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Studying Everyday Life:
Generic Dimensions of Interactionist Inquiry

Poland - Łódź, July 4-8, 2017
In developing this paper/presentation, I address Ethnohistorical Sociology (EHS) as a highly instructive and notably informative but also a much neglected realm of sociological inquiry. EHS rather inevitably encompasses the transhistorical, transcultural, transcontextual, and transsituational study of knowing and acting—within all fields and modes of coordinated activity and organizational interchange. Ethnohistorical sociology builds on materials from the fuller array of human life-worlds and over the corridors of time for which we have records about the settings and situations in which people have found themselves and how they made sense of and pursued their activities and relationships within.

While relying heavily on historically developed documents, the emphasis is on attending to those materials (particularly written texts) that not only address the nature of human lived experience in more detailed and sustained terms but also do so from the point of view of the people living in those settings. Still, more than simply assembling an extended collection of ethnographically-oriented historical texts, ethnohistorical sociology, as it is envisioned herein, also is informed by a specification of the premises that undergird this academic endeavor, sustained comparative analyses and the quest for conceptuality of a more generic, transcontextual and transhistorical, process-oriented quality.

Still, to provide greater coherence to ethnohistorical sociology something more is needed—a “time travelling medium” that respects (not praising or condemning) the internal integrity of the diverse life-worlds one encounters in the ethnohistorical literature. This is achieved by adopting a Chicago-style symbolic interactionist approach—with its emphasis on pragmatist social thought, ethnographic inquiry, comparative analysis and the quest for a generic, process-oriented conceptual understanding of the nature of human group life.

While building on my own experiences as an interactionist, ethnographer, social theorist, and (over the past twenty years) ethnohistorian, this conceptualization of ethnohistorical sociology has been very much informed by a wide array of scholars from the classical Greek and Latin eras. Still, it also benefits from the works of other Latin European and interim European and American scholars, as well as present day academics who variously have built on these earlier works, provided more sustained ethnographical materials on their own eras, and who have engaged in conceptual analyses that have been attentive to the nature of human knowing and acting within the fuller range of continuous-persevering and dynamic-emergent interchanges characterizing community life.

Scholarship as a Community Engaged Process: The What, How, and Exceptional Potency of Pragmatist Informed Ethnohistorical Sociology

Robert Prus
University of Waterloo, Canada

Plenary I
Kaja Kaźmierska
University of Lodz, Poland

**Doing Biographical Research—Ethical Dilemmas in Changing Social Contexts**

When biographical research started rapidly developing in last decades of 20th century, ethical problems of biographical interviewing were focused more on the very relationship between a narrator and interviewer, the promise of anonymity and methodological responsibility. Recently, the dynamic changes of different spheres of social life (especially commercialization of science, digitalization of data, social media) have influenced definitions of research situation and approach to results in social sciences. Some new standards have been implemented from hard sciences, the research situation has been shaped by circumstances related to wider cultural changes. In my presentation, I comment on these phenomena referring particularly to the field of biographical research. I try to discuss such problems as, e.g., digital archiving, changes in social definitions of public vs. private spheres, dissemination of results or introducing of informed consent in frames of ethical dilemmas they may evoke.

**Plenary Session II**

**Room: T-1**

**July 5th, 2017 09:00-10:00**

Vessela Misheva
Uppsala University, Sweden

**Jane Addams of Hull-House and the Birth of the Sociological Paradigm**

Establishing the role of women-sociologists in the early period of sociology’s history, including their impact on subsequent sociological thought, became a focus of attention in social science research in the final quarter of the twentieth century. Forty years later, however, very little progress has been made in revealing the precise nature of the contributions of early women-sociologists in laying the foundations of sociology as a science and establishing it as a profession.

The paper investigates some of the main reasons why Jane Addams of Hull-House is a good candidate for membership in the sociological canon as a founder of the discipline. Three of Addams’ major contributions will be identified and discussed: the creation of Hull-House as a democratic public sphere involved in the production of sociological knowledge, the establishment of social problem work at the center of the sociological profession, and the conception of early sociology as both a science and a not-for-profit social enterprise.

The sociological nature and fundamental significance of Addams’ contributions become clear in the light of her most significant and unique scholarly achievement, namely, the creation of a sociological paradigm in her published works. The recognized causes for why Addams’ remarkable sociological contributions have been neglected, and for why sociology still remains a science without a paradigm or a common foundation, need to be complemented by the fact that there has been little serious discussion of the sociological and socio-psychological aspects of a scientific paradigm. Sociologists have generally assumed that the term paradigm is intuitively clear, and that it requires no further definition and articulation. But, as the case of the sociological paradigm indicates, scholars do not immediately recognize a scientific paradigm when they see it insofar as it can be difficult to locate unless one has a concept of significant precision to guide the search.

**Plenary Session III**

**Room: T-1**

**July 5th, 2017 12:45-13:45**
Joseph Kotarba
Texas State University, U.S.A.

**The Experience of Music in the Third Age: The Convergence of Theory and Methods**

This lecture reports on my ongoing research on the relationship of age to the everyday use of music as a resource for meaning. The focus is on baby boomers whose life experiences place them in what gerontologists refer to as the Third Age. As baby boomers escape middle age, for example, by entering their 70s, their relationship with music tends to move away from middle-aged efforts to restore or maintain a sense of youth to a perception of music as a possible mechanism or strategy to escape unmanageable or inevitable aging—the Fourth Age.

Robert Dingwall
University of Nottingham, UK

**Why I Am (Not) a Symbolic Interactionist**

This paper looks at the definition of what counts as “symbolic interactionism.” It argues that the development of an origin myth around the role of Herbert Blumer and his work in establishing the field has not been helpful. In particular, it is not a good model for European scholars to follow. We must recognize how an interest in symbolic interactionism has emerged in Europe as we have moved out of the Cold War and the failure of Marxist sociologies in 1968 and 1989. The roots of interactionism in Chicago before World War II are more diverse than the origin myth allows, particularly in Mead’s own version of pragmatism, in evolutionary or ecological thought, and in anthropology. We need to understand how Chicago thinking drew eclectically on our own national traditions, and synthesized them in a way that we did not. We also need to acknowledge the democratic nature of its politics rather than mistaking it as a replacement for the Marxist program.
Scott Grills
Brandon University, Canada

Understanding Everyday Life: Contributions, Opportunities and Challenges in the Study of Generic Social Processes

This paper advocates for an analytical attentiveness to generic social process on the part of symbolic interactionists. This robust form of theorizing is grounded in foundational concepts within phenomenological and pragmatist traditions—duration, the social construction of knowledge, the self as process, and a sociology of forms. As Fine (1993) notes, these foundational notions have contributed to some of symbolic interactionism’s most lasting empirically grounded and theoretically robust concepts. However, contemporary students of social process face a series of challenges. This paper addresses three that I consider particularly pressing: 1) problems with the unit of analysis, 2) intellectual fads and conceptual redundancy, and 3) moralist agendas. Drawing on a series of ethnographic research projects that I have been involved with over the years, this paper concludes by offering something of a research agenda for engaging generic social processes in a variety of research settings. Specifically, I examine some of the analytical opportunities to be found in attending to: 1) management in everyday life, 2) the creation of subcultural value, 3) doing emotions, 4) the social construction of doubt, and 5) coercion and dominance encounters in research settings.

Krzysztof T. Konecki
Anna Kacperczyk
University of Lodz, Poland

Symbolic Interactionism in Poland

The paper shows some connections between the thought and practice of Chicago School and Polish sociology. This linkage was established by Florian Znaniecki—through his cooperation with William E. Thomas during their work on Polish Peasant in Europe and America. But, the linkage at hand can also easily be traced in the work of his students and successors: Józef Chałasiński, Jan Szczepański, Ludwik Krzywicki, Franciszek Jakubczak, and many others. In fact, Thomas and Znaniecki’s approach to data gathering was the most valuable and widely applied asset for Polish sociology. The work of Polish scholars was, for the most part, empirically oriented. The memoirs competitions, first organized by Znaniecki in 1921 in Poznan, gave way to the development of so-called “Polish method.” It is also worth mentioning that the memoirs competitions (being held from 1921 to 1960 and gathering an impressive number of memoirs [approx. 1500 in several instances]) represented a fascinating socio-cultural phenomenon. In the paper, we discuss the institutional growth of Polish sociology, focusing on symbolic interactionism.
Despite the pioneering efforts of symbolic interactionist explorations of the social self and Frankfurt school investigations of social character, the relationships between subjectivity and political economy/history remain little explored—while the events of today clearly call for such understandings. George Lundskow and I attempted to explore the three questions concerning American national character. How and why did a colonial backwater settled by devout Puritans ascend to the very pinnacle of unprecedented economic political and military power? But having become the sole superpower, he began to implode and decline as has been seen in a number of ways. What might this portend? As will be argued, the legacy of Puritan religion yet shapes the underlying “social character” (Eric Fromm) of America as can be seen in the persistence of Puritan values notwithstanding its secular modernity. This legacy can be seen in terms of its phallic aggressive notions of masculinity disposed to “redemptive violence.” This quality can also be seen in the ruthless character of its capitalism.

Finally, this can also be seen in its notion of “American Exceptionalism” in which America is seen as the greatest civilization in history, a new Jerusalem, a city on the hill, devoted to meeting the world’s peace freedom and virtue. The same qualities however have fostered its demise. Yet at the same time, we can also witness the changing social character, clearly seen among the youth, devoted to democracy, equality, peace and freedom, seeking a world that provides caring, sharing, empathy and self-fulfillment.

Meet the Author Session

Room: T-1
July 6th, 2017 17:25-18:15
Panel Session

Comparative Research on Music

Organizer:
Joseph A. Kotarba
Texas State University

Panelists:

Joseph A. Kotarba
Department of Sociology
Texas State University, U.S.A.

Interactionist Studies of Music: the American Perspective

Katarzyna M. Wyrzykowska
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology,
Polish Academy of Sciences

Interactionist Studies of Music: the Polish Perspective

Vessela Misheva
Uppsala University, Sweden

Interactionist Studies of Music: the Swedish Perspective

Thaddeus Müller
Lancaster University, UK

Interactionist Studies of Music: the British Perspective

Room: T-1
July 4th, 2017 18:05-19:05
Abermet Viola
University of Kassel, Germany

**Whose Death Is It Anyway? Claiming Ownership over Dying and Death**

Changes in modern society have led to a shift in caring for the dying and the dead, moving them from the family and community into the hands of service providers (nursing homes, palliative care, hospice, morticians, cemetery/crematory). Moving the dying is accompanied by a redistribution of expectations and duties, which also implies a new order of ownership. Viewing the interactions in terms of claiming and navigating ownership over dying and death through working with the dying/dead body helps understand common conflicts and ways of solving these. Ethnographic field data gathered through participant observation and semi-structured interviews in those fields suggest different strategies of how that transition is successfully achieved. Though rarely verbalized, a process of the family giving up their claims while those of the service provider and/or the dying are being strengthened is sought after in order to assure organizational functioning. Strategies such as “educating” clients, dramatizing shared ownership, and the “re-empowerment” of patients and clients are common practices used to smoothen possible and actual problems arising in the process of maneuvering, establishing, and challenging ownership at end-of-life care.

**Keywords:** death work, end-of-life care, family, ownership

Aydogdu Ozoglu Elif
Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey

**The Construction Process of Preservice Classroom Teachers’ Professional Identity**

In many countries, teacher training is a field that continuously discuss for determining the educational policies and strategies. In this context, the qualifications teachers should have and the variables related to these qualifications are constantly being discussed. The construction process of teachers’ professional identity is one of these variables. Although it is a continuing and life-long process of construction of a teacher’s professional identity, it is important to pay attention to the relevant factors, especially during the process of teacher training. In this context, it is aimed to examine the construction process of professional identity of preservice classroom teacher in this research. The participant group of the study is composed of five students studying in the last class or in the stage of practice of the education faculty of a university located in the Central Anatolia Region in Turkey. In this process, the data obtained from the preservice teachers through the semi-structured interview technique, as well as from classroom observations, the texts such as lesson plans, reports are examined in the context of three dimensions of interaction, continuity, and situation proposed by Connelly and Clandinin (2000). In this context, it has been attempted to reveal how the preservice teachers...
understood their interactions with themselves and others as a teacher, experiences in the educational phases they studied in their lives, such as elementary education, secondary education, higher education, and contexts such as family, school, class, groups. For the reliability of the obtained data, coding of the data with an expert in the relevant field and determination of the percentage of correspondence between codes, participant confirmation, triangulation, and detailed presentation of the research process are provided. Implications for researchers, preservice teachers, and policy makers are presented in the context of the results obtained from this research.

**Keywords:** Professional identity, preservice teacher, teacher training

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**Azar Riad**  
University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.  

**The Politics of Engineering**  
How is ideology lived, practiced, and reproduced in everyday life? This study takes inspiration from Diego Gambetta’s (2016) quantitative study of the relationship between occupations and right-wing extremism, which posits that engineers have a particular predisposition to right-wing ideologies. Based on six months of continuing ethnographic fieldwork, including participant observation and life story interviews, this study is seeking to document, analyze, and understand how political ideology is reproduced in the daily lived experience of a group of hackers and autonomous engineers in a Hacker’s Space cooperative in Austin, Texas.

Classical sociology, specifically social theory in the Marxist tradition, views ideology from the top down; moving from the ruling class down to the proletariat through the imposition of “false consciousness.” Bourdieu’s intervention in the study of ideology introduced the term Symbolic Violence, where participants actively and willingly use categories of the dominant in their own social reproduction to legitimize ideological domination. This study is seeking to observe the types of predispositions, behaviors, and practices that are actively reconstructing and reflecting subjects’ ideology back at them in their everyday life. Specifically, I observe how the subjects’ life-worlds are physically and symbolically constructed in the Hacker’s Space in such a way as to legitimize ideologies of “hard work and deservingness,” what persons possess “value,” and the classifications of “autonomous” versus “coerced” labor.

As this is an ongoing project, I expect to argue for a theoretical intervention in the way that Symbolic Interactionism and Ethnography can be used to study politics and ideology, particularly in an age of populism and right wing extremism.

**Keywords:** hackers and autonomous engineers, political ideology, ethnographic fieldwork

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**Basic Goran**  
Linnaeus University, Sweden  


Previous research on collaboration in social work practice shows that conflicts among collaborating authorities and organizations that include cooperating actors are common. In this study, I have analyzed a successful dimension of the phenomenon “cooperation.” The purpose of the study is to analyze examples of successful cooperation in Swedish social work practice. This study presents an analysis of factors of “successful collaboration” as described in the field notes of the study and that can be interpreted as beneficial for the youth in
question. A total of 119 field observations of organized and informal meetings form the empirical basis for this study. The observations took place before and after these meetings and during visits to youth care institutions in Sweden, social services offices, and the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care. The factors used in the empirical material of this study serve to define successful cooperation that makes visible actors belonging to at least three different categories (coherent triad in the collaborative act). Constructing and reconstructing a collaboration success is a dynamic, interactive process. Coherent triads and success points of interest that are beneficial for the young person in the situation also create the image of a positive development for the young person. In this way, common identities of interplay that are useful for the young person are being created and elucidated. The physical presence of the young person in these situations is especially important factor for the “successful collaboration.”

**Keywords:** juvenile, youth care, social care, collaboration, triad, success points of interest, moral, collaboration identity, triad coherence, field notes, field work

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**Bereneant Natasa**
Independent Researcher

**Prus Robert**
University of Waterloo, Canada

### The Problematics of Defining and Living with the Symptoms of Chronic Lyme Disease: A Symbolic Interactionist Analysis of People’s Encounters with an Elusive Physiological Phenomenon

Not only is chronic Lyme disease (CLD) a painful, highly disabling condition for affected individuals, but since CLD also is characterized by extensive ambiguity in definition, recognition, diagnoses, treatment, and functional implications, people’s encounters with the symptoms of chronic Lyme disease become exceptionally perplexing realms of human lived experience. Working with symbolic interactionism (Mead 1934; Blumer 1969; Prus 1996; 1997; Prus and Grills 2003) as an conceptual and methodological sociological frame for comprehending all realms and all instances of human knowing, acting, and interchange, attention is given to people’s experiences with the symptoms of CLD. Envisioning “illness” and “wellness” as socially defined, humanly experienced life-worlds with pervasive implications for the ways in which affected individuals engage all other realms of knowing, acting, and interacting, it is important to establish some contextual parameters for better comprehending people’s experiences with (the symptoms of chronic Lyme disease) as this pertains to uncertainties, anxieties, fears, hopes, claims, disappointment, frustrations, desperation, and despair associated with their encounters with medical practitioners, alternative health care practitioners, and their broader sets of associations.

**Keywords:** chronic Lyme disease, symbolic interaction, definitions of situations, ambiguity, hope, despair, humanly experienced life-worlds, medical community, alternative health practitioners

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**Bielecka-Prus Joanna**
Maria Curie-Sklodowska University (UMCS), Poland

### A Stranger/Alien from a Symbolic Interactionist Standpoint

The paper consists of three parts. The aim of the first one is to show the difficulties and drawbacks of normative theories dealing with the problem of estrangement and alienation.
(i.e., structuralism, functionalism, Marxism, culturalism, network theories). It will be shown that essencialization of the strangers’ identities leads to closing the possibility of social relations and dialogue. The second part will discuss an interactional perspective of theorizing estrangement and alienation (i.e., trajectories, identification, negotiating the status). How classical interactional works on becoming a stranger could be read from new perspective? What kind of theoretical tools will be useful? How they can be reread in the era of fluid identities and cosmopolitan actors/victims of globalization? The last part will deal with methodology and the problem of researching the estrangement, its non-discursive dimensions of experience and feelings.

**Keywords:** stranger, alien, theory, symbolic interaction

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**Bielejewski Aaron**
University of Kassel, Germany

*“Do You Know Why I Pulled You Over Today?*: Police Traffic Stops in Film and Television*

A disproportionate amount of violent police encounters in the U.S. begin as traffic stops—a specific type of policing situation that is much less common outside the U.S. The confrontational nature of the situation and the unclear boundaries of public and private spheres complicate these types of interactions, which have taken on even news forms as social media and conflicts over the legality of recording the police have taken prominence in public narratives. Regardless of whether one assumes that attitudes towards the police are formed by observations and experience or that attitudes significantly impact interactions, it remains that the greatest source of information about policing in every case is from broader media: both news and fictional portrayals such as film and television. The literature generally supports the view that most cultural depictions of the police are relatively supportive of the police: while problems such as corruption and abuse of power are common tropes, the overall mission and approach of the police is less often approached critically. One potential exception is in the specific case of police traffic stops, which often portrayed alongside a particularly aggressive and uncompromising form of police authoritarianism. Using a case study of police traffic stops from film and television, not limited to the “policing genre” and focusing on fictional portrayals rather than historically-based or reality situations, this study will explore and describe the diversity and commonalities of these situations in popular culture. The analysis will include both the specific interactions that make up the event/scene, but will also take into consideration the broader narrative and how the event, characters, and role are framed in the story being told.

**Keywords:** policing, television studies, pop culture, police in media

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**Blasko Andrew**
Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria

*Taking the Role of the Other in Submission: On the Pathology of Power and Control*

The general issue addressed in the present discussion concerns the ways in which interaction within systems can be determined by forces, processes, and media apparently beyond the voluntary control of individuals. The particular focus in this regard is the medium of power. We will ask whether and how the exercise of power, especially subjection to power, can potentiuate interaction such that particular types of interaction tend to occur with a
significantly higher degree of probability than others. We will argue that the addition of subjection to power as a potential to interaction can lead to specific types of meaning being constituted in interaction that may facilitate the functioning and propagation of power. In this respect, looking at ourselves through the eyes of the other becomes the dominant mode of self-reflection such that we become, on the level of interaction, what the other wants us to be.

**Keywords:** seeing ourselves as others do, domination, neo-slavery, nouveau colonialism, propagation of power

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**Blasko Andrew**  
Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria

**When Dignity Is Impossible: Constructivism in the Service of Subjugation**

This presentation questions whether and how the exercise of power in the form of the submission to power can act as a formative force upon the operations of the imagination, perception, and cognition by making the constitution of certain types of meaning significantly more likely than others. This restricts not only the types of meaning that can emerge in what is taken to be the objective world, but also the types of self-reference, with the latter extended to include possibilities for action on the part of individuals. This results in social life operating with a determining causality to the degree that social interaction constitutes subjection to power, the restriction or reduction of alternative ways of thought and action, and the perpetuation and expansion of alienation in both subjective and objective forms.

**Keywords:** self-reference, submission to power, causality, creation of meaning, false interaction

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**Byczkowska-Owczarek Dominika**  
University of Lodz, Poland

**Body in a Hospital Space**

In the paper, there will be presented bodily aspects of interactions in hospitals, between medical staff, patients, and families. These processes and subcultural norms shape deeply the actions, identities, and social roles of all the actors.

The main processes shaping bodily aspects of interactions are mainly “deintimization” and subordination of the patient’s body, as well as reducing limitation in access to the body. On the other hand, the staff’s bodies are subject to processes of separation, mechanization, and superiority.

The family’s bodies also play an important role in the functioning of hospitals, as the relatives usually work imperceptibly in hospital space. Their bodies usually also show subordination towards the staff, and the staff separated themselves from the families.

There will also be presented some ways, in which these dividing processes may be minimized in order to reduce the bodily distance between the actors, which may cause better clinical results.

**Keywords:** body, hospital space, interactions
Chomczyński Piotr
University of Lodz, Poland

“Tepito existe porque resiste” — The Role of Social Bonds in Tepito and Iztapalapa Communities (Mexico D.F.). The Ethnographical Approach to Community Study

Deep social relations among community inhabitants are important for integration and solidarity, but they also maintain norms and values that characterize community identity. The main aim of this article is to demonstrate mechanisms underlying the social bonds among community members of Tepito and Iztapalapa (Mexico City) and their meaning for the inhabitants. We asked what norms and values construct social bonds and how the community members are reproducing their attitudes through generations. What is the link between social bonds and criminal activity of Tepito and Iztapalapa inhabitants? Both places are famous for high level of criminal behavior and many people from there served time in prison, what makes the context of social bonds creation. The research was based on ethnographical approach including direct overt observations, semi-structured interviews carried out among Tepito and Iztapalapa inhabitants, and visual data analyses. The obtained results let us point on the important role of social bonds that fulfills the role of “insurance” for community members who are to go to prison. Strong social bonds let protect them in prison and their families when they are incarcerated.

Keywords: ethnography, qualitative research, community study, social bonds

Coetzee Jan K.
University of the Free State, South Africa

Subjective Meaning: Narrating Fate in Sociology and Art

Both sociologist and artist live in a world of images, linguistic communication, and subjective understanding. Imagination is for both the moving around in the mind of images with which to express and to contain some aspect of perceived reality. And images inevitably lead to words. There would have been no image in our minds if it wasn’t for people who spoke to us and who guided us towards subjective meaning. If nobody has ever spoken to us from the outside, it would have been silence within ourselves. Only by internalizing the words of others do we come to speak, to attach meaning, and to develop a creative imagination. Few social science methods capture context, meaning, experience, subjectivity, the lifeworld, reflexivity, and action in the same way as narratives. When people use narratives to tell coherent and meaningful stories, they generate insights into their own and other’s experiences. They provide explanations of how phenomena came to be what they are, of how those phenomena take on different meanings in different contexts, and of how individuals do/perform/constitute social life. My paper departs from an account of a research participant’s experience of his life-world as an example of an interpretive repertoire of sense-making. It continues by arguing that a visual artist will move through similar processes—as is the case with a qualitative sociologist analyzing a narrative—in order to create an artwork. To illustrate the connection between sociology and art, I’m referring to 3 South African artists—all 3 of them world-renowned, fully established, and widely written-on within the field of art criticism and theory of art. All my examples refer to phenomena and events related to fate.

Keywords: subjective understanding, meaning, experience, sense-making
Dellwing Michael  
University of Kassel, Germany  
Group 5B

**A Sociology of Games and Play: Exploring Digital and Nondigital Gaming in Transmedia Worlds**

In the past 30 years, the game has seen a marked extension into adult spaces. While the digitalization of culture and the expanded role of video games play a major role in this development, the extension itself is much larger. The interdisciplinary field of Game Studies has almost exclusively focused on computer games at the same time, the sociology of play and games has mostly focused on children’s socialization play and, in the past few years, also digital gaming. When sociology approaches gaming beyond these narrow fields, its go-to example is chess and other “game mechanics based” games reproducible with a stick, mud, and pebblestones. This leaves some of the major aspects of the extension of gaming into adult spaces unresearched. The largest expansions, in participants and in market share, can be seen in tabletop board games. The contemporary field cannot be approached with models of chess or socialization: they represent an extension of a transmediated, paratextual, fandom-oriented pop culture world, where narrative depth, complex game play oriented to world-building and transmedia communities stand at the forefront.

**Keywords:** play, games, transmedia, pop culture, fandom

Dopierała Renata  
University of Lodz, Poland  
Group 6B

**Less Is More—The Meaning of the Things in Minimalist Lifestyle**

Minimalism became popular after the economic crisis in 2008. In general, it means a lifestyle based on intentional reducing of material possessions and seeking what is important in individual life (values, ideas, and so on). It can be considered from different points of view: first of all, as anti-consumerism and anti-materialism orientation, as a set of practices of high level status, a new form of ideology and distanciation, as a strategy of rationalization financial problems and mechanism to cope with consequences of the late capitalism system (such as precarity, marginalization, and exclusion, lack of opportunities for achieving goals and ambitions). But, in the paper, I concentrate on minimalists’ strategies of “normalization” of the lifeworld, especially the status of materialistic objects in everyday life. As social actors we take objects and things for granted—they structure the social reality, create “territories of the self,” play crucial role in social interaction, social rituals, and for our identity. But, the minimalists problematize the things, they reject conventional significance and senses of the objects, e.g., as a symbol of status or social position. So what do the things mean for them? How do they try to minimalize their role and how do they organize their postmaterialist lives? Is it a successful process? And the last question—can we conceive minimalists as “deviants” or “outsiders” and why? It will be illustrated by fragments of minimalists books and blogs. Thus, concepts of Erving Goffman and Howard Becker will be useful in analysis.

**Keywords:** minimalism, everyday life, materialistic objects
Engdahl Emma
Gothenburg University, Sweden

Depressive Love: A Social Pathology

Both love and depression are central concepts in science, art, and everyday life. They are frequently used to capture the fundamental needs of human beings and to measure their health.

Put differently, both love and depression is key elements in the cultural script of emotions or affectual life within contemporary Western society.

The point of departure of this paper are a couple of surprising observations that show not only that love and depression are important means to self-understanding in contemporary Western society but also that love and depression tend to be intertwined in the cultural script of emotions or affectual life in contemporary Western society to such an extent that it is informative to talk about depressive love as a social pathology in contemporary Western society.

On the basis of these observations the following questions will be dealt with in this paper: In what ways are depressive love expressed in contemporary Western society? Is depressive love a new phenomenon? Is it possible to find expressions of depressive love in other epochs or time periods of Western society? If so, what distinguishes the depressive love of contemporary Western society form the depressive love of other epochs or time periods of Western society?

Keywords: love, depression, emotions, self-realization, cultural script, contemporary Western society

Epp Andre
Technical University Braunschweig, Germany

Teachers’ Practical Theories: The Transition from School to Apprenticeship and Its Social Construction by Teachers

The transition from school to apprenticeship marks an important point in the life of teenagers because it can affect the course of their professional careers: It possesses a fundamental relevance because it sets (to a certain dimension) the course for the future path of life.

Adolescents spend a considerable amount of their time at school, therefore the mentioned transition is also shaped by the social interactions between teachers and pupils. On the basis of his profession and the interaction of pedagogical acting, teacher’s practical theories also influence the transition to apprenticeship, because there is a dialectic and dynamic interaction between knowledge and action. Hence, teachers and their practical theories play an important role in the transition process. Due to the important status-passage from school to apprenticeship and the relevance of the practical theories for professional acting, it should be shown how teachers’ practical theories and the involved concepts and orientations about pupils’ transition from school to apprenticeship influence their acting. The paper focuses on the practical theories of teachers about the impending difficult status-passage of their adolescent pupils from school to apprenticeship, as well as the presence or absence of any ideas of the teachers regarding the biographical work to be done by the school students before and during this difficult status passage and their, the teachers’, possible biographical counseling of their students about it. Through an analysis of these practical theories it is further possible to draw a conclusion about how teachers construct the social reality of the transition from school to apprenticeship, to what extent they support and promote the pupils, and so forth.

Keywords: practical theories, biographical work, reification, status-passage
Fixsen Alison
University of Westminster, UK

Feeling Our Way: An Exploration of University Staff Experiences of “Soft Skills” Learning and Development Programs

Despite their ubiquitous presence in Higher Education, staff learning and development programs (LDPs) featuring soft skills remain a largely uncharted dimension of global university culture. This study draws on symbolic interaction theory to explore findings from an insider ethnographic study into LDPs in a UK university from the perspective of corporate services and academic staff participating in them. Fieldwork included autoethnography, observation, stakeholder discussions, and 25 semi-structured interviews with participants from a cross section of LDPs and work sectors, with dramaturgical and social worlds theory used to interpret study data. Results suggest that as “social worlds” with neoliberal directives, LDPs promote various self-governance activities in the form of self-entrepreneurism and novel, corporate versions of self-care. By emphasizing self-responsibility, they avert wider discussions concerning power and inequalities in HE. Theatrical elements of LDPs add enjoyment and emotional engagement, and function as manipulative tools encouraging academic staff in particular to emotionally invest in an increasingly mandatory HE entrepreneurial culture. The categories of “career nomad,” “reluctant entrepreneur,” and “course hopper,” participants were seen to embody, may prove useful for further research into modern workplace identities.

Keywords: soft skills, Higher Education, neoliberalism, self-governance, entrepreneurism

Grześkowiak Kamila
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

They Just Play Differently. The Role of Gender Representations in Everyday Practices of Female Football Players

The main focus of this paper is to describe gender representations and their role in the activities of female football players. My analysis is based on interviews and overt participant observations made during my master’s research in 2012 and 2013. Although my analysis is not creating a typical representation of “women in sport” in the context of biological capital and its impact on the reconstruction of social inequality, it derives from representations sanctioned by the body. In this paper, I attempt to present and analyze certain declarations and practices which are in many cases contradictory. Everything depends on circumstances and potential benefits. The above-mentioned declarations and practices are closely associated with social perceptions (representations) about women and sportswomen. Paraphrasing E. Whiteside and M. Hardin (2011), sport is a space in which the roles assigned to a specific gender are created, validated, and—more importantly—challenged, depending on the social context.

Keywords: female football, gender representations, anthropology of sport
Guy Roger
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**Diminishing Returns: Class, Community, and Interaction at an Urban Trap Shooting Range**

Based on participant observation, this paper presents and analyzes the interaction of shooters at an urban trap range. Trap shooting, like many sports in the Postwar era, became available to large numbers of people as their standards of living rose. Observation and interviews revealed a former class-segregated and elite sport increasingly being “democratized” by more working-class trap shooters many of whom acquired the skill of using firearms in the military. In addition, the varied skill level of the shooters was the basis of a pattern of interaction whereby older experienced shooters interacted with novice shooters in an attempt to maintain the survival of the shooting club through knowledge transfer. This process was undermined by a group of midlevel shooters who took the sport very seriously and shunned the novice shooters and the older and experienced shooters. This process threatened the survival of the shooting club.

**Keywords:** urban sociology, social interaction, class, culture, democratization

Hillyard Sam
Durham University, UK

**“Distorted Science” and the Dominant Definition of the Situation in the Uplands of Rural England**

The paper uses W.I. Thomas’ notion of the definition of the situation to analyze polarized views relating to the management of upland areas in England. In doing so, the paper evaluates the much wider claim that the scientific evidence is being distorted. It delivers these ambitions via two analytic strategies: first, to outline the two main stances surrounding the one critical rural activity of muirburn (heather burning) and, second, by tracing the means by which these two competing definitions of “sound use” are reached, promoted, and defended and by what key actors? This allows the role and way in which science features – or not – to be critically examined. The paper makes an original contribution to the literature by extending the basic symbolic interactionist (SI) premise that human beings act towards things on the basis of the meanings they have for them, but also by challenging Blumer’s second premise that this can only take place via co-location (i.e., through social interaction with others). The paper rather suggests the interpretive process in 21st century modernity challenges what Collin and Pinch (1993) called the Golem—the status of science. Rather that their stress upon the imperfections of the scientific process, here it is about the “distortion” or interpretation of those facts. This has significant implications for the future use of the countryside, if traditional evidence bases are to be rejected. The balance of power in reaching definitions of appropriate use are made by those using different interpretation strategies, in a way that SI scholarship is well-placed to access and understand. The paper fits with the conference ambition to question Are we truly aware (and do we need to be aware) of the roots of the ideas that we adopt? By a detailed empirical deconstruction of the logics and positions surrounding one set of activities— muiburn—the paper traces how certain contested action in the UK countryside is undertaken and defended. The paper also seeks to extend and maintain the relevance of an SI research disposition, by pointing to one analytic technique that may be applicable to other areas of social contestation (e.g., housing planning transport infrastructure developments university access and admissions processes). It therefore aligns closely with the conference’s open and generic call and wish to reflect upon human action in everyday life and to extend the intellectual horizons of interactionism. This has the potential, in the fast-moving rural
context in the UK post-Brexit, to inform social policies and encourage the development of a well-informed, outward-facing citizenry able to sort alt-truth from distorted science.

**Keywords:** rural, science, land, meaning, Thomas

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**Jarecka Urszula**  
IFIS PAN, Poland  
Group 1B

**Archeology of Everyday Life in the Artistic Photo-Projects**

The paper is devoted to analyze some aspects of everyday life as discovered in the long life photo-projects conducted during the Polish People’s Republic era. Rural and urban life of ordinary people, documented and artistically transformed can give us new understanding of the past. The aesthetics categories rooted in everyday photography will be also employed to uncover main trends in visualizing the lifestyle of the epoch. What can we read from photographed scenes and objects now? How meanings of everyday rituals and objects had been changed in the series of photographs? The main research material for this paper comes from the project Sociological record conducted by Zofia Rydet. The author was a prominent Polish photographer of the PPR times, who tried to find the sociological view of the everyday life in Poland under the communist regime. The main body of photographs were taken during 1977 and 1993, however, some series of photographs are taken in the same style and using the same artistic approach (and treated by the author as pre-project activity). Artistic photography is challenged by technology and the newest trends in visual culture, but the majestic and heroic vision of everyday life of common people offered by Zofia Rydet is still fresh and inspiring. The frame of reference to interpret the visualization of changes in meanings of lifestyle is rhetoric of everyday in Erving Goffman concept, and Odo Marquard’s philosophical defense of accidental, as well.

**Keywords:** lifestyle, rhetoric of everyday, artistic photography, sociological record

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**Jura Jarosław**  
Lazarski University, Poland  
Group 6B

**Social Hierarchy and Bonds—Always Linked Together. An Interactional Analysis of Contemporary Beijing Eating and Drinking Behavior**

Chinese society is usually perceived as strictly hierarchical. This stereotype still exists in popular writing about China, to some extent in studies of organizational culture and other non China-focused social sciences disciplines. On the other hand, most of the China specialists are clearly aware that Chinese society is also quite collectivist. It seems that those at the first sight contradictory features are inextricably linked. The goal of this article is to discuss this observation—however inconsistent it may seem at first sight from the perspective of table manners studies. The main idea of the project was to analyze the eating and drinking interaction patterns in the context of their role in creating, maintaining, and changing social bonds and hierarchy. The article attempts to show on the base of empirical study that Chinese employ interactional tools which simultaneously fulfill functions related to maintaining (or creating) social bonds and hierarchy. Moreover, although the study per se is constrained only to particular (Chinese) context, the hypothesis concerning the possibility of research outcomes generalization is to be discussed as well.

**Keywords:** China, social hierarchy, social bonds, food, interaction rituals
Kacperczyk Anna
University of Lodz, Poland

Working with the Body as Part of Climbing Experience

The paper presents the phenomenon of working with one’s body as a significant element of climbing experience. In order to improve movement techniques, strength, and endurance, climbers dedicate a sizeable proportion of their time to training and working out. Body acts as a means of reaching one’s aim, but it also is both the medium and the final effect of one’s systematic work.

On the basis of autoethnography, participant observations, interviews with climbers, and existing materials—e.g., autobiographies, documentaries, and blogs—I attempt to discuss the status of the body in the climbing experience and answer the following questions: How do climbers experience their bodies and what the body means to them? How do they work with the body and what kind of acting spheres are involved into the activity at hand? How do they deal with their perceived limitations of their bodies? And what kind of limits in body treatment do they accept? Finally, how is the body subjected in their communication practices and what kind of limits do working with the body play within the context of climbers’ identity work?

Physical, kinetic, emotional, and social dimensions of climbing practice are accompanied by social and collective character of the practice, since climbing is based on the knowledge and actions shared with others. But, working with the body, observing essential somatic feelings and emotions becomes one’s continual work with the mind and internal mental limits that one used to draw therein, and impacts upon delineating one’s personal space of possibilities.

Keywords: embodiment, climbing, training, identity, autoethnography, mental limits of action

Karger Tomas,
Kalenda Jan
Tomas Bata University, Czech Republic

Curation as a Sensitizing Concept for Studying Everyday Practices of Socialization into Collective Memory

This contribution is based on qualitative research involving 12 focus groups with total of 90 participants represented by students on primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of the Czech educational system. The research focused on everyday practices involved in socialization into collective memory related to significant events of the Czech modern history. The research confirmed the role of basic mnemonic structures represented by family, school, and media while articulating the interconnection and mutual dependence of the three structures. To generalize the everyday practices interconnecting the structures, we used the concept of curation. This concept seems to be a good fit to the metaphor of canon and archive prevalent in the memory studies as curation represents the practice of mediation between the two spaces. But, the concept seems to be suitable also for more theoretical reasons. On the one hand, curation spares actors of the cognitive costs that would stem from the necessity of negotiating the meaning of historical events from the beginning every time by allowing them to readily use existing cultural works or other artifacts which serve as reference points for negotiation. On the other hand, it facilitates socialization by conveying sensory experience accounting for the historical events at stake. The aim of the contribution is to present curation as a sensitizing concept suitable for interactionist research of everyday practices of socialization into the shared representations of the past.

Keywords: curation, collective memory, socialization, mnemonic structures
**Kasperiuniene Judita**  
Vytautas Magnus University, Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuania  

**Zydzunaite Vilma**  
Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania  

**Group 5B**

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**You Are Just Doing This: A Grounded Theory on University Professors’ Creative Activities on Facebook**

The constructivist grounded theory explored the self-regulated learning (SRL) of university professors in social networking sites (SNS). 16 interviews were conducted with 8 full and associate professors and 8 lecturers from 5 universities in Lithuania. Professors were engaged in 5 scientific fields (science, social sciences and humanities, biomedicine, technologies) and used Facebook for communication and collaboration with their students. A core category *You are just doing this* showed the convergence of real academic life and virtual activities. Professors developed their SRL skills without any special efforts. Research participants do not emphasized the creative activities in SNS. The core category had three dimensions: *Hiding personal treasures*, *Caring for the students*, and *Exploiting virtual contacts*. *Hiding personal treasures* showed professors need to defend their virtual identities, will not to friend their formal students, continuous demand to evaluate networked sites, and checking the scientific validity of virtual materials. *Caring for the students* meant maintaining connection with students, publicly sharing texts in SNS, and guiding, coaching, and supervising students virtually after the formal university activities. *Exploiting virtual contacts* referred to specially designing bonds, including beneficial and well-known persons, observing, socializing, and keeping connections with assigned persons for the development of common scholar activities, raising new project ideas, scientific research. These findings contribute to understanding how the self-regulated learning of university professors progressed in social networking sites.

**Keywords:** constructivist grounded theory, convergence of real academic life and virtual activities, networked creative activities, university professors, you are just doing this

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**Kawa Marek**  
Korczak Pedagogical University in Warsaw, Poland  

**Group 6A**

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**Insects and Worms as Dangerous Strangers and Agents of Bioterrorism in the Contemporary and Traditional Symbolism**

Even in these days, insects, bugs, and worms, no matter of biological and genre taxonomy, belong to very often symbolical and rhetorical tools used by opinion leaders, media, politicians, and eventually common people in an everyday discourse. These always dangerous animals, representing the dangerous “micro-orbis” and the context of contaminated danger (already in the Judaist and Biblical taxonomy), also today reflect involvement in debates about minorities, immigrants, political opponents, foes, etc. Therefore, the proposed paper is going to refer to contemporary symbolic uses of these to some extent old animalistic metaphors, especially in current approaches towards immigration, danger, bioterrorism.

**Keywords:** bugs, worms, insects, danger, aliens, bioterrorism
Kędzior Bożena
Collegium Civitas, Poland

The Relevance of Qualitative Research Techniques for Studies of Polish Hospital Settings. Some Methodological Remarks

In accordance with the demands of post capitalist economy and the ensuing awareness of diminishing resources, there is a growing need to introduce strategies that counteract the decrease in public financing of healthcare. One of them aims at enabling patients to assume a pro-active approach towards their illness and their treatment. While in the West biomedicine still holds a privileged position, it is more and more popular to demystify its reductionist approach to disease. It is not the case in Poland. The Polish healthcare system, still in the process of deregulation, is based on solid science with its realm vanquished by a consortium of medical and psychological, as well as economic discourses. Sociological, not to mention anthropological, studies within medicine are few and limited in scope. Therefore, it is more difficult to point out areas for development. Assuming the focus on the process of becoming an inpatient, I hoped both to present the cultural idiosyncrasy of the Polish hospital setting and report the Polish patient’s perspective on its vibrant bustle. My aim was to develop a successful method of studying the relatively unfavorable environment. I followed in the ethnographic footsteps of Professor Sjaak van der Geest, the founder of Medische Antropologie journal, who introduced me to hospital ethnography. In addition, as the patient’ perspective approach stems from the phenomenological epistemology, the reconstruction of illness narratives could only be retrieved by employing the theoretical framework of interpretative sociology. Thus, by combining the two approaches, it was possible to bring into surface the core of individual-system opposition, to foster understanding of the patients’ conflicting relationships with the system.

Keywords: symbolic interaction, hospital ethnography, qualitative methodology interpretation

Koisser Sebastian
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Rituals of Pain Management in Professional Child Care

Pain is a problem with which nursery-school teachers have to deal with in their everyday work. The crucial question is how do these professionals cope with these everyday issues. They do not only have to deal with individual children and groups of children, but rather also justify there “pain policy” to the parents and the management. When nursery-school teachers aren’t under parental or management supervision, they show a rather robust approach towards the pain expressed by the children. Pain does not equal pain. While there is a constant stating towards outsiders, that every painful incident has to be taken seriously, the rituals of pain management show otherwise. Not only identifying “real” pain but rather more, how to identify which pain is worth reacting to or, more precisely, which kind of reaction fits accordingly to the incident. The correct reaction is something that is learned “on the job” instead of a part of the official curriculum. There are two patterns of rationalization for these backstage attitudes. On the one hand, it is referred to the sheer impossibility of taking pain allays seriously. On the other hand, it is pointed out that pain is something existential that a child has to experience. These rationalizations show the robust attitude of nursery-school teachers towards pain. As mentioned before, these attitudes are learned “on the job.” Even though most teachers aren’t sure where they gained their attitudes from, the observations show the relevance of case discussions, small talk, and studying the behavior of the more senior employees. To learn which pain is relevant and which may be overlooked is to learn to select. The goal of this discussion is to show how nursery-school teachers learn to deal with
pain. To give an overview of strategies and rituals of pain management.

**Keywords:** early childhood, pain, pedagogy, pain socialization, pain management

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**Kubatova Helena,**
**Znebejanek Frantisek**
Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic

**The Socialist Everyday Life in the Czech Countryside**

This study arose from many years of experience with qualitative research of everyday life. I carried out unstructured and partially structured interviews and observations in rural regions for five years. In the first part of the study, the methodology which was used will be introduced, including the construction of the concept of everyday life, facilitated by a combination of Schutz’s phenomenological and Blumer’s symbolic interactionism methodology. In the second part of the study, selected results from the analysis of the 150 qualitative interviews with rural residents will be discussed. The primary focus falls on changes in rural everyday life between the years 1945 and 1989, and their effects on the construction of rural everyday life after the year 1989. I am concentrating primarily on the industrialization of agricultural production, the radical decline in the quantity of people employed in primary sectors, and the urbanization of the countryside and the rural way of life. In the third section of the study, I will address the possibility of generalizing the qualitative data and question how far one can go in generalization and abstraction before the data loses its social, special, and temporal context. The aim is to demonstrate that the removal of context results in not only the loss of meaning of social facts, but also the banalization of research results. This problem is associated with the search for a middle ground between experiential knowledge and rational scientific reporting which is expected to be abstract, logical, and orderly.

**Keywords:** everyday life, countryside, social change, socialism, research

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**Kubczak Anna**
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**Cell Phones and Social Interactions in Public Spaces**

The article builds on Goffman’s work to analyze how individuals in everyday contexts use cell phones in public spaces. As cell phones provide individuals with an instant accessibility to each other, their usage brings into question well-established social conventions as to how people should act in public space. On the other hand, the mobile and embodied conduct of those using cell phones in public spaces reflects how people use objects (like fiddling with one’s phone) as “involvement shields” to demarcate their private spaces within public places and to form civil inattention.

**Keywords:** cell phones, public space, social interaction, mobile communication
Langman Lauren
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Social Movements and Emotions

While for Marx alienation was the consequence of wage labor, the theory rested upon a philosophical anthropology of human nature (species being) in which people desired connection to each other, recognition, agency (self realization), and the capacity to enjoy their unique human capacities. The thwarting of one’s humanity, indeed eliding her very dignity, evokes strong emotions. More specifically, the contemporary nature of global capitalism, especially its crises of legitimacy has engender powerful emotions disposing mass mobilizations, some seek to transform the future, to overcome capitalism, and create a society that provides dignity to all, e.g., the progressive movements of Arab Spring, Syrizia, Podemos, Occupy, and support for Sanders or Corbyn. Others seek to target an enemy, seek revenge, and return to an early, often mythical Golden Age as can be seen in National Front, Brexit, and most recently the Trump election. Such movements based on ressentiment, rooted in social changes that create a yearning for a paleo nationalism/reactionary populism of exclusion, hatred, anger and indeed aggression toward the “enemies” of the “people.”

Keywords: emotions, social movements, capitalism

Marciniak Łukasz
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Significant Groups Revised. Constructing Identity through Reference and Difference

The process of identity construction is one of the core issues in the interactionist research tradition. Identity has been studied in its many varieties, many contexts, and with multiple research methods, thanks to which our knowledge about human nature increased remarkably. Nevertheless, this multitude of research practices produced surprisingly small contribution to the more generic, transcontextual understanding of identity. There are several concepts traditionally used in studies on identity and nothing new in the theory of identity work. We used to think about identity work mostly in terms of negotiating toward point of reference. Does it mean there is nothing more to discover or maybe we are just too biased to see something new? Drawing on social pragmatism, research experiences, and results of the secondary comparative analysis of ethnographic materials, I will show how new conceptualizations and directions for studying identity emerged.

Keywords: identity, significant others, systemic interactions, identity entanglement, differentiating

Mateja-Jaworska Bogumiła, Zawodna-Stephan Marta
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Studying Everyday Life in Poland: Roots, Methodology, and Research Topics

The main purpose of our presentation is to demonstrate key findings from the research project “The Archive of Research on Everyday Life” (archiwum.edu.pl) funded by the National Program for the Development of Humanities [NPRH] (the project leader is Prof. Marek
Krajewski). In addition to the collection and archivization of precious research materials about daily life, the research team conducted thirty in-depth interviews (IDI) in 2015-2016. We talked to acclaimed experts in the field—such as the late sociology Professor Elżbieta Tarkowska and Jerzy Szacki—as well as renowned anthropologists, historians of everyday life, journal editors, and library specialists. We asked them to reconstruct the traditions of studying everyday life in Poland, discuss theoretical concepts that underlie the work of Polish researchers in this field, and the most important elements of the methodology of everyday studies. The experts provided definitions of daily life and major research topics. They also explained what they perceive as threats and merits of the studies of everyday life. Our presentation focuses on three most important conclusions from these interviews. First of all, we will demonstrate that sociology, anthropology, and history of everyday life are deeply interconnected and the key factors in developing everyday life studies in Poland were: influential theoretical concepts, political events, and generational issues. Second of all, we will explain why the vast majority of our interviewees associate the studies of everyday life with qualitative methods. Last but not least, we will focus on research topics that are characteristic of the research on everyday life, i.e., daily routines and mundane practices of ordinary people.

**Keywords:** everyday life, traditions of studying everyday life in Poland, in-depth interview, qualitative methods, archive

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**Misheva Vessela**

Uppsala University, Sweden

**Alienation, Skin-Selves, and Tattoos**

The “Tattoo Renaissance” that all modern countries have experienced in the last several decades has often been described as a new social movement, although the nature of the latter is still a matter of debate. This paper argues that it in fact comprises a movement for self-rights, whereby tattooing is regarded as self-work defined as the transformative work of modeling, styling, experimenting with, monitoring, improving, and morally committing the self that is involved in “care for the self” (Foucault). This conception of tattooing as part of self-formation, rather than a sign of emotional and intellectual immaturity, rebellion, or “self-sabotage” consequent to alienation from society, the other, and self, is grounded in an elaborated version of a theory of primary Coolean selves. This is associated with certain recent developments in psychoanalysis, particularly Didier Anzieu’s conception of skin-ego. The skin-ego is discussed here as a starting point for building new bridges between psychoanalysis and symbolic interactionism, that is, between the neo-Freudian psychoanalytic theory of the ego and the pre-Meadean or Coolean symbolic interactionist theory of the self. Questions concerning the driving force behind the movement for self-rights, as well as the relationships between social selves and social roles, employer and employee, and branding and tattooing will also be addressed.

**Keywords:** tattooing, self-rights, care for the self, skin ego, Coolean self

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**Morgan Agata**

Jagiellonian University, Poland

**The Empty Space at the Victory Square. Symbolic Preconditions of the Public Space Management in the Post-Socialist Town of Radom**

The research problem of a proposed paper is an analysis of symbolic preconditions in the process of managing public space in a post-socialist city. The public space in aforementioned cities undergoes metamorphosis connected with the change of the political and economic
system of the country. The old, familiar symbols such as Red Army monuments, red stars are being removed and replaced (or not successfully replaced) with new symbols. What is happening to these symbols? Where do they rest? How are they treated now? What are the new symbols? The undertaken empiric research exposes (on the example of Radom) the decision-making process regarding repurposing of the considered public parcels, in perspective of the symbolic meaning of such decisions. In simultaneous consideration of the process of embedding a new interpretation of the representative part of town which should reinforce the new identity of the old community. The research of symbolic conditions of administering public space is concentrated around socialist symbols and the effort to replace them. The research was conducted with the basis of the qualitative, interpretive paradigm (as defined by G. Burrell and G. Morgan), assuming instability and the relativity of the social reality, which is constructed by its participants and open to the researchers interpretation. The qualitative research methodology was used. The work had two equally important research aims—the cognitive one and the practical verification of one of the research methods. The cognitive goal of the work was to establish whether or not symbolic precondition (connected with socialist symbols) of some places in the public space influences the managing decisions concerning that space in a post-socialist town and how such symbolic preconditions might influence the process of decision-making. In effect, the target was to broaden the understanding of symbolic preconditions in managing public space during their social and even more so political changes. Whereas the practical verification of the research method concerned arts based research and was supposed to prove in what degree the use of this research tool helps to understand the surrounding reality and the symbolic preconditions of managing a post-socialist city. In the work, a series of photos of the public space in Radom has been shown. These photographs/images are an integral and essential element of the work, in context of the visual turn, that was observed in the world at the end of the 20th century.

Keywords: post-socialist city, socialist symbols, public space

Mroczkowska Dorota,
Kubacka Małgorzata
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

On the Treadmill of Everyday Life: Work-Family Boundary Dynamics in Three Types of Organizations in Poland

The “lines of demarcation” (Clark 2000) between work and family have long been seen as interdependent domains with permeable boundaries (border crosser-participation, border creation, and border management). We present work-family border theory (Clark 2000) and boundary theory (Ashforth, Kreiner & Fugate 2000) as best suited to the studies of work-family linkages. The main purposes of our presentation are: (1) to conduct a critical analysis of the concept of WLB and (2) to propose a research model that takes into account new topics and groups. In our presentation, we will discuss a number of important characteristics and properties which have not been taken into account or have been consciously excluded from the dominant discourse of work and non-work facets of life in Poland. As more attention has been paid to the organizational-level policies (Kreiner et al. 2009), we put great emphasis on micro-level, individual, and emotional processes of boundary management. Therefore, our proposed research model is based on (1) the sociology of everyday life (phenomenology, symbolic interactionism) and (2) sociology of emotions which focuses on the wide range of everyday micro-practices, their construction, and negotiation the subjective order. However, it also takes into account a broader institutional order (sociology of work and organization). The main objectives of our model are: 1. to compare adjustments of working and family life in different types of household under various organizational contexts in Poland, 2. to evaluate (micro)strategies and tactics used by individuals to manage work and family roles and its relation with organizational policies and practices (boundary management), 3. to identify
frameworks of adaptation under different institutional conditions, organizational contexts, and family (personal) situation (boundary management styles and salient motifs of boundary management).

Keywords: border and boundary theory, everyday practice, institutional framework, work-family balance, boundary creation and management

Müller Thaddeus
Lancaster University Law School, UK

Amy and Kurt. The Marginal Self, Transgression and the Total Institution of the Music-Industry

Pop musicians are known because of their transgressive lifestyles (sex, drugs, and rock ’n roll). In the recent past, I have focused on Lou Reed and how stigma, the marginal self, and transgression played a crucial role in his career. In this paper, I will focus on Amy Winehouse and Kurt Cobain and I will try to understand their transgressive rock-lifestyle by looking at the social worlds in which they participated, such as the family situation and the music and media-industry. Though their music was quite different, my comparative research shows that there are many similarities between the careers of both artists, such as a troubled childhood, in which the parents were not able to support their child, self-defined bi-polarity, overnight rise to global fame from relative obscurity, commodification and exploitation by the music industry, extensive media-coverage, for which I would like to introduce the concept media-stigmatization, poly-drugs use and self-hate. In the media, both artists were portrayed either as folk devils and or as folk heroes. In both narratives, the main character is seen as having full agency over their life and are to blamed or praised for their career s and lifestyle. In this paper, I will use the concepts of stigma, the Marginal Self, and transgression to analyze and compare their biographies. I will use a range of sources, such as interviews, biographies, and documentaries to support my argument that their transgressions in later life are shaped in reaction to the “total institution” of the music and media-industry.

Keywords: participant observation, public sphere, interaction, micro-level, research

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Visual Data and New Possibilities for Symbolic Interactionist Studies

Since the early 2000s, the proliferation of cameras across large parts of the globe has increased visual recordings of human behavior. Camcorders, mobile phone cameras, and even drones are used to film or photograph situations and interactions. Together with the spread of video surveillance of public spaces, this development produces a large and ever-expanding pool of visual data that researchers can employ for studying human knowing and acting in everyday life. These novel types of visual data can thus play an important and increasing part in the future of symbolic interactionist research. For the first time in history, we can witness a wide array of situations of human behavior first-hand from deviant or criminal behavior, crowd dynamics and mass panics, to everyday situations. Scholars increasingly use visual data to study such phenomena, as well as other aspects of people’s everyday lives. However, a consolidated methodological frame for such analyses does not yet exist. We will present such a frame, what we call “Visual Data Analysis” (VDA). VDA relies mostly on found visual data that captures situations of natural behavior. It uses such data to trace social interactions step-by-step, in order to explain a specific process or outcome. We will first discuss VDA’s research
agenda, methodological forebears, and applications. Second, we introduce an analytic toolkit for symbolic interactionist studies employing novel types of visual data and discuss key criteria for validity. Third, we discuss the practical dimensions VDA studies can have, in particular for police officers and policy makers. The role of visual data in symbolic interactionist studies will likely grow in the years to come. The great potential such data offer for transparent and reliable analyses of social situations and interactions point to the discipline’s bright future.

*Keywords:* symbolic interaction, visual data, methodology, behavioral analysis, emotions

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**Niedbalski Jakub**

University of Lodz, Poland

**The Influence of a Sports Activity on the Process of Identity Reconstruction and Social Rehabilitation of the People with Physical Disabilities**

In the paper, I will make an attempt to reconstruct detailed mechanisms of sport’s influence on a life situation of a physically disabled person, pointing to the manner in which physical activity supports reconstruction of self-perception, redefinition of the social role, and acquisition of a specific cognitive perspective. Research suggests that sports practicing is not just about individual’s activity in the physical understanding, but first of all the activity realized within the framework of specific social relations. For the disabled, sport renders an opportunity for their self-fulfillment, but also for social integration, through providing a possibility of participation in wider social circles. On the basis of the studies, it may be concluded that the disabled persons’ involvement in the sports activity is significant in the process of establishing and maintaining social interactions, it supports development of group bonds, and as a consequence it helps in sharing a cognitive perspective, arising from membership in a given group. Therefore, sport practicing may influence the manner of perceiving oneself and one’s own life situation by a disabled person.

*Keywords:* sport, disability, physical activity, institutions and organizations, social integration

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**Pawłowska Beata**

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**Pride in the Teachers’ Work by T. Kemper and T. Scheff Theories**

The aim of the speech is to show how pride influences the actions of teachers in a school organization. Emphasis will be placed on the emotion of pride as one that relates to the diagnosis of social status and allows for other emotions such as joy, happiness, satisfaction, and satisfaction. Theoretical backgrounds are T. Kemper’s and T. Scheff’s concepts. Pride is treated as a social emotion in terms of sociological perspective and an interactive approach. The following reflections are the result of: 1) multiple participant observations conducted by the author in the years 2006-2014 in the primary school and high school; 2) unstructured interviews conducted with teachers, parents, and other school staff.

*Keywords:* emotions, pride, T. Kemper, T. Scheff, teachers
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How the Press Face Migrations Phenomenon and How Citizen React. An Analysis of Italian Journalism

The migration phenomenon is represented every day through the language of politics, journalism, and other media, which significantly contribute to the perception and representation of the phenomenon in the public opinion. The pervasive presence of new technologies contribute to the complexity of the topic, as these allow an increasingly wide and diversified audience to access information and react to it with feedback and comments which enrich, transform, and redefine journalistic contents. By comparing 3 major Italian papers, we will analyze online comments and reactions to immigration related articles by highlighting cases of hate speech and other form of discrimination.

Keywords: journalism, immigration, hate speech, discrimination

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The Practical Problem of Attention and Inattention in Everyday Life

This paper explores the practical problem of interpersonal and situational attention and inattention in everyday life. More specifically, the paper seeks to expose the generic underpinnings of our attentional and inattentional footings as we move through, occupy, and co-constitute, in the company and co-presence of a range of others, public space. Taking Erving Goffman’s concept of civil inattention as its starting point, the paper suggests three additional categories of attention and inattention that form the attentional and inattentional matrix we routinely apply, and is routinely applied to us, as part of our participation in and experience of the public realm: civil attention, incivil attention, and incivil inattention. If, when, why, to what extent, and how much attention or inattention we show to one another in our various interpersonal relationships and social encounters, and whether chosen footings might come to be regarded as civil or incivil, is shown to be closely linked to the situational and interpersonal demands that emerge from the flow of interaction with others. Orientation to attention and inattention is argued to be contingent upon these emergent features of social settings and interpersonal encounters. Decisions about attention and inattention have to be made quickly, and demonstrably so, and footings can, and routinely do, change over the course of any given setting or encounter. Questions about morality, competence, aliveness, and propriety may be asked or answered in response to these decisions that we make on day-to-day basis. Alongside emergent obligations, expectations, and demands though also run a range of attentional and inattentional absolvements, licenses, and immunities, which we may claim or draw upon to legitimate our chosen attentional or inattentional footing. Sustainment of, switching from and to, and strains on attentional and inattentional footings is argued to be a feature of everyday life that requires out ongoing attention.

Keywords: civil inattention, public realm, situational propriety, interactional competence, moral inference
Encountering Emile Durkheim’s Pragmatist Sociology, Extending Interactionist Scholarship: A Venture in Ethnohistorical Sociology

Introducing what for me would become a notably sustained intellectual Odyssey, this paper addresses Emile Durkheim’s pragmatist sociology and its relevance for the broader sociological study of community life. Although Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) is best known as a structuralist, a functionalist, and is often referenced as a Comtean positivist as well as a quantitatively-oriented methodologist, the present statement draws attention to the highly consequential but much neglected “pragmatist sociology” that Durkheim developed in his career. Thus, whereas Durkheim’s Division of Labor (1893), Rules (1895), and Suicide (1897) have been used to frame much of the sociological agenda for the past century, the lesser known texts referenced here represent a substantial reorientation of the sociological agenda that has been so extensively assigned to Emile Durkheim. Traversing sociology, anthropology, psychology, philosophy and history – as well as ethics and morality, education, and religious studies, these Durkheimian texts address the human condition in conceptual, methodological, and comparative analytic terms. They also may prove to be the most enabling and most important intellectual legacy of Emile Durkheim’s encounter with the sociological venture. Providing valuable developmental-historical dimensions to pragmatist social thought, Durkheim refuses to reduce societies to abstract sets of factors. Indeed, while maintaining a pronounced emphasis on the irreducible quality of the human group, Emile Durkheim is especially attentive to people’s viewpoints, practices, activities, and wide ranges of association and interchange as well as the ways that people make sense of and knowingly (i.e., as purposive agents) enter into the processes through which community life is accomplished on a more enduring as well as a more situated day-to-day, moment to moment basis.

Keywords: Emile Durkheim, pragmatist sociology, ethnography, history, sociological agenda

Retail Investing as Identity Self-Work

As leading economists, George Akerlof and Rachel Kranton, have shown, taking identity into account can contribute greatly to explaining economic actions. Inspired by their work, the author has employed symbolic interactionism theoretical framework to understand interconnections between actions of amateur retail investors and their identities. It has turned out that the concept of identity self-work has fit to this phenomenon. Grounded theory methodology has been employed to investigate this phenomenon. In the research, the set of qualitative methods was used – interviews with retail investors conducted by the author, in-home interviews with investors done by external research agency in commercial project, various types of observation and virtual ethnography. The research has shown that the investor’s identities play a key role in their actions in three aspects of investing. Firstly, they are crucial for taking up decision to start and to continue investing. Secondly, investor’s identities influence greatly the choice of the attitude towards investing. And last but not least identity can impact investor’s choices of company stocks (e.g., ethical investing). This last aspect can also lead to some internal conflicts between investor’s multiple identities. Furthermore, five main figures of retail investors have been distinguished. Three of them are positive and investors want to be associated with them (entrepreneur, athlete, and rebel) and two are negative and investors try to distance from them (gambler and sucker).
**Remisiewicz Łukasz**

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**Symbols at Idling Speed. Educational Inequality and Randall Collins's Theory**

In the talk, the author presents his conceptual sketch on how we can apply the Randall Collins interaction ritual chains theory (RIT) to the understanding of inequalities in educational achievements. Contemporarily, school environment is a place of proceeding certain symbols during institutionally imposed interaction rituals. Nevertheless, pupils are not a tabula rasa, but they are equipped with symbols that they get through different interactions. Family environment is primary symbolic domain. Symbols that were given in the family can be different or even contradict those that are transmitted at schools. Because school has a system of symbol’s internalization (examination, for instance), this symbolic discrepancy is a reason of emerging educational inequality. When symbols that are proceeding in school interactions are not replicated to different interaction chains (family, peers), they are extinguished in an individual’s mind. The very process of instrumental remembering at school starts one’s functioning at “idling speed” by discouraging and the lack of emotional charge. The author indicates that such theory is compatible with newest discoveries of neurobiology, and additionally it explains several aberrations in educational reproduction patterns. For example, two American programs of an early school intervention (Abecedarian and Perry School) had significantly influenced pupils’ achievements, but the effect quickly extinguished. According to the RIT, individuals were participating in intensive interaction rituals and were getting school symbols, but after the end of the programs, they had no place in which they could further proceed the symbols.

**Keywords:** interaction rituals, education inequality, symbols, cultural capital, early intervention

**Sadowska Anna**

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**The Social World of Caregivers for the Elderly**

In the presentation, the author discusses the phenomenon of caregiving for the elderly in Poland. The ongoing study aims at exploring, describing, and explaining complexity of actions taken by the carers, in the context of the social world theory – the concept invented by P. Cressey (1932) and successfully developed by T. Shibutani, A.L. Strauss, H.S. Becker, A.E. Clarke, and A. Kacperczyk. As other studies prove that the dominant source of help and assistance for the elderly in Poland are family members, this research focuses mainly on the family caregivers as actors and their primary activity as an everyday life experience. The selected theoretical framework enables the author to combine various methods of data collection, including in-depth personal interviewing and autoethnography, and the grounded theory analytical procedures. This strategy plays a key role, allowing the author to confront personal experience as a family caregiver of an elderly person with other carers’ perspective.

**Keywords:** caregiver, elderly, family, social world
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Gospel Choirs in the Italian Context: Singing as a Meaning-Making Process

This paper aims to present the starting of a research process on a very singular phenomenon, that of the presence of more than 600 of the Gospel choirs in Italy. The interest of this research lies in the fact that the socio-cultural and religious context has very different characters from those in which the Gospel phenomenon has developed in the United States. The research goals are essentially two: the first is to understand whether to sing in a Gospel choir is a way to consolidate one’s own spiritual experience through artistic expression (Wuthnow 2003); the second aim is to understand the meanings the various subjects involved in the phenomenon (especially the choir members and choir directors) assign to the peculiar choice of spreading the Gospel music and the religious messages contained therein. The paper will present the theoretical and methodological choices that are going to be made: in particular, discuss the sensitizing concepts identified up to this point in order to orient data gathering and analysis.

Keywords: Gospel choirs, spiritual experience, artistic expression

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Between Fear and Anger: Mobbing as a “Game” Played in the Workplace

Workplaces, understood as “formal organizations,” constitute a particular context for interpersonal relations. According to the classical Weberian model of a formal organization, the course of interactions between co-workers is determined by their relative rank in the official organizational structure: actors are seen as “positions” relating to each other through their occupational roles rather than “persons” relating through their personalities and affective attachments. I claim that this model overlooks the presence of emotions in real, everyday interactions between co-workers, and does not allow for the analysis of informal organizational structure, emerging alongside the official hierarchy of positions. To investigate the mechanisms which underpin the emergence of such informal organizational structure, I present an alternative analytical approach, employing the concept of game in the understanding proposed by Goffman. In the empirical analysis that follows, I apply the model of interaction as a game to public and private Polish organizations, identifying the most serious game played by co-workers—“Mobbing.” I consider the following questions: Who are the players in this game? What potential gains and losses are there at stake? What “strategies” aimed at achieving their goals do the players employ, and what kind of “resources” do they draw from? What kinds of challenges and risks do they face while playing the game? “The game perspective” shifts the focus to a “lived experience” of interpersonal aspects of work. It allows for studying a formal organization not as a fixed, affectively neutral structure, but as a process: through constant negotiations between individuals a unique social reality and internal hierarchy emerges, framed but not determined by the formal structure of a workplace. The analysis reveals emotional dimension of interactional mechanisms which underlay interpersonal relations in formal organizations, and generate patterns of behaviors between co-workers.

Keywords: formal organization, emotions, symbolic interaction
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Group 6B

"That’s Garbage" — Systems of Value and the (Re-)Transformation of Food Waste

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that 795 million people are starving around the world. Nevertheless, 1.6 billion tons of food are wasted every year. Dumpster Diving is one of the many different ways of the people participating in it to protest against food waste. During night, people go to dumpsters of supermarkets or restaurants and “save” the edible food. Through the action of dumpster diving, people question the societal understanding of garbage, dirt, purity, and edible food. The method of ethnography and more specifically the observation of dumpster divers can give conclusions concerning the construction of garbage and the linked systems of value in society. The author dealt with two questions: Firstly, whether the dumpster divers categorize the objects in the dumpsters as garbage or food. Secondly, if and how the actors realize a (re-)transformation of the saved objects. Through hygienic actions, e.g., protection with cloves and plastic bags, dumpster divers separate themselves from the “garbage” and reproduce societal ideas of dirt and purity. Moreover, the author observed a system concerning the selection of food from the dumpsters. There seems to be different stages between the construction of “garbage” and “food” and in these stages different abilities of flexibility. This leads to the necessity of a (re)transformation of the saved objects, as the removal of the objects is not enough to make them consumable. Rituals of purification, e. g., cleaning, peeling, and cooking, increase the worth of saved objects and construct them as edible food. To be concluded, objects and more specifically garbage are socially constructed entities that could be (re-)transformed to edible food through rituals of dumpster divers.

**Keywords:** food waste, ethnography, dumpster diving, ritual, construction of garbage

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Group 5C

**Emotion Management and the Professional Culture of Administrative Social Workers in Russia: The Common Standards of Emotion Work and Coping with Emotional Burnout and Self-Alienation**

I examine emotion work among administrative social workers in Russia, an activity vital to the on-going emergence of their professional culture. This examination focuses on administrative social workers, a particular group within the occupation who are, in the main, office-bound social workers who help people process the required documents needed to receive social assistance and benefits. Firstly, I offer an overview of existing research on the sociology of emotions and professions, with a special focus on those studies exploring emotion management. The conclusion emerging from this review is that analyzing emotion work in the field of social work can lead to a deeper and more complete understanding of its specific character and the ethical rules operating within it. Secondly, transcript analysis of administrative social worker interviews was conducted as part of a larger research project on the professional culture of this occupation. This analysis was completed with help of NVivo software and reveals that interviewees are not only clearly aware of emotion work, but also seek to reduce emotional expenditure in their communication with clients and strive to standardize how they work with their emotions to cope with emotional burnout and self-alienation. Carrying out emotion work has a key function in supporting a professional identity.
among administrative social workers and the furthering the development of a professional culture. On the other hand, the emotional expenditures involved and the challenge of “making the profession worth it” are alleviated by the sense that one’s work fulfills an important “moral mission” in providing social care and assistance.

**Keywords:** fear, anxiety, solidarity, display rules, self-alienation

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**Smith Greg**

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*Epistolary Goffman*

Taking a selection of letters written by Erving Goffman, the paper analyzes their characteristic linguistic forms in order to contribute further towards an understanding of one of sociology’s great stylists. The letters exemplify features of Goffman’s sociological analyses in nuce. As such they can be regarded as trials or tryouts of ideas developed more fully elsewhere, instances of a sociological imagination playing with its potential.

**Keywords:** Goffman, textuality, communication, interaction order

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*Everyday Life of Muslim Women in Poland. Analysis of Adaptation Strategy against Stigmatization*

In Poland, as shown by opinion polls, people originating from Arab countries and Turkey, who are largely Muslims, are perceived negatively. As a result, immigrants from these regions who stay in our country are being stigmatized as other, different, hostile, and dangerous to the society. This is the result of commonly shared negative stereotypes. Living with stigma forces the stigmatized people to adopt strategies that allow them to operate in a foreign country. This situation is particularly oppressive for Muslim women who, on the one hand, must deal with the stigma they carry due to their otherness in the host country, while, on the other hand, must follow tradition and constraints imposed by the religion and culture in which they were raised. The main objective of the speech will be to recreate a strategy to deal with the stigma in the daily life of Muslim women who decided to come and stay in Poland. The subject of the research will be Muslim women who live in Kraków and participated in biographical interviews. Based on the interviews, the image of Muslim women, based on what they think of themselves, was reconstructed and methods to deal in everyday situations, which these women face both in the country in which they live and against their family of origin, were presented.

**Keywords:** Muslim women, stigma, negative stereotypes, immigrants, adopt strategies
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Group 4B

**Experiencing the Body by Female Indoor Sex Workers**

Making women’s bodies accessible to men in the commercial context is related to specific ways of experiencing it. The purpose of the paper is to discuss the category of a non-present, selectively present, and present body, which refers to ways in which female sex workers experience their bodies during commercial sex acts. The paper is based on qualitative data (mainly unstructured interviews), which were analyzed in accordance with the procedures of grounded theory methodology.

**Keywords:** female sex workers, commercial sex, body, qualitative research

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Group 7A

**Front- and Backstages of ICU Nurses — An Ethnography about Practices of Dominant Working Culture**

How do nurses organize their work? On multiple front- and backstages (Goffman) that are structured as cascading levels of presentation, nurses organize their work, negotiate, and display belongingness. The construct of frontstages helps nurses to portray themselves as “devoted caregivers” on the outside to fulfill public expectations, while these expectations may be burst ironically on the backstage. This ironic bursting of expectations is being used by the nurses as a sign to firstly, create the backstage in itself, secondly, control which nurses to include or exclude on and from the backstage and, thirdly, express belonging to other nurses. This forming of backstages creates a space of trust that can be used by nurses to discuss dilemma and fulfill the tight working schedule with strategies that would be interpreted as unorthodox on the frontstage. Accounts (Mills, Stokes, and Hewitt) are being used by the nurses to modify the rules of the backstages. These results are a product of an ethnography that took place on an ICU in Germany, lasting several months.

**Keywords:** frontstage, backstage, nursing, accounts, ethnography

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Group 4A

**Polish Immigration to the United States: Meaning-Making in the Realm of Education**

Polish immigration to the United States has contributed to the history and population of the country. The American Community Survey Data on Ancestry (2014) has reported approximately ten million people living in the United States of Polish ancestry over a ten-year period. Radzilowski and Stecula (2010) report that the Polish population encompasses 3.2% of the total population of the United States. In the state of Connecticut, there is over 125-year history of Polish immigration (Shea & Proko 2005). The Polish population accounts for 9% of the States total population (Radzilowski & Stecula 2010). While the Polish population in the United States makes a significant portion of the population, there is little research focused on the educational pursuits of this population. This study examines how first generation Polish immigrants make meaning of their educational pursuits in the United States. This study is guided through a symbolic interactionist approach because “human beings act toward things
on the basis of the meanings that the things have for them” (Blumer 1969:2). In addition, to understand “the social interaction that one has with one’s fellows” (p. 2) and the “interpretative process used by the person in dealing with the things he encounters” (p. 2). An exploratory phenomenological oral history approach was utilized with first generation Polish immigrants that were currently enrolled or have attended college in the United States. The oral history approach was previously utilized by Thomas and Znaniecki to study Polish immigrants to the United States (Bryman 2012). Participants of the study included nine first generation Polish immigrants living in the state of Connecticut. Interviews revealed the influence of parents, family members, and peers, country of origin, government bureaucracy, economics and employment prospects, cultural institutions, and language. Furthermore, the findings can inform policy makers, researchers, and practitioners working with first generation Polish immigrants.

**Keywords:** immigration, education, meaning, Polish

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**Conceptualizing Oneself within the Context of Conceptual Invisibility – Ethnographic Study of Non-Biological Lesbian Mothers’ Experiences**

The aim of the paper is to shed some light on the everyday life of same-sex couples raising a child conceived within the relationship at hand as it is seen by non-biological lesbian mothers who, according to the Polish law, are related to neither their partners nor their children. It is emphasized how women under study experience the conceptual non-existence of “ready-made” role scripts they would otherwise refer to while constructing acting strategies to be displayed in public sphere, and possible results thereof. The way they see themselves within the context of acting under unfavorable socio-cultural climate and conceptual invisibility outlines a broader analytical framework of how they build interactional concepts, as well as experience motherhood.

**Keywords:** same-sex motherhood in Poland, non-biological mothers’ experiences, conceptual invisibility, legal status and the context of fear, visibility vs. invisibility in public sphere