

Message to Researchers Using This Version of the Eurogang Research Program Expert Survey

*This page is NOT part of the survey and should NOT be provided to respondents.*

From: Cheryl Maxson, Facilitator, Expert Survey Workgroup

1. This survey is an interim product of the Expert Survey Workgroup and other participants in the Eurogang Research Program. Investigators are invited to use this and other copyrighted instruments developed by the Eurogang Program, under the following conditions:

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- You communicate with a member of the Eurogang Program so that we can learn about design advancements.
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- Presentations and written reports should acknowledge the instruments with: "Instruments developed by the Eurogang Program". Please provide us a copy of any reports or publications resulting from your use of the instruments. With your permission, these may be posted on the Eurogang website.

2. Attached is draft of a mail survey, but could be adapted to be delivered in person, over the telephone or by email. Brackets (“[ ]”) denote places where individual researchers should insert information as appropriate. Researchers should provide multiple copies of the entire survey when respondents can answer for more than one geographic area/neighborhood and multiple copies of Question 6 grid page when respondents know more than one group.

3. Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs (not individuals) within defined geographic units are the subject of the expert survey. The groups of interest are defined at the beginning of the survey, which represents the consensus definition developed by the Eurogang Research Program. We encourage researchers to use this definition without any alteration.

4. Appropriate respondents have familiarity with youth groups within any specified geographic unit of interest, although the level of familiarity will certainly vary. This survey could be distributed to multiple types of respondents – police, social welfare, school, social service or community residents--and many geographic units--neighborhood, community, town or city. The goal is to have good representation from many different types of respondents, ideally within the same geographic unit. As the survey form is pilot tested and developed further, it is critical that individual researchers document the sample design for respondent and area sampling units and provide them to us.

5. Respondent identification information is requested in this survey for assessment of expertise and for further clarification. A consent item is included, but individual researchers may expand on the informed consent procedure adopted here. Please inform us of different consent procedures.

6. This survey has been developed in collaboration with researchers from many countries. It collects key information designated by Eurogang as critical to describing and understanding the groups of interest. Changes in item order, wording or substantial meaning, or the omission of items, place our goal of the collection of comparative, multi-method, cross-national information at risk. If you find it necessary to delete or otherwise change items offered in this survey, please inform us of any changes you make to the survey. We appreciate your efforts to document alterations in these original instruments. We expect that items of special interest to individual researchers may be added.

Consensus item alterations: a) may replace throughout “geographic area” with neighborhood, quarter, division etc. as appropriate; b) Item 6h ethnicity: may select ethnic/national categories for inclusion as appropriate; c) Item 6r drugs: “illegal” may be deleted if appropriate; d) Item 6w and group descriptions: may replace “Classical” and “Neo-Classical” with “Traditional” and “Neo-Traditional” as appropriate.

**Please do not modify or exclude critical definitional items: Question 6 items b, c, d, e, j, k, l, n and o.**

7. Please don't hesitate to contact Cheryl Maxson ([cmaxson@uci.edu](mailto:cmaxson@uci.edu)) if you have any questions or suggestions about this survey or the Eurogang Research Program.

Draft 5.21.05 Expert Survey Workgroup, Eurogang Research Program.

## EUROGANG EXPERT SURVEY

We are a group of international researchers who are studying troublesome youth groups engaged in considerable illegal activity, that concern police/law enforcement and community residents in many countries. You are requested to complete the following questions so that we can better understand the extent and nature of such groups.

You have been selected to participate in this study because of your knowledge of these matters. We understand that you may not know everything we ask about these groups, but please provide the information that you have. All personally identifiable information you provide will be kept confidential and shared only with members of the research team.

Questions about the survey or the study may be addressed to: **[insert contact information or delete if interview]**  
Please return this survey as soon as possible in the enclosed envelop to: **[insert survey return address or delete]**

Our concern in the following questions is to get an estimate of the number and nature of Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs in your area. We define the groups of interest as follows:

**ANY DURABLE, STREET-ORIENTED YOUTH GROUP WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IS PART OF THEIR GROUP IDENTITY. “Durability” means several months or more and refers to the group, which continues despite turnover of participants. “Street-oriented” means spending a lot of group time outside home, work and school – often on streets, in shopping areas, in parks, in cars, and so on. “Youth” refers to average ages in the teens or early twenties or so. “Illegal activity” generally means delinquent or criminal behavior, not just bothersome activity. “Identity” refers to the group, not individual self-image.**

1. Please respond for the geographic areas with which you are most familiar. If you can respond for more than one area, you will need a separate survey for each area. What geographic area is covered in this survey? Please describe the area for which you are responding by providing geographic boundaries such as bordering streets, and a name:

City/town name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Neighborhood name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
Neighborhood geographic boundaries: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you know of any groups, as defined above, that have been in existence for at least three months, in this geographic area?

Yes  → PLEASE CONTINUE THE SURVEY WITH Q. 3

No  → PLEASE SKIP TO Q. 8

3. How many such **groups** were active in this area during the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the total number of **participants** of such groups active in this area during the past year? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are aware of any Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs in this area that existed in the past but were not active in the last year, and therefore were excluded in Question 3, please describe them as best you can here.

The next page asks for information about EACH group included in Q.3. Please complete a separate page for EACH group.

**6. Please complete the following information for EACH group included in Q. 3 (reproduce and number pages as necessary). Enter “DK”(“don’t know”) if information requested is not known.**

a. Do the members of this group have a name for their group? If yes, enter this name to the right. If no, enter the name you usually use for this group or assign any unique identifier you choose.	Yes No If yes, name: _____ If no, choose any name: _____
b. Circle the ONE category that best describes how many people belong to this group.	2-5 6-10 11-20 21-50 51-100 more than 100
c. Enter the age of the youngest and the oldest person in this group.	Youngest: _____ years old Oldest: _____ years old
d. Circle the ONE category that best describes the ages of most people in this group.	Under 12 years 12 to 15 years 16 to 18 years 19 to 25 years Over 25 years
e. Circle the category that best describes how long this group has existed.	Less than 3 months 3 months to less than 1 year 1 to 4 years 5 to 10 years 11 to 20 years More than 20 years
f. In what year did this group form? → → →	
g. Circle the category that best describes this group.	All male Mostly male About half male, half female Mostly female All female
h. What is the ethnic/nationality composition of this group? List each ethnic group represented and the percentage of the total group composition. (%’s should total 100)	_____% _____% _____% _____%
i. Were any people in this group born in another country?	Yes No If yes, name countries? _____
j. Within this group, are there distinct subgroups or cliques that especially spend time together?	Yes No
k. Does this group spend a lot of time together in public places like the park, the street, shopping areas or the neighborhood?	Yes No If yes, describe types of places: _____
l. Does this group think of itself as having an area or place it calls its own?	Yes No If yes, describe areas: _____
m. Does this group defend this area or place against other groups?	Yes No No Group Territory
n. Is doing illegal things accepted by, or okay for this group?	Yes No
o. Does this group do lot of different kinds of illegal things together, or just a few kinds? Please circle just one category.	A lot of different kinds Just a few kinds No illegal behaviors together
p. What type(s) of illegal activity are most common among this group? Please list the most frequent activities. → → → →	
q. How often does this group use alcohol?	Never Rarely Sometimes Often
r. How often does this group use illegal drugs?	Never Rarely Sometimes Often
s. Does this group have symbols (clothing, ways of speaking, or other physical identifiers) that distinguish them from other groups?	Yes No If yes, describe: _____
t. How often does this group get into fights or have problems with other groups like it?	Never Rarely Sometimes Often
u. Does this group promote or support a particular political issue?	Yes No If yes, describe: _____
v. If this group is referred to as a gang, band, tribe, club, crew, or other term, please note it: → → →	Term for this group: _____
w. Five kinds of groups are described on the next page. Please indicate which description fits this group, or if none, describe why. → → → →	Classical Neo-Classical Compressed Collective Speciality None, because: _____

Group types: Research in Europe and the U.S. suggests that Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs often fit within one of the five descriptions provided below. Please read these five descriptions and indicate which one *best* describes this group. If none of them describe it, please circle “none” in Q. 6w and indicate why.

The **Classical** group is a large, enduring, territorial group with a wide age range and several subgroups based on age or area. Classical groups often exist for 20 years or more, with members who could be as young as ten years old and as old as thirty or more. Classical groups with subgroups often have a hundred or more members, and they claim and defend their territories.

The **Neo-Classical** group is a newer territorial group with subgroups, generally with a history of ten years or less and fewer members than the Classical group. Neo-Classical groups may be medium-sized, such as 50 or more members. They probably have subgroups based on age. They have a narrower age range than Classical groups, and they claim and defend their territories.

The **Compressed** group has a relatively short history and usually is comprised of adolescent youth aged 12 – 20 or so. Usually, Compressed groups have fewer than 50 members and have not formed subgroups. They have existed less than ten years and often only a few years. They may or may not claim and defend territories.

The **Collective** group resembles a disorganized mass of adolescent and young adult members without the clear characteristics of the other four groups. Collective groups are bigger than the Compressed groups and with a wider age range between younger and older members. They might have as many as a hundred members, but without clear sub-groups despite being in existence for 10 or 15 years. They may or may not claim and defend territories.

The **Specialty** group is focused in a narrow crime pattern, and exists more for criminal than social reasons. Its smaller size and area of operation serve its criminal purposes. Typical examples are drug sales groups and skinhead groups. The other four types of groups commit a wide variety of crimes, but Specialty groups are more organized around their narrow criminal purpose.

7. Please provide us with any additional information about Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs in this area that you believe we should know.

8. Are there other individuals informed about Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs in this area whom we should contact? If so, please provide names and contact information for these individuals:

9. Are you aware of projects, programs or services that try to prevent or reduce gang participation or that promote social integration for troublesome youth? Please provide program name(s), location(s) and contact information for such programs and services.

**All information you provide on this survey will be grouped together with other responses in study reports. All personally identifiable information will be kept confidential and shared only with members of the research team. If you indicate your permission, we may identify you as a respondent.**

May we identify you as a respondent in study reports? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Would you like to receive a report of the study findings? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Finally, please provide some information about yourself so that we may contact you to clarify your answers.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work position or other experience with youth groups: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience with youth groups: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact fax: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the main way you know about Troublesome Youth Groups or Street Gangs? (circle one)

- a. Television, radio or newspaper
- b. Friends
- c. Neighborhood
- d. Job experiences
- e. School experiences
- f. Other source, please describe:

Please describe how much you relied on any of the above sources in responding to this survey: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much for your assistance! Contact **[insert]** if you have any questions about this study.