University of Canterbury and the Lead Researcher at Independent Research Solutions. He undertook an extensive ethnographic study into Gangs in New Zealand which led to Patched: The History of Gangs in New Zealand and he has won a number of writing awards. His research interests include criminal justice, gang culture and murder. Dr Gilbert has conducted large-scale studies on youth desistance, as well as the relationship between alcohol and crime. He is currently working on a book about murder as a sociological history of New Zealand. He specialises in research with practical applications.

Laura Dunbar is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa. Her doctoral research focuses on youth gangs and, more specifically, on the factors associated with success in exiting from gang involvement, especially for youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Laura L. Hansen is an Associate Professor in Criminal Justice teaching at Western New England University in Springfield, MA., U.S.A. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California, Riverside, where she studied primarily white-collar crime and social networks. In the course of studying elite criminal networks, she began to see parallels with street gangs, leading to applied work in prevention of gang recruitment. As well as teaching criminal justice courses, Dr. Hansen is currently a research partner for The City of Holyoke and the South Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative.
Ronn Johnson, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the School of Leadership and Educational Sciences at the University of San Diego. He is a licensed and board certified psychologist with extensive experience in academic and clinical settings. An examiner for the American Board of Professional Psychology he has served as a staff psychologist in community mental health clinics, hospitals, VA hospitals, schools and university counselling centers. His previous academic appointments include the University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Central Oklahoma, and San Diego State University. He is an adjunct professor in the Homeland Security Department at San Diego State and the School of Forensic Studies at AIU. His clinical, research, and teaching interests include forensic psychology, psychological assessment; ethical and legal issues associated with professional practice; and trauma. He crafted the DSM-5 Quadrant which is used in forensic cases and has several seminal articles on expert witnesses for police pre-employment and fitness-for-duty evaluations.

Charles Kaplan received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in sociology in 1973. He is currently, the Associate Dean of Research and Research Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. He is an active member of the NIDA National Hispanic Science Network. His research emphasizes the linking of drug abuse epidemiology with experimental approaches to drug prevention and treatment suitable for emerging special populations from an international comparative perspective. Recently, he is developing exploratory research in emerging patterns of cannabis use and abuse in the changing policy context of legalization and medicalization in the United States and Europe.

Timothy R. Lauger is an Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Niagara University. He received his Ph.D. in criminal justice from Indiana University. He is the author of ‘Real Gangstas: Legitimacy, Reputation, and Violence in the Intergang Environment’, which was published by Rutgers University Press in 2012.

Dev Maitra is a third-year PhD student at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge. His doctoral research is funded by the ESRC, and focuses on prison gangs, street gangs and organised crime in the North of England. His research interests also include drug-dealing networks, and the role of religious extremism in high-security English prisons. Dev is a member of Cambridge University’s Prisons Research Centre, where he received an MPhil in Criminological Research funded by the ESRC. He also holds an LL.B. from the University of Bristol and was called to the Bar of England and Wales at Lincoln's Inn.

Andrej Naterer is a lecturer at the University of Maribor, Slovenia. He specialises in research on youth offending. Andrej has previously worked in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana; the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Maribor, the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor and on various National and international research projects. His recent work has focussed on Street children and life outside the traditional framework of socialisation and also an anthropological study of the street children subculture in Makeevka, eastern Ukraine. Andrej has published a range of monographs and articles on the issue of Street Children and has recently undertaken extensive fieldwork research in India and Zambia on this topic.
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**Kathryn M. Nowotny** is a Chancellor’s Fellow and PhD Candidate in the Department of Sociology and Population Program, Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research lies at the intersection of criminology, medical sociology, and social demography to examine the health of inmates and other criminally-involved populations. She received a NIH Ruth L Kirschstein National Research Service Award Fellowship and a NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in support of her dissertation examining health and healthcare in U.S. prisons.

**Don Pinnock** is an investigative journalist and photographer whose assignments have taken him to five continents. He has written 17 books, hundreds of articles and held two photographic exhibitions. He has degrees in criminology, political science and African history and has been a travel writer, lecturer, engineer, professional yachtsman and cable car operator on the Rock of Gibraltar. He is an honorary research associate of the Centre of Criminology and the Safety and Violence Initiative at the University of Cape Town, a founding member of the Usiko Trust working with high-risk youths and is a trustee of the Chrysalis Academy for young men and women from disadvantaged backgrounds. He is married to the novelist and poet Patricia Schonstein and they have two children. They all live at the foot of Table Mountain.

**Avelardo Valdez** is currently a professor at the USC School of Social Work and Sociology. He obtained his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. A primary focus of his research has been on the relationship between substance abuse and violence and health issues among high-risk groups. His research projects have been among “hidden populations” such as youth and prison gang members, heroin users, and sex workers on the U.S./Mexico border. He has published over 100 journal articles and chapters and academic publications including two books. He is a recipient of numerous federal grant awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). He recently finished a NIH NIDA international funded study on the diffusion of crack cocaine in Mexico City. He is currently a member of the U.S.A. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Science Advisory Board.


**Rob White** is Professor of Criminology at the University of Tasmania, Australia. He has published widely in the areas of youth studies, criminology and is recognised for his work in green criminology. Among his recent books are ‘Youth and Society’ (with Johanna Wyn) and ‘Youth Gangs, Violence and Social Respect’. 
Qianwei Zhao is a doctoral student at the University of Southern California (USC)’s School of Social Work, and is a mentee of Drs. Avelardo Valdez and Alice Cepeda. Her research mainly focuses on the reintegration process of female ex-prisoners. She earned her Bachelor of Law degree in China and her Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Pennsylvania. In China, she worked with elderly women facing domestic violence and children with autism. She also worked at the University of Pennsylvania for one year as a Research Assistant. In addition, Zhao conducted independent research on the educational experience of children of sex workers in Kolkata, India during an overseas research program through the University of Pennsylvania.