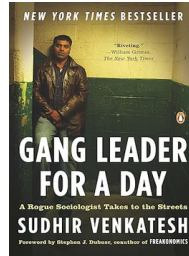


SENIOR BOX OFFICE Book Club

Wednesday, January 14, 2025 10:30 AM in 1801 Glen Keith Blvd, Room 107

Gang Leader For A Day by Sudhir Venkatesh



When first-year graduate student Sudhir Venkatesh walked into an abandoned building in one of Chicago's most notorious housing projects, he hoped to find a few people willing to take a multiple-choice survey on urban poverty—and impress his professors with his boldness. He never imagined that as a result of this assignment he would befriend a gang leader named JT and spend the better part of a decade embedded inside the projects under JT's protection. From a privileged position of unprecedented access, Venkatesh observed JT and the rest of his gang as they operated their crack-selling business, made peace with their neighbors, evaded the law, and rose up or fell within the ranks of the gang's complex hierarchical structure. Examining the morally ambiguous, highly intricate, and often corrupt struggle to survive in an urban war zone, *Gang Leader for a Day* also tells the story of the complicated friendship that develops between Venkatesh and JT—two young and ambitious men a universe apart.

