Understanding youth and crime
Listening to youth?

Sheila Brown
Contents

Series editor’s foreword ix
Acknowledgements xi

1 Constructing the other: childhood and youth 1
   Age and the social 1
   Childhood and the Victorian lament for innocence 5
   Youth and adolescence, masculinity and nation 12
   Conclusion: childhood, youth and exclusion 15
   Further reading 17

2 Problem youth meets criminology: the formative decades 18
   Criminology and ‘problem youth’: a long-term relationship 19
   Early British criminology: causes, correlates and delinquents 20
   Transatlantic crossings: the pre-war American legacy 21
   After the war: the youth obsession revisited 23
   Postwar reconstruction: a ‘cult of youth’? 24
   A merging of histories: criminology and youth in the postwar era 26
   Critical criminologies: resolving the paradox? 29
   Presence and absence: voices and silences 35
   Further reading 36

3 Representing problem youth: the repackaging of reality 37
   Messengers, messages: the power of word and image 37
   Moral panics and problem youth: the study of media representations from the 1960s to the 1980s 39
   A total panic? The media and young people in the 1990s 46
   A totalizing discourse of panic? 51
   Further reading 52
4  In whose interests? Politics and policy  
John Macmillan with Sheila Brown  
The languages of youth justice  
The advance of welfare: the 1960s  
The retreat from welfare: the 1970s  
Politicizing criminal justice: the 1980s  
Just deserts, false starts: the Criminal Justice Act 1991  
Howard's Way  
New Labour, new punitiveness?  
Politics, policy talk and problem youth  
Further reading  
5  'Punishing youth': victims or villains?  
Throwing away the key: punishment, politics, press and the public  
Young people as victims I: 'behind closed doors' and wilful ignorance  
Young people as victims II: the other side of the youth crime coin  
The murky waters of golden pasts: accounting for collective myopia  
Further reading  
6  Youth and crime: beyond the boy zone  
Girls and crime: speaking into the silence  
Boy-ness and crime: masculinities  
Beyond the boy zone?  
Further reading  
7  Conclusion: listening to youth?  
Revisiting the domains of youth and crime: discarding the comfort blanket  
Disparate histories, enduring themes: the powers of articulation  
Glossary  
References  
Index