

**Transgang Training Seminar:**

**Title:** Gangs and social media: A systematic literature review and an identification of future directions for the Transgang Project.

**Image:**

**Date:** 17/09/2021

**Schedule:** 16.00 – 18.00 h

**Programme:**

16:00-16:20 / Welcome and Introduction by Carles Feixa, PI of the Transgang project

16:20: Presentation by Ariadna Fernández-Planells

16:50 / Discussant by Laura Pérez-Altable and Ariadna Fernández-Panells

17:30 / Questions from the audience

17:50 -18:00: Closing

**Speakers:**

Ariadna Fernández-Planells (speaker)

Laura Pérez-Altable (debate)

**Language:** English

**Format:** Online

**Platform:** Virtual

**Summary:**

Gang literature increasingly reflects the importance of social media in gang lifestyle, as gang members adopt new communicative practices. Yet, because of the multifaceted nature of online gang activity and the diversity of methodologies employed, a general overview of research outcomes is not easily achieved. This seminar seeks to remedy this by analysing academic studies of gang use of social media. A systematic literature review was conducted in

the Scopus and Google Scholar databases, which led to the identification of 73 publications. We then undertook a content analysis of each publication using an exhaustive evaluation model, comprising 20 variables and 72 categories. A bibliometric analysis was also performed to determine the structural characteristics of the research community that generates these publications. Our results point to an emerging universe of publications with different themes, methods, samples and ethical protocols. The challenges, risks and recommendations for future social media research with youth street groups are identified in order to apply it to the Transgang project.

**Keywords:**

Gangs; Youth Street Groups; Social Media; Social Networking Sites; Bibliometrics; Systematic Review; Content Analysis, Scopus; Google Scholar.

**Associated paper:** Fernández-Planells, A., Orduña-Malea, E., & Feixa Pàmpols, C. (2021). Gangs and social media: A systematic literature review and an identification of future challenges, risks and recommendations. *New Media & Society*, [Link to Open Access](#)

**CV Participants:**



**Ariadna Fernández-Planells** is associate professor of media studies at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain). She holds a BA in Journalism, an MSc in Social Communication and a PhD in Communication from Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona). Ariadna teaches BA and MSc modules on journalism, interactive communication and new media. She has carried out research into social movements, youth and virtual communication. Currently, she is undertaking research on the mediated role of gang members as a researcher of the research project “Transgang”.



**Laura Pérez-Altable** is Lecturer and researcher in DigiDoc research group at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). She received her PhD in Social Communications from UPF in 2016 with a thesis about social movements and network analysis in the context of the so-called Arab Spring in Tunisia. Her doctoral thesis obtained the XIV Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Award from UPF (2020). She has published her research in several indexed journals and she has participated in national projects dedicated to the study of media and network society.