



Symbolic Interactionism

- Researchers generally don't have an intimate understanding of the group they propose to study.
- Focuses on the importance of in-depth knowledge using interviews and observations, and avoiding vagueness when defining concepts.
- Symbolic interaction focuses on the interpretation (social meaning) given to social behavior.
- This interpretation helps to construct the social world, the identities of people, and, ultimately how they behave.

Examples of Symbolic Interactionism

- Race and gender, and people's perceptions thereof, also develop by symbolic interaction.
- From a young age, children learn to define themselves by external characteristics.
- By age 3, they are expected to know if they are a boy or a girl.

