

Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles  
SOC604: Lecture III  
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## Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles

- Street codes as effects of structural violence
- Street codes as 'deviant, anti-social attitudes' that are apparently related to violent behavior
- Synopsis of street code argument(p.1-3)

## Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles

- Respect and Disrespect in the Urban Milieu
  - \* In sites of profound scarcity, struggles over status and respect are acute
  - \* Young people who experience racial discrimination are more likely to engage in violent behavior

## Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles

- Key causal factors in the adoption of street codes:
  - \* Neighborhood versus 'the hood' (embeddedness within an institutionalized ghetto)
  - \* Ethno-racial discrimination (including repeated encounters with police)
  - \* Family socialization: street versus decent

## Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles

- Reflexivity and street code adoption?
  - \* Complex entwinement of reflexive choices and actions (code-selecting and switching); and durable constraints/structural violence in which such choices and actions are embedded
  - \* Dialectic of actions (violent or otherwise) and structures (violent or otherwise)

## Street Codes, Violence, and Status Struggles

- Conclusions
  - \* Being raised in a “decent” family appears to lower the risk of being involved in violence
  - \* Street families use the threat of violence (the ‘code’) as a form of deterrence
  - \* Experience with ethno-racial discrimination significantly predicted self-reported violent behavior