

**Speaker:** Hannah Klein (Lewis University, USA)

**Presentation title:** How do we characterize street-oriented youth groups and prevent violence?

What does it mean to be in a gang or a street crew? One size does not fit all when researchers discuss street-oriented youth groups. While some groups control drug markets in particular areas other groups may be smaller with younger members that just happen to live in the same neighborhood. Using survey data of more than 200 street-oriented youth, latent class analysis is used to determine different typologies of gangs with six group types identified: typical youth gang, criminal gangs, neighborhood drug selling gang, territorial gangs, block groups, and "old heads". The research has important policy implications as each type of gang may have different violence prevention strategies that work. Preventing drug selling gangs requires financial incentives and interventions whereas older gang members who no longer commit violent acts together may benefit from programs that allow them to redirect their energies towards good. By targeting interventions towards specific types of gangs, there can be better chances for desistance and violence prevention.