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Review of *The Delinquent Girl*. Margaret A. Zahn (Ed.). Reviewed by Cara Pohle.

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force the reader to think critically about social work practice and also the philosophy of social work—both historically and prospectively—as it pertains to children and youth.

Ann Reyes Robbins, University of Southern California

Margaret A. Zahn (Ed.), *The Delinquent Girl*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2009. \$54.50 hardcover, \$31.95 papercover.

Delinquency among adolescent girls, while not uncommon, is often understudied. *The Delinquent Girl*, edited by Margaret A. Zahn, offers a comprehensive review of empirical evidence related to delinquent behaviors among girls. With evidence supporting increasing rates of girls' involvement with the juvenile justice system, this book presents a timely, multidisciplinary evaluation of the causes and related factors associated with delinquency.

The book opens with two chapters rooting female delinquency within a theoretical context. Contributing authors cite mainstream and feminist theory as foundations with which to define and contextualize delinquent behaviors among girls. This is followed by a review of recent growth trends in female delinquency coupled with possible explanations for the decreasing gender gap in delinquency rates. Chapter 4 offers an interdisciplinary perspective on the influence of various biopsychological vulnerability factors on high risk behaviors among girls. These factors include exposure to stress, the presence of Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity and Conduct Disorders, intellectual deficits, early onset of puberty, and other mental health issues.

Next the book considers the impact of family, peers, school and the community. The chapter on family influences suggests that negative family experiences and parental deviance affect females and males equally. However, the study of emotional processes and gender roles in the family context requires more research if it is easy to provide more explanative power. Chapter 6 addresses peer influences. The author highlights the importance of peer groups for females and indicates the role of mixed-gender peer groups in the development of delinquent

behavior. Although implicated, romantic partners have not yet received enough study to provide a strong causal link. School-related factors, as discussed in Chapter 7, as well as community factors discussed in Chapter 8, are inconclusive for explaining gender differences in delinquency. However, the literature suggests that girls have more negative effects when exposed to community violence.

Chapters 9 and 10 address girls' violence. Chapter 9 focuses on violence within the context of peer groups, families, schools and communities. It concludes that girls tend to be violent towards other girls and that reasons for violence may be rooted in issues of status, self-protection and enjoyment. Chapter 10 tackles adolescent girls' involvement in gangs. It reviews girls' participation and level of involvement in gangs, risk factors and entrance into gangs, the context of delinquency while involved, and the consequences of involvement. Finally, the book concludes with an overview of the treatment of girls within the juvenile justice system. The author contends that more effort is needed to address the social service needs of this population.

This book provides an in-depth analysis of the causes, mediators, and moderators of adolescent female delinquency. It reviews the current literature to present a unique snapshot of the factors that contribute to high risk behaviors. Each chapter concludes with recommendations which will be of much use to practitioners and policy makers. However, a definitive summary of the overall recommendations is lacking. A criticism of this field is the disjointed nature of the literature, thus, an overall summary that addresses the many factors contributing to the behaviors would be helpful. Nonetheless, this book is a "must read" for anyone invested in this population.

Cara Pohle, University of Southern California

William Spanos, *The Legacy of Edward W. Said*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2009. \$25.00 papercover.

Edward Said's writing made a decisive contribution to the way scholars today view the legacy of European imperialism,