

Car Racing Gang: Identity and Group Process

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Abstract

The Objectives of this qualitative research are to study the identity and group process of car racing gang in Bangkok and other related factors such as personal characteristics, rules and interaction within group. Members of the gang were selected for in-depth interview by using purposive and snow-ball sampling, and collecting more details by using participatory observation. Findings from this study are as followed:

1. Car racing on public main road in Bangkok started at Henry-Dunant and Vipavadee road in 1982 and has increased all over Bangkok.
2. This study interviewed 13 male and 3 female car racing members. Most of them aged 15-18 years for male and 20 and over for female; came from middle income and rich family; graduated from university and high school; working in private and family business, public sector as soldier and unemployed, respectively.
3. For the identity of car racing gang, they presented themselves as those who loved racing as a sport. They were seen from the outsiders as disturbers. Each gang was organized in different way, but has its own leader and created activities in both positive and negative ways to promote unity within group.
4. The most popular activity to strengthen the interaction within group was the meeting among members at the restaurant, pub or bar.
5. For social control, all of them knew the traffic law or related regulations but some of them were prosecuted.

A suggestion of this study is to promote car racing as a kind of sport and provide a suitable venue for car racing but needed closely monitor.