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Interaction Ritual - Essays On Face-to-Face Behavior



Synopsis

In a brilliant series of books about social behavior, including *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, *Asylums*, and *Stigma*, Erving Goffman has exposed all that is at stake when people meet face to face. Goffman's work, once of the great intellectual achievements of our time, is an endlessly fascinating commentary on how we enact ourselves by our responses to and our readings of other people. From the exemplary opening essay of *Interaction Ritual*, "On Face-Work," a full account of the extraordinary repertoire of maneuvers we employ in social encounters in order to "save face" to the final, and classic, essay "Where the Action Is," an examination of people in risky occupations and situations: gamblers, criminals, coal miners, stock speculators. Goffman astounds us with the unexpected richness and complexity of brief encounters between people. For Goffman, as for Freud, the extreme cases are of interest because of the light they shed on the normal: The study of the trapeze artist is worthwhile because each of us is on the wire from time to time.

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Customer Reviews

In a brilliant series of books about social behavior, including *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, *Asylums*, and *Stigma*, Erving Goffman has exposed all that is at stake when people meet face to face. Goffman's work, one of the great intellectual achievements of our time, is an endlessly fascinating commentary on how we enact ourselves by our responses to and our readings of other people.

ERVING GOFFMAN is the author of, among other works, *Interaction Ritual*, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, *Asylums*, and *Stigma*. He is Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

This is not a review of the book but of the printing quality. The text is off center so that there is a wide left margin and little or no right margin. The first few pages lost one character space to the right. The rest of the text appears to be intact. But no excuse for sloppy printing technique. I am sure the book is insightful and interesting, like all of Goffman's work.

good

Thank you

Supremely helpful not only in its insight into social reality, but in its terms and models for studying literature, drama, film, even video games.

People call Goffman a sociologist, but the more I read of him, the more I see him as a philosopher. I mean, George Herbert Mead is considered a philosopher and not a sociologist, right? In my day-to-day life, I find Goffman's observations about ritual human behavior and face-to-face interaction to be endlessly useful. Almost every day I think about something he's written in one of his books. His style is not overly pedantic, and you can read through any of his books without specialized education. Sure, the 50s/60s examples he gives are sort of dated, but so what- we all watch *Mad Men*, don't we?

Good seminal work by Goffman. It includes one of Goffman's most noted pieces: "On Face-Work," originally published in *Psychiatry: Journal for the Study of Interpersonal Processes*.

As a communication major, I used this book frequently when I write papers and do research. If you want to know about concepts such as "face", you will have to read this original. But I don't think it's a book for everybody, that's the only reason I gave it 4 star.

I think if a man begins reading a subject, he / she has to understand it. At social people how can be

achived an individually ? That must be found as an answer by reading the book.

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