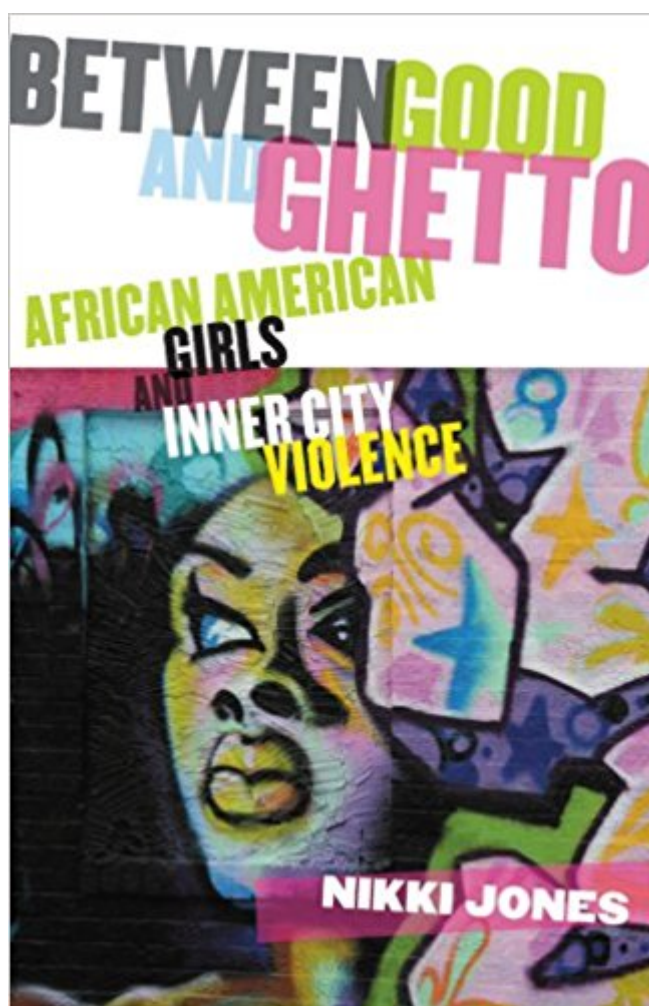


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# Between Good And Ghetto: African American Girls And Inner-City Violence (Rutgers Series In Childhood Studies)



## Synopsis

With an outward gaze focused on a better future, *Between Good and Ghetto* reflects the social world of inner city African American girls and how they manage threats of personal violence. Drawing on personal encounters, traditions of urban ethnography, Black feminist thought, gender studies, and feminist criminology, Nikki Jones gives readers a richly descriptive and compassionate account of how African American girls negotiate schools and neighborhoods governed by the so-called "code of the street"—the form of street justice that governs violence in distressed urban areas. She reveals the multiple strategies they use to navigate interpersonal and gender-specific violence and how they reconcile the gendered dilemmas of their adolescence. Illuminating struggles for survival within this group, *Between Good and Ghetto* encourages others to move African American girls toward the center of discussions of "the crisis" in poor, urban neighborhoods.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book adds invaluable information and analysis to the growing debate on the violence perpetrated by girls, and the ethnographic method is exactly what is needed to further the question of whether today's girls—particularly those most marginalized due to class, race, and neighborhood—are more violent." (Joanne Belknap author of *The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime & Justice* 2009-01-15)"Between Good and Ghetto is an expertly written and fascinating ethnography of the gendered racial dimensions of violence in the inner city. Jones does an excellent

job in communicating the strength and sensitivity [of the girls she interviewed] to her readers while, simultaneously, producing a work of tremendous insight and immense sociological imagination." (Contemporary Sociology 2010-09-01)"A very compelling account of daily life as experienced by poor, urban, African American adolescent girls. Recommended." (Choice 2010-01-01)"Nikki Jones' sharp, detailed investigation of the way fighting, on the street and in school, shapes the lives of young African American women combines shrewd analytical insight and clear evocative language to give readers an understanding of what it costs a 'good girl' to stay good, and what happens to those who 'go for bad.'" (Howard S. Becker author of Outsiders and Writing for Social Scientists 2009-01-01)"The young women in *Between Good and Ghetto* compel the reader to consider their lives and the violence they experience in relation to the shifting and dynamic concept of protection. What is perhaps the most significant and disturbing revelation in the book is that there are few contexts, behavioral strategies, institutional spaces, or ways of identifying that fully protect young inner-city African American women's physical well-being, emotional health, and empowered self-perception." (Signs 2012-04-01)"Intellectually and emotionally evocative. Jones's [book] is hard to put down due to her adept use of imagery and obvious passion for her work." (Feminist Formations 2012-05-01)

NIKKI JONES is an assistant professor in the department of sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

As a Black woman who graduated with a degree in Sociology from a private liberal arts university, this was the first full ethnography that I read by a Black woman. Which is saying something.. The intentionality that Jones went in to, with how much to share, considering whether she was re-stigmatizing/sensationalizing the young women as she told her story, just the deep thought that she had was incredible. I did not agree with everything, but the clarity which she presented her conclusions and the methods that brought her to them were both thoughtful and rigorous. This book should be required to read for every sociology major.

Review completed earlier

This book was really interesting. It was a required reading for a sociology class at UCSB. Nikki Jones writes a compelling ethnography that follows case studies of girls as they have negotiated school, family life, and neighborhoods that are governed by the "code of the street" -- the form of

street justice that controls violence in distressed urban areas. Jones describes the strategies that girls use to navigate interpersonal and gender-specific conflict. Jones further delineates what makes a "good" girl good and a "bad" girl bad.

This book is a great book that taught me how our society prevents certain groups of individual to advance and make a life for themselves. Also shows the struggles some girls have in hard neighborhoods and how they have to be to survive.

A lot of the stories told in this book, I have either gone through personally or viewed through close friends or family. This book affirmed most of my ideas I already had on some issues.

Well written, very interesting and illuminating. Dr. Jones is a brilliant sociologist and her perspective is illuminating. Highly recommended.

A very good tool for those in urban studies or anyone who needs to understand the world around them. Written well and understandable.

Professor Jones challenges readers to think critically. This book gives a great sociological perspective that is ethical and respectful of the shared stories.

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