

Liss Santos-Breton

English 21002

Professor Furlong

11 May 2021

Mini-Ethnography.

Part I

My research paper revolved around the subculture of Gangs, therefore I looked for a potential person I would like to interview. I was in search of someone in a gang or someone affiliated with them. My cousin recently got out of prison and I had asked him if he knew anyone that was affiliated or is or was a gang member and he told me about one of the friends he made while he was in there. Since his friend did not want to disclose his name or any information we spoke on the phone for a brief few minutes.

The first question that I knew that I wanted to ask was how was life growing up for him? And his response honestly did not surprise me, "Growing up my parents were alcoholics so I didn't have a lot of supervision, I got to do whatever I wanted, stay out late, sometimes I wouldn't even come home and they wouldn't care they were too drunk to care". As I said before I wasn't surprised I say this because most people who join gangs did not have the best childhood growing up. "Everytime I would be home, my dad would beat my mom so I didn't want to be at home so I, you know, joined a gang" I proceeded to then ask him at what age and his response was that he was still in junior highschool so no older than the age of 13.

I then asked him when was the first time he's ever gotten arrested he said "I was sent to juvie at 15 for possession of a firearm". When he was 17 he felt the need to have money he had said that since he already had a gun the only easy way he thought he could get money was doing

robberies. He also said that he remembers when he first did it that he was nervous and then he kept doing it and it got easy..too easy. When he was 18 that's when he got caught for those robberies and again with a possession of a gun, they gave him a 12 year sentence for the robberies. He continued to say that he isn't the person he was 12 years ago, that he has changed for the better and is looking for a new life and to start fresh.

Part II

One of the most fundamental elements of human existence is that we organize in societies. Societal organizations are hinged on certain absolute moral duties and values that define and predict behavior. My observations confirm my research, what it tells me about the rituals and behaviors of those in the subculture is most of the time everything's the same. I was reading a discussion on reddit about gangs and someone had talked about how she had witnessed a kid getting beaten up and jumped badly and when she told her boyfriend what she had witness, she also said that “he was jumped into crips and showed me a video of what they do and its disgusting how can someone do such a thing i did more research and found out they force females in a gang by making them have sex with someone with a std or hiv positive like this is disgusting to the extreme and my boyfriend thinks its cute or okay to walk around and joke about jacking this shit this is horrible”. It brings up things that are going on in our daily lives right in front of us and we are sometimes either blindsided or notice and keep it pushing.

There are some people affiliated or in gangs that you won't even think or believe that they are. For example “Asian gangs, for example, are not immediately recognizable by their attire. Also, they may not display gang characteristics while in school. They are respectful to staff, do not disrupt activities, do not drop out of school and maintain their grades. In such cases, gang affiliation is often not known until a criminal incident occurs”. This is implying the things

they do happen when the time is right for them, meaning they aren't going to behave like gang bangers in places like a school or maybe even around elders.

Part III



Aftermath of gang involved shooting at the 49th

precinct



Back in the day how gangs looked like



Gangs now in 2021 look like everyday people we

see in the street, we wouldn't even tell the difference.



Kids from the age of 12 and up are usually involved or

affiliated with gangs.



Junior Guzman was a teen who got brutally stabbed at a bodega in 2018 by gang members while fighting for his life he walked to a near by hospital where he passed away.