

“This carefully researched and beautifully written book provides us with a much needed account that resists the homogenisation of *banlieue* youth as an undifferentiated, rowdy, violent mass. Luuk Slooter invites us to hear their voices; at times unruly, perhaps violent even, but far from the stereotypical images that demonise them en masse.”

—**Professor Mustafa Dikeç**, Ecole d’Urbanisme de Paris

“Since the late seventies, the French ‘banlieues’ have been famous all over the world for their riots, with a peak in 2005. However, apart from these pivotal moments, we don’t know much about these neighbourhoods and their inhabitants. This is why this book is so important: living there, sharing the daily experience of young people, talking with them during months of fieldwork enables Luuk Slooter to offer us an impressive, perfectly documented study: a great monograph!”

—**Professor Michel Wieviorka**, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme

This book studies and disaggregates the “crisis of the suburbs” in France through the stories of inhabitants of 4000sud: a suburban neighbourhood of Paris. Drawing on extensive ethnographic research, this book explores the ‘making’ of the French suburban crisis as constituted both ‘externally’ (by state actors) and ‘internally’ (by young people on the street corner). It reveals how the French state’s understanding of banlieue violence, and subsequent policy measures, contribute to the constitution and hardening of social and spatial boundaries between ‘us’ and ‘them’, and ‘here’ and ‘there’. But most importantly, *The Making of the Banlieue* takes the reader on a journey from the center of Paris to the heart of 4000sud. It unveils how young suburban residents try to cope simultaneously with the negative images imposed on them from the outside, and the disciplinary expectations of their peers on the street. In search for identity and dignity they navigate life through diverging strategies: they escape the neighbourhood, contest stereotypical images through contentious performances or confirm and act out the image of ‘gangster from the ghetto’. Drawing on urban sociology, human geography, and cultural anthropology this book offers new, analytical vocabularies to understand the connections between place-making processes, social identity dynamics and violent performances. The book is written for a broad audience of students, scholars and policy makers interested in contemporary (sub)urban violence in Europe.

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