Contents

List of Figures Shout Outs (As They Say)		ix x
	lossary	хi
1	Introduction Chapter outline	1
	•	8
2	Climbing Down off the Fence: Locating Our Standpoint and Values	
		10
	Shedding the positivist past – the ethogenic theory	12
	Accounts – action through talk or a talk through action? Authority, power and postmodernism: a game of hide and	17
	seek	20
	A culturally oriented approach to research	27
3	Are Theories of Subculture Too Class Oriented?	32
	The Functionalist 'anomie' or 'strain' approach	33
	The Marxist New Wave approach – work by the CCCS group	37
	Missing links	44
4	I Woz 'Ere: Tales from the Field	49
	The fields	50
	Informants	50
	Methods, means and madness	51
	Unpacking my personal baggage	57
5	Going Underground: A Journey into the Graffiti Subculture	63
	All work and no play – graffiti as a career	63
5	Constructive Destruction: Graffiti as a Tool for Making	
	Masculinity	94
	Masculinity: it can be a crime	97
	Urban warfare: blowing up masculinity	107
	In among the boys – involvement as the female 'other'	127
7	Keeping Its Distance: The Subculture's Separation from the	
	'Outside World'	151
	Worlds apart – the subculture's publicly private parade	153

viii Contents

	Distance makes the art grow stronger – the legal vs illegal debate	163
8	Making a World of Difference: The Personal Benefits of	
	Subcultural Membership	179
	New world, new life: passage to independence	180
	New world, new life, new persona: passport to potential	187
	The name is the fame of the game – missing bodies	193
	The rise and fall of the subcultural identity	217
Conclusion		228
Afterword: Writers Talk Back		
Bibliography		
Author Index		
Sui	bject Index	254

List of Figures

5.1	I am 'Known'	66
5.2	A throwup	78
5.3	Using a crown to claim the title 'king'	79
5.4	The piecing of one's name	80
5.5	A whole car top to bottom	85
6.1	'Atak' on the London Underground	110
6.2	Revs and Cost's sticker messages	133
7.1	The superior society	155
7.2	'Wildstyle'	159
7.3	Pictorial aerosol art	168
8.1	'Skore'	199
8.2	Blockbuster letters	200
8.3	'Revs' and 'Cost'	202
8.4	Saying hello	204
8.5	I'm as good as you	205
8.6	I'm better than you	206
8.7	I'm so much more than you	207
8.8	I'm bigger than you	208
3.9	You mean nothing	209
3.10	A dub placed over a piece	210
3.11	A weapon of assault	211
3.12	'Drax' lined out	212
3.13	A writer's dedications	214
3.14	A creative display of strength and dominance	215