

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
- 1949 Receives Master's Degree, University of Chicago. M.A. thesis (unpublished): "Some Characteristic of Response to Depicted Experience"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
- Publication: book, *Asylums*, includes "On the Characteristics of Total Institutions" (1957); "The Moral Career of the Mental Patient"; "The Underlife of a Public Institution: A Study of Ways of Making Out in a Mental Hospital" (1957); "The Medical Model and Mental Hospitalization: Some Notes on the Vicissitudes of the Tinkering Trades"

- 1961 Publication: book, *Encounters: Two Studies in the Sociology of Interaction*; includes “Fun in Games” and “Role Distance”
- 1962 Promoted to full Professor at Berkeley
- 1963 Publication: book, *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*
- Publication: book, *Behavior in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings*
- 1963-4? Attends Russian River (California) Conference on “Strategic Interaction and Conflict”
- 1964 April, wife (Skye Goffman) commits suicide
- Publication: essay, “Mental Symptoms and Public Order” (included in *Interaction Ritual*)
- 1965 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
- 1966-67 Spends a sabbatical year as a Fellow at the Harvard Center for International Affairs studying game theory with Thomas Schelling
- 1967 Publication: book, *Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior*, includes “On Face-work” (1955); “The Nature of Deference and Demeanor” (1956); “Embarrassment and Social Organization” (1956); “Alienation from Interaction” (1957); “Mental Symptoms and Public Order” (1964); “Where the Action Is”
- 1968 Leaves Berkeley to assume the Benjamin Franklin Professorship of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania; salary \$30,000 per annum
- 1969 Publication: book, *Strategic Interaction*, includes two essays: “Expression Games: An Analysis of Doubts at Play” and “Strategic Interaction”
- Publication: essay, “The Insanity of Place” (Appendix, *Relations in Public*)
- 1971 Publication: book, *Relations in Public: Microstudies of the Public Order*, includes “The Individual as a Unit”; “The Territories of the Self”; “Supportive Interchanges”; “Remedial Interchanges”; “Tie-Signs”; “Normal Appearances”; Appendix: “The Insanity of Place” (1969).
- 1974 Publication: book, *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*
- Lecture: “On Fieldwork” (published in 1989)
- 1976 LL.D. (Honorary Doctor of Laws degree), University of Manitoba; gives address
- Lecture: Gives the Katz-Newcomb lecture at the University of Michigan (published as “Lecture on the Lecture” in *Forms of Talk*)
- Publication: essay, “Replies and Responses” (included in *Forms of Talk*)

- 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
- 1981 Publication: book, *Forms of Talk* “Replies and Responses” (1976); “Response Cries” (1978); “Footing” (1979); “The Lecture” (1976); “Radio Talk”
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 absentia)
- 1983 Publication: ASA Presidential Address, “The Interaction Order”
Publication: essay, “Felicity’s Condition” (posthumously revised and edited by Gillian Sankoff)
- 1989 Mother (Anne Averbach Goffman) dies, age approximately 90
Publication: remarks, “On Fieldwork” (transcribed and edited by Lyn H. Lofland)
- 1993 Publication: interview, “An Interview with Erving Goffman, 1980,” transcribed and edited by Jef Verhoeven

Major Works of Erving Goffman

- 1949 "Some Characteristics of Response to Depicted Experience," unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Chicago.
- 1951 "Symbols of Class Status," *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 11, pp. 294-304.
- 1952 "On Cooling the Mark Out: Some Aspects of Adaptation to Failure," *Psychiatry*, Vol. 15, No. 4, November, pp. 451-463.
- 1953 "The Service Station Dealer: The Man and His Work," Social Research, Inc. (Chicago), prepared for the American Petroleum Institute.
- 1953 "Communication Conduct in an Island Community," unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago.
- 1956 *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, University of Edinburgh Social Sciences Research Centre, Monograph No. 2.
- 1957 "Interpersonal Persuasion," Goffman presentation and colloquy on his fieldwork at St. Elizabeths Hospital, *Group Processes: Transactions of the Third Conference* (held October 1956), Bertram Schaffner, ed., Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, pp. 117-193.
- "On the Characteristics of Total Institutions"
- 1957 "On Some Convergences of Sociology and Psychiatry: A Sociologist's View," *Psychiatry*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 201-203.
- 1959 *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Doubleday Anchor. (UK editions: Penguin, 1959; Allen Lane, 1969). Amplified and slightly revised version of the 1956 monograph of the same title, with an added Conclusion.
- 1961 *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*, Doubleday Anchor. (UK: Penguin, 1968.) Includes "On the Characteristics of Total Institutions" (1957); "The Moral Career of the Mental Patient"; "The Underlife of a Public Institution: A Study of Ways of Making Out in a Mental Hospital" (1957); "The Medical Model and Mental Hospitalization: Some Notes on the Vicissitudes of the Tinkering Trades."
- 1961 *Encounters: Two Studies in the Sociology of Interaction*, Bobbs-Merrill. Includes "Fun in Games" and "Role Distance."
- 1963 *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*, Prentice-Hall. (UK: Penguin, 1968.)
- 1963 *Behavior in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings*, The Free Press.
- 1964 "The Neglected Situation," *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 66, No. 6, Part II, pp. 133-136.

- 1967 *Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior*, Doubleday Anchor. (UK: Allen Lane, 1972.) Includes "On Face-work" (1955); "The Nature of Deference and Demeanor" (1956); "Embarrassment and Social Organization" (1956); "Alienation from Interaction" (1957); "Mental Symptoms and Public Order" (1964); "Where the Action Is" (1967).
- 1969 *Strategic Interaction*, University of Pennsylvania Press. (UK: Basil Blackwell, 1970.) Includes "Expression Games: An Analysis of Doubts at Play" and "Strategic Interaction"
- 1971 *Relations in Public: Microstudies of the Public Order*, Basic Books. (UK: Allen Lane, 1971.) Includes "The Individual as a Unit"; "The Territories of the Self"; "Supportive Interchanges"; "Remedial Interchanges"; "Tie-Signs"; "Normal Appearances"; Appendix: "The Insanity of Place" (1969).
- 1974 *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*, Harper & Row, Colophon paperback; published simultaneously in a hardback edition by Harvard University Press, 1974; paperback reprint with same pagination, Northeastern University Press, 1986. (UK: Peregrine, 1974; Penguin, 1975.)
- 1977 "The Arrangement Between the Sexes," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 301-32.
- 1979 *Gender Advertisements*, Harper & Row. (UK: MacMillan, 1979.)
- 1981 *Forms of Talk*, University of Pennsylvania Press. (UK: Basil Blackwell, 1981.) Includes "Replies and Responses" (1976); "Response Cries" (1978); "Footing" (1979); "The Lecture" (1976); "Radio Talk."
- 1981 "Reply to Denzin and Keller," *Contemporary Sociology*, 1981, Vol 10, pp. 60-68. Their review of *Frame Analysis* appeared in the same issue, pp. 52-60.
- 1983 "Felicity's Condition," revised and edited by Gillian Sankoff, *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol 89, No. 1, pp. 1-53.
- 1983 "The Interaction Order," Presidential Address to the American Sociological Association, *American Sociological Review*, Vol 48, pp. 1-17.
- 1989 "On Fieldwork," 1974 remarks transcribed and edited by Lyn H. Lofland, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 123-132.
- 1993 "An Interview with Erving Goffman, 1980," transcribed and edited by Jef Verhoeven, *Research on Language and Social Interaction*, Vol. 26, No. 3, pp. 307-348.