

## LEC 07 - Interaction

### Social Interaction

- Involves communicating among people acting and reacting to each other
    - Can be either face-to-face or through technology
  - Shaped by structure and agency
- 

### Social Scripts - Status

**Status:** The social position you occupy

- Can be ascribed (ex. brother), involuntarily (ex. senior citizen), or achieved (ex. lawyer)

**Status Set:** A collection of social statuses

**Master Status:** A status that comes to overpower all other statuses

- We follow social and cultural scripts that are handed to us
  - Identity and interactions shaped by culture, institutions, communities, organizations, and social structures
  - Scripts like our statuses and roles help us to make sense of interaction
- 

### Social Scripts - Roles

**Role:** The behaviours of a person who occupies a particular status

- Provide stable expectations that guide social interactions

**Role Conflict:** Incompatible demands from our various statuses and their roles

- Occurs across our roles

**Role Strain:** Difficulties in fulfilling the obligations of a single role

- Occurs within a role

**Role Distancing:** Separating our identity or sense of self from a role we play

---

### Social Actions

- We actively make choices that guide and shape our interactions
- Agency in social interaction
- Social life emerges from and is sustained by social interaction
- Constantly validate and reproduce scripts
- Unscripted

## **LEC 07 - Interaction**

- React to structure, make plans, anticipate outcomes, select actions, revise behaviours
- 

### **Example - Office Hours**

#### **Social Scripts**

- Ask questions related to the course
- No one told you how to act in office hours

#### **Agency**

- Give advice on a subject
  - Doing stuff you wouldn't normally do
- 

### **Features of Interaction**

#### **Are men funnier than women?**

- It is subjective
- Could depend on the metrics you use to measure "funiness"
- Men tell more jokes, older studies show women undervalue humour or lack a sense of humour

#### **Type of Humour**

- Aggressive and slapstick vs. humour about difficult people or overcoming constraints

#### **Status**

- Humour linked to social status
- Less likely to use humour, more likely to be interrupted
- Egalitarian groups

#### **Socialization**

- Passive, deferential, but changes over time
  - In an environment where men have higher status, they will likely be considered funnier
- 

### **Identity**

#### **Goffman's Dramaturgical Analysis**

- Interaction as a play in which we present ourselves in the best possible light
- Impression management

## **LEC 07 - Interaction**

- Facial recognition and mate selection

### **Real vs Illusion**

#### **Real**

- Symbolic interactionalism
- Stable version of our self across interactions
- Similar traits in different contexts

#### **Illusion**

- Postmodernism
  - Self is series of fleeting surface performances that exist only in interaction
  - Multiple, fluctuating self
- 

## **Modern Identity**

### **Consumption**

- Identity not tied to traditional institutions
- Matter of personal choice through consumption
- Individualization and self expression
- Lifestyle choices

### **Online**

- Freedom to craft a version of self and project an identity that is almost entirely within our control
- Curated social media profiles, identity tourism
- Cyber-me and centrality of online identity
- Identities tied to offline self