Erving Goffman: Professional and Personal Timeline
(Publication data for major works follows this timeline)
Compiled by Michael Delaney

1922  Born June 11 in Manville, Alberta
1939  Graduates from St. Johns Technical High School, Winnipeg, Manitoba
       Studies chemistry at the University of Manitoba
1943-4  Works for the Canadian National Film Board in Ottawa, wrapping boxes of films
        and being exposed to the world of film
1944-5  Attends the University of Toronto; pals around with Dennis Wrong and Liz Bott
        (i.e., Elizabeth Bott-Spillius); studies with Ray Birdwhistell and Charles William
        Morton Hart, a staunch Durkheimian anthropologist trained by Radcliffe-Brown
1945  Receives B.A. in sociology and anthropology, University of Toronto
       Enrolls as a graduate student at the University of Chicago
       “Some Characteristic of Response to Depicted Experience”
1949-51 Field research in the island of Unst, one of the Shetland Islands, under the
       auspices of the Social Sciences Research Committee for the University of
       Edinburgh (where he also was an Instructor in the Department of Social
       Anthropology); sporadic visits to Chicago, Edinburgh, and London
1951?  Moves to Paris, where he supposedly works on his doctoral dissertation
       Publication: essay, “Symbols of Class Status”
1952  Parents move to the Los Angeles area, where sister Frances Bay has relocated
       Marries Angela Schuyler “Skye” Choate, scion of the upper-class Choate family
       Publication: essay, “On Cooling the Mark Out: Some Aspects of Adaptation to
       Failure”
1952-54 Research Assistant, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago (Project for a
       Propositional Inventory of Social Stratification, directed by Edward Shils and
       funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation)
1953-54 Research Associate, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago (Project for
       the study of social practices, directed by E. C. Banfield)
1953 Granted Ph.D., University of Chicago. Dissertation: “Communication Conduct in an Island Community”

Son Tom born

1953 Publication: monograph, “The Service Station Dealer: The Man and His Work,” funded by the American Petroleum Institute

1954-57 Research Associate, Visiting Scientist Program, Laboratory of Socio-environmental Studies, National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH). Two projects: a brief study of two psychiatric wards at NIMH, Bethesda, Maryland; a year of participant observation at St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C. Much of this material went into *Behavior in Public Places* (1963) and *Asylums* (1961)

1954 Father Max Goffman dies, age 64

1955 Publication: essay, “On Face-work” (included in *Interaction Ritual*)

1956 Attends colloquy on “Interpersonal Persuasion” Third Conference (held October 1956), sponsored by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation (see 1957)

Publication: monograph, First edition of *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Edinburgh)

Publication: essays, “Nature of Deference and Demeanor” and “Embarrassment and Social Organization” (included in *Interaction Ritual*)

1957 Publication: presentation and colloquy, “Interpersonal Persuasion,” describing some preliminary results of fieldwork at St. Elizabeths Hospital, From Transactions of the Third Conference, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation

Publication: essay “Alienation from Interaction” (included in *Interaction Ritual*)

Publication: essays, “On the Characteristics of Total Institutions” and “The Underlife of a Public Institution: A Study of Ways of Making Out in a Mental Hospital” (included in *Asylums*)

1958 Recruited to the University of California-Berkeley Sociology Department by Herbert Blumer. Position: “Visiting Assistant Professor,” salary $6,840

1959 Promoted to Associate Professor at Berkeley with salary of $7,920

Publication: book, Anchor edition of *Presentation of Self*, becomes a sociological best-seller

1961 Receives ASA’s MacIver Award for *Presentation of Self* as best recent book in American sociology

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Publication: <em>Encounters: Two Studies in the Sociology of Interaction</em>; includes “Fun in Games” and “Role Distance”</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Promoted to full Professor at Berkeley</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Publication: <em>Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity</em></td>
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<td>Publication: <em>Behavior in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings</em></td>
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<td>1963-4?</td>
<td>Attends Russian River (California) Conference on “Strategic Interaction and Conflict”</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>April, wife (Skye Goffman) commits suicide</td>
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<td>Publication: essay, “Mental Symptoms and Public Order” (included in <em>Interaction Ritual</em>)</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>Las Vegas police inquire about EG to the Office of the President of the University of California, after several casino managers complained about him as a “disturbing element” because of card-counting</td>
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<td>1966-67</td>
<td>Spends a sabbatical year as a Fellow at the Harvard Center for International Affairs studying game theory with Thomas Schelling</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Publication: <em>Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior</em>, includes “On Face-work” (1955); “The Nature of Deferece and Demeanor” (1956); Embarrassment and Social Organization” (1956); Alienation from Interaction” (1957); “Mental Symptoms and Public Order” (1964); “Where the Action Is”</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Leaves Berkeley to assume the Benjamin Franklin Professorship of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania; salary $30,000 per annum</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Publication: <em>Strategic Interaction</em>, includes two essays: “Expression Games: An Analysis of Doubts at Play” and “Strategic Interaction”</td>
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<td>Publication: essay, “The Insanity of Place” (Appendix, <em>Relations in Public</em>)</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Publication: <em>Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience</em></td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>LL.D. (Honorary Doctor of Laws degree), University of Manitoba; gives address</td>
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<td>Lecture: Gives the Katz-Newcomb lecture at the University of Michigan (published as “Lecture on the Lecture” in <em>Forms of Talk</em>)</td>
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<td>Publication: essay, “Replies and Responses” (included in <em>Forms of Talk</em>)</td>
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1977 Publication: essay, “The Arrangement Between the Sexes”
1977-78 Guggenheim Fellowship
1978 *In Media Res*, International Prize for Communicating
Publication: essay, “Response Cries” (included in *Forms of Talk*)
1979 ASA’s Mead-Cooley Award in Social Psychology
D.H.L. (honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree), University of Chicago
Publication: book, *Gender Advertisements*
Publication: essay, “Footing” (included in *Forms of Talk*)
1979? Spends semester at Manchester University, England
1981 Petition drive organized to put Goffman on the ballot for president of the American Sociological Association (ASA); he wins
Marries Gillian Sankoff, professor of linguistics at Penn
Publication: rebuttal, “Reply to Denzin and Keller” (caustic review of a review of *Frame Analysis*)
1982 May, Birth of daughter Alice
Travels with wife to France in the summer
1982 Dies of stomach cancer, November 19 (or 20), at age 60
Lecture: ASA Presidential Address (delivered in abstentia)
1983 Publication: ASA Presidential Address, “The Interaction Order”
Publication: essay, “Felicity's Condition” (posthumously revised and edited by Gillian Sankoff)
1989 Mother (Anne Averback Goffman) dies, age approximately 90
Publication: remarks, “On Fieldwork” (transcribed and edited by Lyn H. Lofland)
Major Works of Erving Goffman


1956  *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, University of Edinburgh Social Sciences Research Centre, Monograph No. 2.


1957  “On the Characteristics of Total Institutions”


1961  *Encounters: Two Studies in the Sociology of Interaction*, Bobbs-Merrill. Includes “Fun in Games” and “Role Distance.”


