A Selected Bibliography of Publications Related to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

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The development of this partial listing of references grew out of the author's concern for outlaw gangs as an emerging contemporary police problem. The listings deal with motorcycle gangs and relate to gang involvement in criminal activity. The references do not deal with motorcycle riders, most of whom are lawabiding. Where available, abstracts are included.
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BOOKS

James R. Davis

M. Lipsky

Wild Bill Henderson
A Place In Hell, Los Angeles: Holloway House, 1968.

Simma Holt

Jan Hudson

V. Lewis and D. Glaser

Five lifestyles associated with addiction are described including the "low rider" style of motorcycle gang members.

Robert Lipkin
A Brotherhood of Outlaws.

A Novel.

Raymond Morgan

Thomas A. Reppetto

Gangs of predatory males are examined as a broad problem that faced American police. The gangs became organized racketeers and professional criminals.

Frank Reynolds
Robert Shellow and Derek V. Roemer

Hunter Thompson

George Wethern and Vincent Colnett

Sam Wilde

Paul E. Willis

R. P. Wilson
The Other Side of Rape, St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia: University of Queensland Press, 1978.

Categories of rape including ceremonial rape by motorcycle gangs.

Lewis Yablonsky
The Violent Gang, Baltimore, Maryland: Penquin, 1966.
ARTICLES


D. Amlers

Suggestion that provisions be made in the West German Criminal Code which can be used by police as a basis for deterring criminal behavior by motorcycle gangs of young adults and juvenile delinquents. Under existing provisions, criminal groups (against which the policy may take preventive steps) are defined as those which exist for the purpose of committing criminal acts. Since the primary purpose of the motorcycle gangs is not crime, but emotional and social solidarity, the police cannot take preventive steps. However, the author, a West German Police Psychologist, argues that since these gangs have by their very nature 'latent criminal energies' which inevitably express themselves in criminal behavior. Special legal provisions should be made to enable the police to take preventive steps against them. --In German.

Allen Davis

W. C. Johnson

Howard Kohn
"Hell's Angels: Masters of Menace," Rolling Stone, April 5, 1979, p. 56.

Randal Montgomery

Theoretical perspectives on the phenomenon of the outlaw motorcycle gang are offered in the first of two articles based in part on the author's experience as a member of the 'road gypsies.' Distinctions must be drawn between outlaw bikers and other motorcyclists. Including those who belong to informal gangs. Although millions of people ride motorcycles, only a few thousand belong to the outlaw subculture: Two theses appear to be relevant to the outlaw motorcycle phenomenon. The first concerns deviant
subcultures within the lower class which establish their own version of success and tend to perceive of themselves as autonomous elites. The second thesis is that delinquency represents a striving not for middle-class status but for adulthood. Observations of outlaw motorcycle clubs leave the impression that club members are indeed striving for adult masculine status, often overcompensating for real or felt deficiencies. In addition, outlaw bikers practice many of the rites used by youths to confer adulthood on themselves (e.g., self-adornment, acquisition of new name and language, seclusion from women, break from home, sexual ambivalence, hazing, economic profit for older members, education for new roles, fertility themes, and death and rebirth myths). Although the outlaw bikers experience frustration related to feeling deprived of the financial security and political power of higher socio-economic strata, their behavior also reflects a striving for the rights, autonomy prestige, respect, and opportunities associated with adulthood.

Randal Montgomery

The tendency of outlaw motorcycle club members to cultivate certain personality traits and skills is discussed in the second of two articles on the outlaw motorcycle subculture. Most values rejected by lower-class children are also rejected by members of the outlaw subculture. However, there are a few middle-class virtues -- cultivation of personality and high value on skills -- that the bikers accept and act upon. Gang members tend to caricature or exaggerate minor personality quirks because they receive positive reinforcement from other members for doing so. For example, a member may casually use a certain phrase or mannerism, find that it is well-received by the group, and so continue to use the phrase or mannerism to the extent that he receives a nickname based on it. Every gang has its silent cynic, loud mouth, tough guy, clown, and crazy. There are several skills unfamiliar to the middle-class or even to the average lower-class person which are highly esteemed by outlaw bikers. These include fighting, highway vandalism, motorcycle theft and stripping, bargain grocery binges (a form of mass shoplifting), technical-practical jokes (e.g., wiring a fellow member to an electrical outlet, soaking his jeans with beer, and plugging him in), reckless riding, poetry, and conning. Outlaw bikers regard their activities as recreation. The author, speaking from his experience as a member of an outlaw gang, notes that the total abandon felt while engaging in such activities as wrecking the interior of a house provides a cathartic effect that lasts for days. A list of references is included.
Dick Reavis

Kenneth E. Reid

T. E. Welsh

1979 report of Canada's Organized Crime Committee. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are reported to be involved in thefts, prostitution, drugs, and the activities of these gangs in the provinces are described.
NEWS MEDIA REPORTS

---"Hell's Angels: Involvement in Narcotics Trade," Time, July 2, 1979, p. 34.

---"Hell's Angels Used Profits to Purchase Businesses," Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, April 19, 1977.


M. Beck and P. Abramson
"Hell's Angels on Trial," Newsweek, October 29, 1979, p. 43.

Dave Casey

Larry Ciko and Butch Badon

Robin Clark and Tex O'Neill

A five-part special report dealing with the major gangs in the Carolinas; violence; sex, drugs and stolen goods as big business; women who associate with gangs; and police efforts to keep up.

W. C. Johnson

Jerry Kinser

Dennis Krantz

James Long and James Duncan
Bill McKelway
"Area Slayings Most Bizarre of Long Series," Time-Dispatch,
Richmond, Virginia, January 12, 1981.

Richard Kurre and Henry T. Vogt

Rich Kurre and Henry T. Vogt

Dan Lohwasser

Dave Casey

Patrick T. Morrison
"Local Outlaws Gang Getting Involved in Network of Crime," Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis, Indiana, December 2, 1979, p. II.

Patrick T. Morrison and Patrick J. Traub

Kathy O'Dell

J. O'Reilly
"In California: A Trial of Angels," Time, May 26, 1980, pp. 10-II.

Tim Reiterman

J. Stryker Meyer

Charles R. Traylor
Michael Weinstein

Leslie Zaitz

S. Zwarun

Ghost Riders Motorcycle Gang linked to Murders.


Organized activity in motorcycle gangs in California.


Organized criminal groups in Texas include motorcycle gangs.


Lawrence S. Blasi and Gary S. Rohen

Denys Dionne, et al.

Emory Eads

Terry L. Hall and L. I. Edgar
John W. Howard

U. S. Congress, Senate
FILMS AND TRAINING PUBLICATIONS


Film. The reel which deals with stereotypes presents a module on motorcycle gangs.


84 terms reported by police agencies as being most frequently used by participants in gang activities.

---"High Risk Stops," Charles Cahill and Associates, 1980, Aims Instructional Media, 626 Justin Avenue, Glendale, California 91201.

Film. Includes safety procedures for stopping motorcycle gangs.


A public information/education bulletin. Profiles gang members, describes group initiation procedures, and outlines gang activities. The increasing involvement of gangs in criminal activity, particularly the manufacture and sale of narcotics, is highlighted.

---"Motorcycle Theft Investigation - Training Key," International Association of Chiefs of Police, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760, 1972.

This training key discusses motorcycle identification problems, motorcycle thefts, the involvement of outlaw gangs, and motorcycle theft investigation.
RELATED TOPICS

Howard S. Becker  

Bonnie H. Erickson  

Sheldon Glueck  

Malcolm W. Klein  

Frederic Milton Thrasher  

Marvin E. Wolfgang  
INVESTIGATIVE AIDS

Roger H. Davis

Justin J. Dintino and Frederick T. Martens

Frank J. Kelley

Peter A. Lupsha

H. E. Knowlton

A New Hampshire Police Department learned from a 1965 riot and now meets the town's annual influx of cyclists with an organized plan and tested techniques. This article states that motorcycle gangs are not rowdy funseekers, but consist of grown men armed with the chains used to lock their cycles. The Laconia Police Department now cooperates with state and other local authorities. All forces act in accord with established crowd control and arrest procedures. Specific policies include banning public consumption of alcohol, diverting traffic from the scenes of disturbances, and saturation of the entire area with police manpower. Policies have achieved their objective.