CONTENTS

Introduction vii

PART 1 THEORY AND METHODOLOGY 1
1  A Note on Social Theory and the American Street Gang
   SUDHIR VENKATESH 3
2  Toward a Typology of Contemporary Mexican American Youth Gangs
   AVELARDO VALDEZ 12
3  The Negligible Role of Gangs in Drug Distribution in New York City in the 1990s
   RIC CURTIS 41
4  Marginal Youth, Personal Identity, and the Contemporary Gang: Reconstructing the Social World?
   KEVIN MCDONALD 62

PART 2 GANGS AND POLITICS 75
5  Gangs and the Contemporary Urban Struggle: An Unappreciated Aspect of Gangs
   ALBERT DIChIARA AND RUSSELL CHABOT 77
6  Urban Street Activists: Gang and Community Efforts to Bring Peace and Justice to Los Angeles Neighborhoods
   JUAN FRANCISCO ESTEVA MARTíNEZ 95

PART 3 GANGS, AGENCY, AND AT-RISK YOUTH 117
   LUIS BARRIOS 119
8  Education in the Reform of Street Organizations in New York City
   DAVID BROTHERTON 136