

Gang Field trip to Los Angeles 10th-19th May 2014

The Network for Dialogue and Community Building invites professionals on a field trip to LA

You will meet some of LA's most experienced Gang researchers (Cheryl Maxson, James Diego Vigil, Karen Henningan), youth workers, social workers, community organizers, police, People working with those wishing to leave gangs, conflict mediators, volunteers, parents, and former and active gang members. 20 professionals from different countries will be trained and given a first impression of how professional organizations in LA tackle the gang problems. On the field trip you will be with a broad group of professionals and be able to share inspiration on how you can translate this experience into your work back home.

We will visit Homeboy industry, LA's largest Gang Intervention and Prisoner Re-Entry Program and the rest of the week we will visit many of the other best practices on preventions and exit programmes they have in LA.

We will participate in a two days conference where we will have a special opportunity for networking. Our focus is on addressing the root causes of gang violence, and highlighting solutions that addresses those. This includes the multiple environmental impacts and social determinants that push young people into gang involvement, such as early childhood trauma, poverty, traumatized communities, addiction/addiction to the lifestyle, parenting, structural racism, abuse – including sexual abuse, substance abuse and mental health, and the culture of violence and gang violence in communities.

Conference Advisory Committee: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Brotherhood Crusade, California Alliance for Community & Youth Justice, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation, Homeboy Industries, Peace Over Violence, L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services, L.A. County Department of Public Health, L.A. County Human Relations Commission, Southern California Crossroads, St. Francis Medical Center, A Better L.A.

Price:

10.000 danish kroner: Includes full program, breakfast and lunch, hotel on double room (single room extra cost 2000 danish kroner), transport every day with minibus, access to conference.

Sign up:

Contact Soren Lerche on: email: sorenlerche@gmail.com

Phone: +45-5048 8192

Program

Saturday May 10 – Departure from Copenhagen

- Arrive in Los Angeles 7pm
- Dinner at Spring Street BBQ in Downtown Los Angeles

Sunday May 11 – Tour of East LA and South Central with host Robert Weide
We will meet active street gangs members and biker gangs.

Monday May 12 – [LA Gang Conference](#)

Tuesday May 13 – LA Gang Conference

- 6pm 2nd Call Meeting: Gang Intervention and Convict Re-Entry Program in South Central Los Angeles run by former Crip and Blood gang leaders
<http://www.2ndcall.org/p/home.html>
- Dinner at Roscoe's Fried Chicken and Waffles

Wednesday May 14 – 8am Breakfast at Homegirl Cafe and Tour of Homeboy Industries: LA's largest Gang Intervention and Prisoner Re-Entry Program run by Jesuit Father Gregory Boyle www.HomeboyIndustries.org

- Network meeting with key conference attendees
- Evening Stroll on Santa Monica Boardwalk and Pier
- Dinner at Water Grill Santa Monica

Thursday May 15 – 10am Visit GRYD Leimert Park with Karen Henningan

The GRYD Foundation works very closely with the City of Los Angeles Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GRYD Office) to implement strategies to reduce gang-related violence and to strengthen individuals, families and entire communities. In addition to the work conducted in Los Angeles, the GRYD office has begun providing technical assistance on a national and international level.

<http://www.grydfoundation.org/about-us>

- Afternoon visit USC, Natural History Museum, IMAX Theater

Friday May 16 – Visit VIDA Century. Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives

In Los Angeles County, many kids lack safe, healthy programs that allow them to develop their life skills and work toward attaining their goals.

<http://www.vida.la/>

Saturday May 17 – 10am Tour of Downtown Los Angeles with Dr. James Diego Vigil

Sunday May 18 – 1pm Tia Chucha Celebrating Worlds Festival and meeting with

Luis Rodriguez <http://www.tiachucha.org/about-us/>

Monday May 19 – Departure from LA with stopover in Stockholm Fryshuset

Course leader

Søren Lerche Manager at Network for dialoug and community. Responsible for the 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 seminars on gang crime and radicalization at Grundtvigs Hojskole. He has organized field trips for professionals to Chicago, Manchester, Stockholm and Copenhagen. He is a mentor for former gangmembers and advicer regarding prevention and exit of gangs. Member of the EU Commission Radicalisation Awareness Network, which focuses on first-line practitioners. Member of the Eurogang Network. The Eurogang network consists of leading European and American researchers in the field.

Robert Donald Weide MA is an advanced doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at New York University. Robert was raised on the West Side of Los Angeles during the peak years of the violent crime rate and gang subculture in Los Angeles in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Having lost multiple friends to gang violence and extended incarceration, Robert has focused his academic career on understanding and addressing the social problems that lead to gang violence and criminality in both urban and carceral settings. His dissertation entitled, "Race War? Black and Latin Gang Conflict in Los Angeles", examines issues of inter-minority gang conflict between black and Latino gangs on the streets of Los Angeles, as well as in Los Angeles County Jail and California State Prison facilities. His dissertation is currently being revised for publication and will be forthcoming in book form. Robert has previously published work on the graffiti subculture and has another forthcoming article, which will be followed by a book as well on the freight train graffiti subculture.

Key Persons

Father Greg is the founder and Director of [Homeboy Industries](#) and former pastor of Dolores Mission Church. Fr. Greg is also a consultant to youth service and governmental agencies, policy-makers and employers. Fr. Boyle serves as a member of the National Gang Center Advisory Board (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Loyola Law School Center for Juvenile Law and Policy in Los Angeles. He is the author of the New York Times Bestselling book, "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion." His debut book has been honored by SCIBA (Southern California Indie Booksellers Association), Pen USA, Publishers Weekly, and Goodreads Choice Awards. He has received numerous honorary degrees, awards and recognitions including the Civic Medal of Honor, the California Peace Prize, Humanitarian of the Year from Bon Appetit Magazine, and in 2011 was inducted into the California Hall of Fame. He has served on the State Commission for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, The National Youth Gang Center Board and the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Task Force.

Cheryl Maxson Cheryl Maxson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California's Irvine campus. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from USC. She is co-author of *Street Gang Patterns and Policies* (2006) and *Responding to Troubled Youth* (1997) and co-editor of *The Eurogang Paradox: Gangs and Youth Groups in the U.S. and Europe* (2001), *The Modern Gang Reader* (4th ed., 2014) and *Youth Gangs in International Context* (2012). Her articles, chapters, and policy reports concern street gangs, status offenders, youth violence, juvenile justice legislation, and community treatment of juvenile offenders. She has served as Executive Counselor and Vice-President of the American Society of Criminology and was elected President and Vice-President of the Western Society of Criminology, where she is honored as a Fellow, and with the Society's Paul Tappan and Joseph Lohman awards.

J. Diego Vigil, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society and Education, University of California, Irvine-USA. His education includes Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles. He just completed a one year of teaching as a visiting professor at Harvard in the Graduate School of Education. Prior to that he taught at UCLA for six years and USC for fourteen years. His expertise is in urban, psychology, socialization and educational anthropology, Mexico and U.S. Southwest ethnohistory. Some of his books are: *From Indians to Chicanos: The Dynamics of Mexican American Culture*, *Personas Mexicanas: Chicano High Schoolers in a Changing Los Angeles*, *Barrio Gangs: Street Life and Identity in Southern California*, *A Rainbow of Gangs: A Cross-Cultural Study Street Youth in Los Angeles*. He also acts as a consultant, expert witness, in cultural defense in gang related homicides. He was Director, Center for the Study of Urban Poverty, Chairman, The National Center for Gang Policy, Director of Ethnic Studies, University of Southern California.

Karen Henningan Assistant Professor (Research) of Psychology. Her current program of research aims to apply principles of social identity and social categorization theories to the pernicious problem of street gang affiliation among urban youth. A series of studies testing factors that may inadvertently promote gang association as well as factors that may help discourage gang association are underway. A spin-off from this effort includes the development of an assessment designed to identify youth at risk for joining street gangs that can be used to target prevention services toward youth most in need. Parts of this research take place in the context of regional efforts to prevent or suppress gang membership, delinquency and criminal offending. Applied contexts included in this work vary from neighborhood gang injunction policies to local gang prevention and intervention programs. A second area of research is focused on longitudinal outcomes in juvenile justice programs and mediators of success and failure such as negative peer social influence or deviancy training in community intervention programs that group youth at different levels of experience and sophistication together.

Luis J. Rodriguez is an American poet, novelist, journalist, critic and Columnist. His work has won several awards, and he is recognized as a major figure of contemporary Chicano literature. His best-known work, [Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.](#), is the recipient of the Carl Sandburg Literary Award, among others, and has been the subject of controversy when included on reading lists in California, Illinois, Michigan, and Texas schools due to its frank depictions of gang life. Rodriguez has also founded or co-founded numerous organizations, including the Tia Chucha Press, which publishes the work of unknown writers, [Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural](#), a San Fernando Valley cultural Center, and the Chicago-based Youth Struggling for Survival, an organization for at-risk youth.

Paul Carrillo is the Injury Prevention Coordinator of Trauma Services at St. Francis Medical Center and the Executive Director of Southern California Crossroads, a non profit organization he co-founded in 2005, that provides youth with alternative programs to gangs. For more than a decade, he has been working in the youth and gang violence field, providing services in Schools, Hospitals, Jails and in various communities throughout the Los Angeles region. Paul has also traveled across the U.S. and internationally to London, Ireland, Dominican Republic and El Salvador as an advisor to the U.S. Department of State, local and state agencies on youth and gang violence prevention methods and practices. In 2010 Paul co-founded the annual L.A. Gang Violence Prevention & Intervention Conference which brings professionals from around the globe together to share best practices, data proven models, new trends and solutions to the youth & gang violence epidemic. Paul has worked with the Advancement Project, Google, Tribeca Film Festival, World Bank, L.A. GRYD, Glasswing International, Google Ideas, Institute for Strategic Dialogue and A Better LA to name a few. He was recently awarded the 'Hospital Hero Award' by the Hospital Association of Southern California for implementing violence prevention programs for youth throughout L.A. County.

Former gang leaders from Crips and Bloods

Active gang members from street gangs and biker gangs