

## **Abstract**

Young Salvadorian girls and women often join El Salvador's most infamous leading gang, MS13, due to several driving factors, only to become more susceptible to its violent efforts to recruit them and introduce them to sex work. The causes of the dual stigmatization that stems from one's involvement in sex work and gangs together and how these “crimes,” or deviant acts, are framed by scholars, media outlets, and participants themselves, have yet to be discussed. This research is significant and relevant in that it uncovers and discusses the roles that young Salvadorian girls and women take on and how they are further labeled, treated and perceived. A goal of this study is to examine whether or not sociological theories and constructions of deviance and media sensationalism exist and if so, how they impact these specific populations in El Salvador and the United States, where MS-13 involvement and sex work are prevalent. Loseke's (2003) approach, one that compares how academic "experts" describe sex work and MS-13 affiliation as “problems” as opposed to “solutions” for young Salvadorian girls and women, and/or both, will be utilized.