

Goldson's collection is the first in the UK to systematically and critically expose the 'crisis discourses', amnesia and minimal knowledge that routinely surround the burgeoning 'gang control industry'. Anyone seriously interested in becoming better informed about the relations between young people and violence should read this book first.

*Professor John Muncie, The Open University*

*Youth in Crisis?* deepens our understanding of the historical and contemporary dynamics surrounding youth subcultures and social groupings. It is a cutting-edge collection written by a group of internationally distinguished authors. I thoroughly recommend the book.

*Professor Chris Cunneen, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University*

Few issues attract greater concern and censure than those that surround youth 'gangs'. Paradoxically, youth researchers have conventionally been reluctant to even use the term 'gang' but, more recently, such reluctance has receded. Indeed, it is increasingly claimed that – in particular urban 'territories' – youth gangs are commonplace, some young people are deeply immersed in violence and the carrying and use of weapons (particularly knives and firearms) is routine.

Comprising a series of essays from leading national and international researchers, this book subjects such claims to rigorous critical scrutiny. It provides a challenging and authoritative account of complex questions pertaining to urban youth identities, crime and social order.

This book:

- Locates the question of 'gangs' in both historical and contemporary contexts;
- Engages a spectrum of theoretical perspectives and analytical positions;
- Presents and analyses cutting-edge empirical research;
- Addresses a range of previously neglected questions, including those pertaining to girls, young women and 'gangs'.

The volume provides a vital resource for researchers, educators, policy-makers and practitioners with an interest in key questions facing criminology, sociology and social policy.

**Barry Goldson** holds the Charles Booth Chair of Social Science at the University of Liverpool where he was previously Professor of Criminology and Social Policy. He is the founding editor of *Youth Justice: An International Journal*.

Juvenile Crime/Criminology/Sociology

Cover image: © Getty images

 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group  
[www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)

an informa business

ISBN 978-1-84392-751-8



9 781843 927518



---

<i>List of figures</i>	vii
<i>Contributors</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
Youth in crisis?	1
BARRY GOLDSON	
1 Perpetual novelty: youth, modernity and historical amnesia	20
GEOFFREY PEARSON	
2 Youth gangs and late Victorian society	38
ANDREW DAVIES	
3 'It's just an area – everybody represents it': exploring young people's territorial behaviour in British cities	55
KEITH KINTREA, JON BANNISTER AND JON PICKERING	
4 Collateral damage: territory and policing in an English gang city	72
JUDITH ALDRIDGE, ROBERT RALPHS AND JUANJO MEDINA	
5 Place, territory and young people's identity in the 'new' Northern Ireland	89
SIOBHÁN MCALISTER, PHIL SCRATON AND DEENA HAYDON	
6 Beyond dichotomy: towards an explanation of young women's involvement in violent street gangs	110
SUSAN A. BATCHELOR	



7	In search of the 'shemale' gangster	128
	TARA YOUNG	
8	Young people and 'weaponisation'	144
	PETER SQUIRES	
9	Mercenary territory: are youth gangs really a problem?	161
	JOHN PITTS	
10	Gangland Britain? Realities, fantasies and industry	183
	SIMON HALLSWORTH	
11	Gangs and transnationalisation	198
	ROB WHITE	
	<i>Index</i>	215