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The reproduction process of Montreal Haitian street gangs since 1984

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Street gangs are considered a vector of criminal culture and opportunities for delinquents. However, as opposed to what many believe about these groups' lifespan, we argue that street gangs are not an ephemeral phenomenon. Indeed, some street gang members pursue their criminal involvement within these groups into adulthood. These veterans ensure the transmission of the gang culture and heritage. In this study, Montreal Haitian street gangs since 1984 are used as a case study to observe street gang evolution over time. Using cluster analysis of relational data for different time periods, Haitian street gangs' family tree has been created. Relations were measured based on co-arrest, co-interpellation and co-victimization data. Results suggest that the structure and reproduction patterns of the two major gang allegiances (the reds and the blues) are relatively different. Differential adaptations to immigration flux were observed and compared between the two gang allegiances over time. More specifically, one group has been able to enlarge more efficiently its troops and its geographical spectrum in the city, in comparison to the other. The conceptualisation of street gangs will be discussed.