

Sociology 698S: Topics in Social Psychology

Symbolic Interactionism

Fall 2007
Wednesday 5:30-8:30 p.m.
113 East Hall

Instructor	David Schweingruber
Office	404 East Hall
Office Hours	M 1:10-2 p.m. W 4:10-5 p.m. or by appointment
Office phone	294-4079
E-mail	dschwein@iastate.edu

“Interactionism insists on being a humble theory, not claiming too much and not dealing with major abstractions and false dualisms. Indeed the real task of an interactionist is simply to look at social life as people ‘do things together.’; its core interests lie in the doing of ethnographies and in the intimate familiarity with ongoing social... worlds. It is a hands-on ‘down-to-earth’ empirical approach... In general, the tradition is one steeped in the exploration and inspection of data.”

— Ken Plummer (2003)

“The symbolic interactionist point of view requires you to take into account more things than almost any other perspective. At least, it disposes you to do your research in such a way that if anything is obviously (or not so obviously) affecting the phenomenon you want to understand, you’ll be free to take advantage of finding that out. This distinguishes it from other kinds of research which, for either theoretical or technical reasons, limit your view of what’s relevant so that you just don’t see those other factors which might be important.”

— Howard S. Becker (1970)

“Few other social science approaches have made so deep and explicit a commitment to complex questions. Interactionists should not stop asking those questions. Quite the contrary, to remove that complexity—to *simplify* interactionism—would destroy its essence.”

— Kevin Mihata (2002)

Summary

This course covers selected topics related to symbolic interactionism. Students will read and discuss sociological journal articles and chapters on these topics, read and give a précis of a book related to one of these topics, write a paper related to the course material, and give a presentation of this paper to the class.

Objectives for students include (1) increasing their knowledge about the symbolic interactionist perspective and about its substantive contributions; (2) improving their skills of reading, analyzing and evaluating sociological research; and (3) stimulating their thinking about their own research.

Note: Under the new graduate curriculum, this course will be numbered Soc 525D.

Grading

The course grade will be derived from five components.

1. Class participation (25%)

Students are expected to read the assigned core readings each week and contribute to class discussion.

2. Leading discussion (25%)

Discussion of each core reading assignment (journal article or book chapter) will be led by a student. This student is responsible for developing a list of discussion questions, which will be submitted to the instructor.

3. Book précis (10%)

Each student will prepare one précis of a book connected to a week's topic. The written précis will consist of a one-page summary of the book. The student will also give a oral synopsis of the book and answer questions about it.

4. Paper (30%)

Each student will write a paper related to the course. The paper need not be publishable, but should show potential for revision into a journal article, conference paper, dissertation chapter or some other scholarly product. Students should consult with the instructor about their paper.

5. Paper presentation (10%)

Students will give a conference-style presentation of their paper to the class.

About the Readings

The course pack of readings is available on-line through Iowa State's WebCT system.

There are three types of readings in the course pack:

Core readings: Each week we will discuss five or six core readings. All students are expected to have read these readings before class and each reading will be assigned to a student who will lead the discussion on it. The majority of these articles are empirical (rather than merely theoretical).

Background readings: Some weeks I have assigned one or two background readings, several of which are chapters from the *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism* (2003). These are highly recommended for putting the core readings into a larger perspective.

Bonus readings: Each topic has a number of bonus readings. These include (1) theoretical (rather than empirical) articles on the topic, (2) additional empirical articles on the topic, and (3) additional articles by the authors of the core readings. These bonus readings should provide a starting place for additional reading on each topic. Some of the topics have a more developed set of bonus readings than others. I may add additional bonus readings during the course of the semester.

I will attempt to provide you with a reading guide for each topic one week in advance.

In selecting the readings, I have attempted to provide you with examples of excellent interactionist research on a number of interesting topics. I also have attempted to introduce you to different groups of interactionists. First, many of the readings are by leading interactionists, i.e., SI sociologists whose research has had a major impact on the perspective and the discipline. Second, many of the readings are by young interactionists, i.e., SI sociologists who have received their Ph.Ds. in the past 15 years. Around a fifth of the core readings resulted from thesis or dissertation research conducted by these young interactionists. I highlight these publications because they are potential exemplars for the work that you are capable of. Last (but not least), I have included core readings by each of the four self-designated interactionists in the Iowa State sociology department. In addition, I have included bonus readings by other ISU sociology faculty who do not consider themselves interactionists, but who have produced publications that seem to me to be congruent with the perspective of interactionism.

In addition to the articles associated with the main course topics, I have included a number of other readings in the course pack: (1) a number of essays by interactionists on the discipline of sociology, (2) articles from a special issue of *Symbolic Interactionism* that consists of essays by winners of the SSSI's George Herbert Mead Career Award accompanied by responses by other interactionists, (3) articles related to the Iowa School of Symbolic Interactionism, and (4) the Great Debates, three significant exchanges about the meaning of SI. The first debate (Blumer vs. Bales) consists of Blumer's "Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead" (a core reading), a response by Robert Bales, and further commentary by Blumer and others. The second (Huber vs. Symbolic Interactionism) consists of Joan Huber's attack on SI, responses by Blumer and others, and Huber's replies. The third (McPhail & Rexroat vs. Blumer) is probably the most high profile exchange in the long-standing dispute over whether Blumer misinterpreted Mead.

Academic Integrity

Speaking and acting truthfully are skills acquired through practice. These skills are indispensable for successfully living and working with other people. If you practice dishonesty, you will endanger all of your relationships. You will be a bad spouse, a bad parent, a bad employee and a bad citizen.

Participating in academic life is an important opportunity to practice truthfulness since dishonesty is incompatible with and abhorrent to the purposes of the university. Therefore, students in this course are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty.

Sociology Code of Ethics for Human Relations

The Department of Sociology is committed to providing a professional and educational environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. The department's Code of Ethics for Human Relations and the Procedures for Filing Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment are posted on the bulletin boards on all five floors of East Hall.

Schedule of Readings

(1) Wednesday, Aug. 22: Course Overview

“There are many reasons why someone might want to embrace symbolic interactionism, but the basic reason why social scientific scholarship ought to be based on that perspective is that it represents good science.”

— David R. Maines (2003)

Core Readings

Fine, Gary Alan. 1993. “The Sad Demise, Mysterious Disappearance, and Glorious Triumph of Symbolic Interactionism.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 19:61-87.

Maines, David R. 2003. “Interactionism’s Place.” *Symbolic Interaction* 26(1): 5-18.

Stryker, Sheldon. 1987. “The Vitalization of Symbolic Interactionism.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 50(1):83-94.

Bonus Readings

Blumer, Herbert. 1969. “The Methodological Position of Symbolic Interactionism.” Chapter 1 in *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Fine, Gary Alan. 1990. “Symbolic Interactionism in the Post-Blumerian Age.” Chapter 5 in George Ritzer (ed.) *Frontiers of Social Theory*. Columbia University Press.

Harris, Scott R. forthcoming (2007). “Constructionism in Sociology: Objective and Interpretive Forms.” Chapter 12 in James A. Holstein and Jaber F. Gubrium (eds.) *Handbook of Constructionist Research*. Gullfold Publications.

Maines, David R. 2000. “The Social Construction of Meaning.” *Contemporary Sociology* 29(4):577-584.

Mihata, Kevin. 2002. “Emergence and Complexity in Interactionism: Comments on David A. Snow’s ‘Extending and Broadening Blumer’s Conceptualization of Symbolic Interactionism.’” *Symbolic Interaction* 25(4):571-575.

Snow, David A. 2001. “Extending and Broadening Blumer’s Conceptualization of Symbolic Interactionism.” *Symbolic Interaction* 24(3):367-377.

Ulmer, Jeffery T. 2003. “Demarginalizing Symbolic Interactionism: A Comment on ‘Interactionism’s Place.’” *Symbolic Interaction* 26(1): 19-31.

(2) Wednesday, Aug. 29: Origins and Principles (The Chicago School)

“Go and sit in the lounges of the luxury hotels and on the doorsteps of the flophouses; sit on the Gold Coast settees and on the slum shakedown; sit in the Orchestra Hall and in the Star and Garter Burlesk. In short, [sociologists], go get the seat of your pants dirty in real research.”

—Robert E. Park

Core Readings

Becker, Howard S. 1951. “The Professional Dance Musician and His Audience.” *American Journal of Sociology* 57(2):136-144.

Becker, Howard S. 1953. “Becoming a Marihuana User.” *American Journal of Sociology* 59:235-242.

Blumer, Herbert. 1966. “Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead.” *American Journal of Sociology* 71(5):535-544.

Hughes, Everett C. 1945. "Dilemmas and Contradictions of Status." *American Journal of Sociology* 50(5):353-359.

Mead, George Herbert. 1913. "The Social Self." *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods* 10(14):374-380.

Mead, George Herbert. 1922. "A Behavioristic Account of the Significant Symbol." *The Journal of Philosophy* 19(6):157-163.

Background Readings

Reynolds, Larry. 2003. "Early Representatives." Chapter 3 in Larry T. Reynolds and Nancy J. Herman-Kinney (eds.) *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Altamira Press.

Musolf, Gil Richard. 2003. "The Chicago School." Chapter 4 in Larry T. Reynolds and Nancy J. Herman-Kinney (eds.) *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Altamira Press.

Bonus Readings

Athens, Lonnie. 2005. "Mead's Lost Conception of Society." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(3):305-325.

Becker, Howard S. 1955. "Marihuana Use and Social Control." *Social Problems* 3(1):35-44.

Becker, Howard S. 1999. "The Chicago School, So-Called." *Qualitative Sociology* 22(1):3-12.

Becker, Howard S, and Julius Debro. 1970. "Dialogue with Howard S. Becker." *Issues in Criminology* 5 (summer). Reprinted as chapter 2 in *Doing Things Together*. 1986. Northwestern University Press.

Best, Joel. 2006. "Blumer's Dilemma: The Critic as a Tragic Figure." *The American Sociologist* 37(3):5-14.

Blumer, Herbert. 1931. "Science Without Concepts." *American Journal of Sociology* 36(4):515-533.

Blumer, Herbert. 1940. "The Problem of the Concept in Social Psychology." *American Journal of Sociology* 45(5):707-719.

Blumer, Herbert. 1948. "Public Opinion and Public Opinion Polling." *American Sociological Review* 13(5):542-549.

Blumer, Herbert. 1954. "What is Wrong with Social Theory?" *American Sociological Review* 19(1):3-10.

Blumer, Herbert. 1955. "Attitudes and the Social Act." *Social Problems* 3(2):59-65.

Blumer, Herbert. 1956. "Sociological Analysis and the 'Variable.'" *American Sociological Review* 21(6):683-690.

Chapoulie, Jean-Michel. 1987. "Everett C. Hughes and the Development of Fieldwork in Sociology." *Urban Life* 15(3-4): 259-298.

Dingwall, Robert. 2001. "Notes Toward an Intellectual History of Symbolic Interactionism." *Symbolic Interaction* 24(2):237-242.

Glaser, Barney G., and Anselm L. Strauss. 1964. "Awareness Contexts and Social Interaction." *American Sociological Review* 29(5):669-679.

Glaser, Barney G., and Anselm L. Strauss. 1965. "Temporal Aspects of Dying as a Non-Scheduled Status Passage." *The American Journal of Sociology* 71(1):48-59.

Hughes, Everett C. 1942. "The Study of Institutions." *Social Forces* 20(3):307-310.

Hughes, Everett C. 1951. "Mistakes at Work." *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science* 17(3):320-327.

- Kivisto, Peter, and William H. Swatos Jr. 1990. "Weber and Interpretive Sociology in America." *The Sociological Quarterly* 31(1):149-163.
- Maines, David R., Noreen M. Sugrue, and Michael Katovich. 1983. "The Sociological Import of G.H. Mead's Theory of the Past." *American Sociological Review* 48(2):161-173.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1910. "What Social Objects Must Psychology Presuppose?" *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods* 7(7):174-180.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1912. "The Mechanism of Social Consciousness." *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods* 9(15):401-406.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1917. "Scientific Method and Individual Thinker." Pp. 176-227 in John Dewey (ed.) *Creative Intelligence: Essays in the Pragmatic Attitude*. Henry Holt and Co.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1925. "The Genesis of the Self and Social Control." *International Journal of Ethics*. 35(3):251-277.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1930. "Cooley's Contribution to American Social Thought." *American Sociological Review* 35(5):693-706.
- Mead, George Herbert. 1935. "The Philosophy of John Dewey." *International Journal of Ethics* 46(1):64-81.
- Plummer, Ken. 2003. "Continuity and Change in Howard S. Becker's Work: An Interview with Howard S. Becker." *Sociological Perspectives* 46(1):21-39.
- Wiseman, Jacqueline P. 1987. "In Memoriam: Herbert Blumer (1900-1987)." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 16(3):243-249.

(3) Wednesday, Sept. 5: Goffman and the Dramaturgical Perspective

"Erving Goffman never, to my knowledge, labeled himself a symbolic interactionist, but if we exclude him, we exclude our soul."

—Gary Alan Fine (1990)

Core Readings

- Cahill, Spencer, William Distler, Cynthia Lachowetz, Andrea Meaney, Robyn Tarallo, and Teena Willard. 1985. "Meanwhile Backstage: Public Bathrooms and the Interaction Order." *Urban Life* 14(1):33-58.
- Goffman, Erving. 1959. "Introduction" and "Performances." Pp. 1-76 in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Anchor Books.
- Goffman, Erving. 1963. "Stigma and Social Identity." Chapter 1 in *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Simon & Schuster.
- Herman, Nancy J. 1993. "Return to Sender: Reintegrative Stigma-Management Strategies of Ex-Psychiatric Patients." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22(3):295-330.
- Lankenau, Stephen E. 1999a. "Panhandling Repertoires and Routines for Overcoming the Nonperson Treatment." *Deviant Behavior* 20:183-206.

Background Reading

- Edgley, Charles. 2003. "The Dramaturgical Genre." Chapter 6 in Larry T. Reynolds and Nancy J. Herman-Kinney (eds.) *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Altamira Press.

Bonus Readings

- Becker, Howard. 2003. "The Politics of Presentation: Goffman and Total Institutions." *Symbolic Interaction* 26(4):659-669.

- Blinde, Elaine M., and Diane E. Taub. 1992. "Women Athletes as Falsely Accused Deviants: Managing the Lesbian Stigma." *The Sociological Quarterly* 33(4):521-533.
- Cahill, Spencer, and Robin Eggleston. 1995. "Reconsidering the Stigma of Physical Disability: Wheelchair Use and Public Kindness." *The Sociological Quarterly* 36(4):681-698.
- Collett, Jessica L. 2005. "What Kind of Mother Am I? Impression Management and the Social Construction of Motherhood." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(3):327-347.
- Futrell, Robert. 1999. "Performative Governance: Impression Management, Teamwork, and Conflict Containment in City Commission Proceedings." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 27(4):494-529.
- Gamson, William A. 1985. "Goffman's Legacy to Political Sociology." *Theory and Society* 14(5):605-622.
- Gardner, Carol Brooks, and William P. Gronfein. 2005. "Reflections on Varieties of Shame Induction, Shame Management, and Shame Avoidance in Some Works of Erving Goffman." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(2):175-182.
- Goffman, Erving. 1956. "Embarrassment and Social Organization." *American Journal of Sociology* 62(3):264-271.
- Goffman, Erving. 1983. "The Interaction Order: American Sociological Association, 1982 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 48(1):1-17.
- Harding, David J. 2003. "Jean Valjean's Dilemma: The Management of Ex-Convict Identity in the Search for Employment." *Deviant Behavior* 24:571-595.
- Herman, Nancy J., and Gil Richard Musolf. 1998. "Resistance Among Ex-Psychiatric Patients: Expressive and Instrumental Rituals." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 26(4):426-449.
- Jacobs, Bruce A. 1992. "Undercover Deception: Reconsidering Presentations of Self." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 21(2):200-225.
- Kusow, Abdi. 2004. "Contesting Stigma: On Goffman's Assumptions of Normative Order." *Symbolic Interaction* 27(2):179-197.
- Lankenau, Stephen E. 1999b. "Stronger Than Dirt: Public Humiliation and Status Enhancement among Panhandlers." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 28(3):288-318.
- Link, Bruce G., and Jo C. Phelan. 2001. "Conceptualizing Stigma." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27:363-385.
- Lofland, John. 1984. "Erving Goffman's Sociological Legacies." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 13(1):7-34.
- Manning, Philip. 2005. "Reinvigorating the Tradition of Symbolic Interactionism." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(2):167-173.
- May, Hazel. 2000. "'Murderers' Relatives': Managing Stigma, Negotiating Identity." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 29(2):198-221.
- Park, Kristin. 2002. "Stigma Management Among the Voluntarily Childless." *Sociological Perspectives* 45(1):21-45.
- Schweingruber, David, Sine Anahita, and Nancy Berns. 2004. "'Popping the Question' When the Answer is Known: The Engagement Proposal as Performance." *Sociological Focus* 37(2):143-161
- Scheff, Thomas J. 2005. "Looking-Glass Self: Goffman as Symbolic Interactionist." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(2):147-166.
- West, Candace. 1996. "Goffman in Feminist Perspective." *Sociological Perspectives*. 39(3):353-369.

(4) Wednesday, Sept. 12: The Indiana School

“The major axis of differentiation among symbolic interactionists has been, and is, between those who emphasize social structure as a major constraint and those who do not. Other differences... in aims, styles of research, and methods tend to follow from this major differentiation.”

—Sheldon Stryker (2003)

Core Readings

Burke, Peter J. 2004. “Identities and Social Structure: The 2003 Cooley-Mead Award Address.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67(1):5-15.

Cast, Alicia D. 2003. “Power and the Ability to Define the Situation.” *Social Psychological Quarterly* 66(3):185-201.

Smith-Lovin, Lynn. 2007. “The Strength of Weak Identities: Social Structural Sources of Self, Situation, and Emotional Experience.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 70(2):106-124.

Stryker, Sheldon. 2003. “Whither Symbolic Interaction? Reflections on a Personal Odyssey.” *Symbolic Interaction* 26(1):95-109.

Stryker, Sheldon, and Peter J. Burke. 2000. “The Past, Present, and Future of Identity Theory.” *Social Psychological Quarterly* 63(4):284-197.

Tsushima, Teresa, and Peter J. Burke. 1999. “Levels, Agency, and Control in the Parent Identity.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62(2):173-189.

Background Reading

Stryker, Sheldon. 1980. “Contemporary Symbolic Interactionism: A Statement.” Chapter 3 in *Symbolic Interactionism: A Social Structural Version*. The Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Company.

Bonus Readings

Burke, Peter J. 1980. “The Self: Measurement Requirements from an Interactionist Perspective.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 43(1):18-29.

Burke, Peter J. 1991. “Identity Processes and Social Stress.” *American Sociological Review* 56(6):836-849.

Burke, Peter J. 2003. “Commentary on ‘Whither Symbolic Interaction?’” *Symbolic Interaction* 26(1):111-118.

Cast, Alicia D. 2004. “Role-Taking and Interaction.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67(3):296-309.

Cast, Alicia D., and Peter J. Burke. 2003. “A Theory of Self-Esteem.” *Social Forces* 80(3):1941-1068.

Cast, Alicia D., and Allison M. Cantwell. 2007. “Identity Change in Newly Married Couples: Effects of Positive and Negative Feedback.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 70(2):172-185.

Heise, David R. 1989. “Effects of Emotion Displays on Social Identification.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 52(1):10-21.

Heise, David R. 1999. “Controlling Affective Experience Interpersonally.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62(1):4-16.

Heise, David R., and Cassandra Calhan. 1995. “Emotion Norms in Interpersonal Events.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 58(4):223-240.

Heise, David R., and Lynn Smith-Lovin. 1981. “Impressions of Goodness, Powerfulness, and Liveliness from Discerned Social Events.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 44(2):93-106.

Robinson, Dawn T. 2007. "Introduction of Lynn Smith-Lovin: Recipient of the 2006 Cooley-Mead Award." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 70(2):103-105.

Robinson, Dawn T., and Lynn Smith-Lovin. 1992. "Selective Interaction as a Strategy for Identity Maintenance: An Affect Control Model." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 55(1):12-28.

Serpe, Richard T. 1987. "Stability and Change in Self: A Structural Symbolic Interactionist Explanation." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 50(1):44-55.

Smith-Lovin, Lynn. 1999. "Introduction of David R. Heise: Recipient of the 1998 Cooley-Mead Award." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62(1):1-3.

Stryker, Sheldon. 1956. "Relationships of Married Offspring and Parent: A Test of Mead's Theory." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62(3):308-319.

Stryker, Sheldon. 2004. "Introduction of Peter J. Burke, Recipient of the 2003 Cooley-Mead Award." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67(1):1-4.

Stryker, Sheldon, and Richard T. Serpe. 1994. "Identity Salience and Psychological Centrality: Equivalent, Overlapping, or Complementary Concepts?" *Social Psychology Quarterly* 57(1):16-35.

(5) Wednesday, Sept. 19: Self and Identity

Core Readings

Adler, Patricia A., and Peter Adler. 1989. "The Gloried Self: The Aggrandizement and the Constriction of Self." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 52(4):299-310.

Armato, Michael, and William Marsiglio. 2002. "Self-Structure, Identity, and Commitment: Promise Keepers' Godly Man Project." *Symbolic Interaction* 25(1):41-65.

Hopper, Joseph. 2001. "Contested Selves in Divorce Proceedings." Pp. 127-141 in Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein (eds.) *Institutional Selves: Troubled Selves in a Postmodern World*. Oxford.

Loseke, Donileen R., and James C. Cavendish. 2001. "Producing Institutional Selves: Rhetorically Constructing the Dignity of Sexually Marginalized Catholics." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 64(4):347-362.

Sandstrom, Kent L. 1990. "Confronting Deadly Disease: The Drama of Identity Construction Among Gay Men with AIDS." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 19(3):271-294.

Snow, David A., and Leon Anderson. 1987. "Identity Work among the Homeless: The Verbal Construction and Avowal of Personal Identities." *American Journal of Sociology* 92(6):1336-1371.

Background Readings

Vryan, Kevin D., Patricia A. Alder, Peter Adler. 2003. "Identity." Chapter 15 in Larry T. Reynolds and Nancy J. Herman-Kinney (eds.) *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Altamira Press.

Weigert, Andrew J., and Viktor Gecas. 2003. "Self." Chapter 10 in Larry T. Reynolds and Nancy J. Herman-Kinney (eds.) *Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Altamira Press.

Bonus Readings

Adler, Patricia A., and Peter Adler. 1988. "Intense Loyalty in Organizations: A Case of College Athletics." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 33(3):401-417.

Adler, Patricia A., and Peter Adler. 1999. "Transience and the Postmodern Self: The Geographic Mobility of Resort Workers." *The Sociological Quarterly* 40(1):31-58.

Adler, Peter, and Patricia Adler. 1985. "From Idealism to Pragmatic Detachment: The Academic Performance of College Athletes." *Sociology of Education* 58(4):241-250.

- Anderson, Leon., and David Snow.A. 2001. "Inequality and the Self: Exploring Connections from an Interactionist Perspective." *Symbolic Interaction* 24(4):395-406.
- Athens, Lonnie. 1994. "The Self as Soliloquy." *The Sociological Quarterly* 35(3):521-532.
- Athens, Lonnie. 1995. "Dramatic Self Change." *The Sociological Quarterly* 36(3):571-586.
- Barker, Kristin. 2002. "Self-Help Literature and the Making of an Illness Identity: The Case of Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS)." *Social Problems* 49(3):279-300.
- Charmaz, Kathy. 1994. "Identity Dilemmas of Chronically Ill Men." *The Sociological Quarterly* 35(2):269-288.
- Chase, Susan. 2001. "Universities as Discursive Environments for Sexual Identity Construction." Pp. 142-158 in Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein (eds.) *Institutional Selves: Troubled Selves in a Postmodern World*. Oxford.
- Gubrium, Jaber F., and James A. Holstein. 1994. "Grounding the Postmodern Self." *The Sociological Quarterly* 35(4):685-703.
- Gubrium, Jaber F., and James A. Holstein. 1995. "Individual Agency, the Ordinary, and Postmodern Life." *The Sociological Quarterly* 36(3):555-570.
- Haworth-Hoepfner, Susan, and David Maines. 2005. "A Sociological Account of the Persistence of Invalidated Anorexic Identities." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(1):1-23.
- Irvine, Leslie. 2000. "'Even Better Than the Real Thing': Narratives of the Self in Codependency." *Qualitative Sociology* 23(1):9-28.
- Leisenring, Amy. 2006. "Confronting 'Victim' Discourse: The Identity Work of Battered Women." *Symbolic Interaction* 29(3):307-330.
- Lowney, Kathleen S., and James A. Holstein. 2001. "Victims, Villains, and Talk Show Selves." Pp. 23-45 in Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein (eds.) *Institutional Selves: Troubled Selves in a Postmodern World*. Oxford.
- Padavic, Irene. 2005. "Laboring under Uncertainty: Identity Renegotiation among Contingent Workers." *Symbolic Interaction* 28(1):111-134.
- Paterniti, Debora A. 2000. "The Micropolitics of Identity in Adverse Circumstances: A Study of Identity Making in a Total Institution." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 29:93-119.
- Peek, Lori, 2005. "Becoming Muslim: The Development of a Religious Identity." *Sociology of Religion* 66(3):215-242.
- Ponticelli, Christy M. 1999. "Crafting Stories of Sexual Identity Reconstruction." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 62(2):157-172.
- Waskul, Dennis D., and Matt Lust. 2004. "Role-Playing and Playing Roles: The Person, Player, and Persona in Fantasy Role-Playing." *Symbolic Interaction* 27(3):333-356.
- Waskul, Dennis D., and Pamela van der Riet. 2002. "The Abject Embodiment of Cancer Patients: Dignity, Selfhood, and the Grotesque Body." *Symbolic Interaction* 25(4):487-513.
- Yeung, King-to, and Mindy Stompler. 2000. "Gay & Greek: The Identity Paradox of Gay Fraternities." *Social Problems* 47(1):134-152.

(6) Wednesday, Sept. 26: Doing Things Together

“Louis Wirth used to tell my cohort of graduate students at the University of Chicago that sociology studied what was true by virtue of the fact that people everywhere lived in groups. That definition seemed trivial and still would, if its implications were not so persistently ignored. We soon learned that it was not trivial because, taken seriously, it meant that you could not take seriously a lot of other commonly accepted ideas. Seeing things as the product of people doing things together makes a lot of other views less plausible and less interesting.”

—Howard S. Becker (1986)

Core Readings

Anderson, Elijah. 2004. “The Cosmopolitan Canopy.” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 595:14-31.

Becker, Howard S. 1974. “Art as Collective Action.” *American Sociological Review* 39(6):767-776.

Fine, Gary Alan. 1992. “The Culture of Production: Aesthetic Choices and Constraints in Culinary Work.” *American Journal of Sociology* 97(5):1268-1294.

Schweingruber, David. 2006. “Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude? The Role of Positive Thinking in Door-to-Door Sales.” *The Sociological Quarterly* 47(1):41-68.

Timmermans, Stefan. 2005. “Suicide Determination and the Professional Authority of Medical Examiners.” *American Sociological Review* 70(2):311-333.

Ulmer, Jeffery T., and John T. Kramer. 1998. “The Use and Transformation of Formal Decision-Making Criteria: Sentencing Guidelines, Organizational Contexts, and Case Processing Strategies.” *Social Problems* 45(2):248-267.

Background Readings

Becker, Howard S. 1982. “Culture: A Sociological View.” *Yale Review* 71 (summer). Reprinted as chapter 1 in *Doing Things Together*. 1986. Northwestern University Press.

Blumer, Herbert. 1969. “Society as Symbolic Interaction.” Chapter 3 in *Symbolic Interaction*. University of California Press.

Bonus Readings

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(8) Wednesday, Oct. 10: Crowds, Behavior in Public and Social Movements

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(9) Wednesday, Oct. 17: Social Problems

“From our point of view, the evidence that there is, for example, a crime problem is not that there is a high rate of crime or that the rate is higher than it used to be. Rather the evidence is that there are many individuals and groups complaining about various aspects of crime—violence in the streets, burglaries in the suburbs, corruption in the police force, etc.—and the activities of the myriad agencies that are mandated to do something about these complaints. The so-called ‘crime problem’ as a social problem, like that of the ‘generation gap,’ ‘pollution,’ ‘disadvantaged child,’ and others, is generated and sustained by the activities of complaining groups and institutional responses to them.”

—Malcome Spector and John I. Kitsuse (1973)

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(10) Wednesday, Oct. 24: Deviance, Violence and Social Control

"Deviance is one of the core concepts of sociology, cutting across and being integrated into our major theories and substantive fields. When we think of deviance, we refer not only to attitudes, behavior and conditions that lie outside the margins of acceptability, but to the very norms that cast them out, to the power structures of how folkways, mores and laws are created, and to the way that social control is attempted and achieved. Deviance is involved in key processes by which social order is maintained, as affirmations and re-affirmations of collective sentiment enhance social solidarity and stability. Deviance is also critically engaged in the dynamics of social change, as ideas and behavior move around and go in and out of currency. Finally, it is central to the hierarchy of social stratification, as it enables individuals and groups to raise themselves up and strike down their adversaries."

—Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler (2006)

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(11) Wednesday, Oct. 31: Emotions

"Why is the emotive experience of normal adults in daily life as orderly as it is? Why, generally speaking, do people feel gay at parties, sad at funerals, happy at weddings? This question leads us to examine, not conventions of appearance or outward comportment, but conventions of feeling. Conventions of feeling become surprising only when we imagine, by contrast, what totally unpatterned, unpredictable emotive life might actually be like at parties, funerals, weddings, and in the family or work life of normal adults."

—Arlie Russell Hochschild (1979)

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(12) Wednesday, Nov. 7: Gender

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(13) Wednesday, Nov. 14: Sex

"A symbolic interactionist view of sex would go something like this: Sex acts, sexual objects, sexual partners (human or otherwise) like other objects toward which human beings behave are *social objects*; that is they have meanings because meanings are assigned to them by the groups of which human beings are members, for there is nothing in the physiology of [humans] which gives any dependable clue as to what pattern of activity will be followed toward them."

—Manford Kuhn (1954)

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(14) Wednesday, Nov. 28: Student Presentations

(15) Wednesday, Dec. 5: Student Presentations

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Ulmer, Jeffery T. 2003. "Demarginalizing Symbolic Interactionism: A Comment on 'Interactionism's Place.'" *Symbolic Interaction* 26(1): 19-31.

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