

THE DELANEY DOSSIER: GOFFMAN MATERIALS

1973: re: Frame Analysis manuscript

1. May 3, 1973 letter of thanks from EG to MD on my critique of the draft manuscript of *Frame Analysis*.
2. April 13, 1973 letter from MD to EG, meta-commenting on my critical commentary on *Frame Analysis*. In retrospect, I am not at all sure how penetrating (or even entirely understandable) these comments are, although I do think that EG may have toned down some of his more hard-edged positivistic proclamations in the final book as a result. I had urged him to adopt a more “perspectivist” account of frame analysis, in part because I considered his patchwork attempts at philosophically grounding the whole endeavor to be wanting, and for that reason all the more susceptible to critical attack. (It was, after all, a rather strange hybrid in being an empiricist-ethnographic approach to a number of “reality” issues commonly treated in philosophical theory.) In the completed book, EG addressed my suggestion in footnote 4 on page 26, where he argues (with considerable justification) that his version of a correspondence theory of cognitive validity ought not evade warranting its own claims to be a realistic depiction of reality (or at least the bulk of truth-claims put forth on the basis of everyday practical reason).

1974:

Acknowledgments page from *Frame Analysis*, citing MD’s contributions, with a photocopy of a presentation card (“Compliments of the Author”) sent directly to me in New Haven by the publisher, Harper & Row, along with a copy (unsigned) of the book.

Aside: I had already bought a copy of the newly-published *FA* from the Yale bookstore and had marked up some passages, making it unreturnable. Being short of money (as usual) at the time, I decided to swap copies and “return” the unmarked presentation copy in lieu of the purchased copy. As I later informed EG, this entailed using a bit of “framing” chicanery — namely, explaining away the lack of a Yale bookstore sticker — to dissemble the fact that I had not bought that particular copy of the book at the bookstore. (I think that EG was more often chagrined than not by his readers and students resorting to such ostensibly “Goffmanesque” stratagems, in effect taking his name in vain. By many accounts, however, he himself was not above resorting to such gambits as an interactional gamester adept at getting a “rise” out of his interlocutors. Besides, his many sly accounts of confidence games, hoaxes, forgeries, espionage exploits, criminal subterfuge, and the like gave some warrant for seeing a bit of a sharpster in his character. Not to mention his one-time stint as a card-counter in Vegas.)

Goffman

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