

## **URBAN ETHNOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY: EMPIRICAL AND THEORETICAL DIMENSIONS**

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Urban ethnography (and urban ethnographers) have been under attack from a variety of perspectives, as being (among other things) atheoretical, politically or ideologically biased, romantic, and naïve and neo-liberal, most notably by Wacquant in "Scrutinizing the street: Poverty, morality, and the pitfalls of urban ethnography" (2002). Although the authors of the targeted works have mounted strong defenses against such charges, questions remain concerning the integrity of all social science data and research. We address these questions with examples from Elijah Anderson's "Code of the Street" and from research on youth street gangs. We also discuss special problems that are associated with social policy and program recommendations and evaluations.