Contents

Preface, ix

PART ONE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERSPECTIVE, 1

Chapter 1 Interaction and Everyday Behavior, 3

Social Conventions and Social Order, 5

Spatial Conventions, 5

Time Conventions, 8

Posture-Gesture Conventions, 11

Social Conventions and the Interpretation of Everyday Life, 14

Freedom and Constraint in Social Life, 19

The Neglect of the Sociology of Everyday Life, 22

What Should Analysis of Everyday Behavior Accomplish?, 24

Conclusion, 27

Chapter 2 Symbols, Selves, and Interaction, 30

Symbols and Signs, 31

The Self as Symbolic Communication, 36

An Interactionist View of Nonconformity, 42

Symbols and Nonconformity, 44

Multiple Realities and Nonconformity, 45

Generational Differences and Nonconformity, 47

Conclusion, 48

Chapter 3 Information and Interaction, 52

Master Attributes and the Predictability of Interaction, 55 Processing Master Attributes, 60

Appearance and the Self, 62

Appearance and Attraction, 63

Appearance and Character Assessment, 65

Clothed Appearance, 68

Appearance and Discourse, 71

The Dramaturgical View: Controlling Information and Impressions, 73

Conclusion, 80

PART TWO THE WORLDS OF EVERYDAY LIFE, 85

Chapter 4 Contacts Among Strangers: The Nature of Public Relations, 87

Doubt and Trust in Stranger Interaction, 90 The City as a World of Strangers, 93 Self-Management in Stranger Interaction, 97 Tolerance for Strange Life Styles, 104 Place, Information, and Stranger Encounters, 108 How Strangers Meet, 110 Conclusion, 112

Chapter 5 Relations of Intimacy, 116

Intimacy as a Social Construction, 120

History and the Meaning of Intimacy, 123

Social Status and the Meaning of Intimacy, 124

From Strangers to Intimates, 129

The Romantic Ideal, 129

Rapport and Self-Revelation, 132

Mutual Dependency and Commitment, 136

Alternatives to Marriage, 139

Living Together, 140

Staying Single, 144

Conclusion, 148

Chapter 6 The Politics of Interaction, 153

The Broad Contours of Power: Money and Jobs, 155 Role-Taking and Power, 158 Class, Power, and Self, 164 The Subtle Faces of Power, 166
Staring, 166
Touching, 167
Interrupting, 168
Crowding Another's Space, 168
Frowning, Looking Stern, Pointing, 170
Power Talks: The Names People Say, 172
Power, Sex, and Aging, 174
Conclusion, 179

Chapter 7 Siddhartha's Journey: Searching for Self, 184

Social Movements and Conceptions of Injustice, 187 The Contemporary Concern With Self, 190 Buyers and Sellers in the Identity Marketplace, 193 The New Religions, 194 The Awareness Trap, 199 Future Selves, 200

Index, 207