

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Soc 1101: Summer 2023

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Interaction & the Self

Lecture 14

LECTURE OUTLINE

- **Micro and macro sociology**
- **How does “self” develop?**
 - **Mead and Cooley**
 - **The Looking-Glass Self**
- **Microsociology**
 - **Goffman and Symbolic Interactionism**
- **Next lecture: Deviance and Stigma**

MACRO AND MICRO SOCIOLOGY

- **LEVELS OF ANALYTIC STUDY**
- **Macrosociology is the study of large-scale groups, organizations or social systems**
- **Microsociology is the study of everyday human behavior in the context of face-to-face interaction**

INDIVIDUALS



GROUPS/NETWORKS



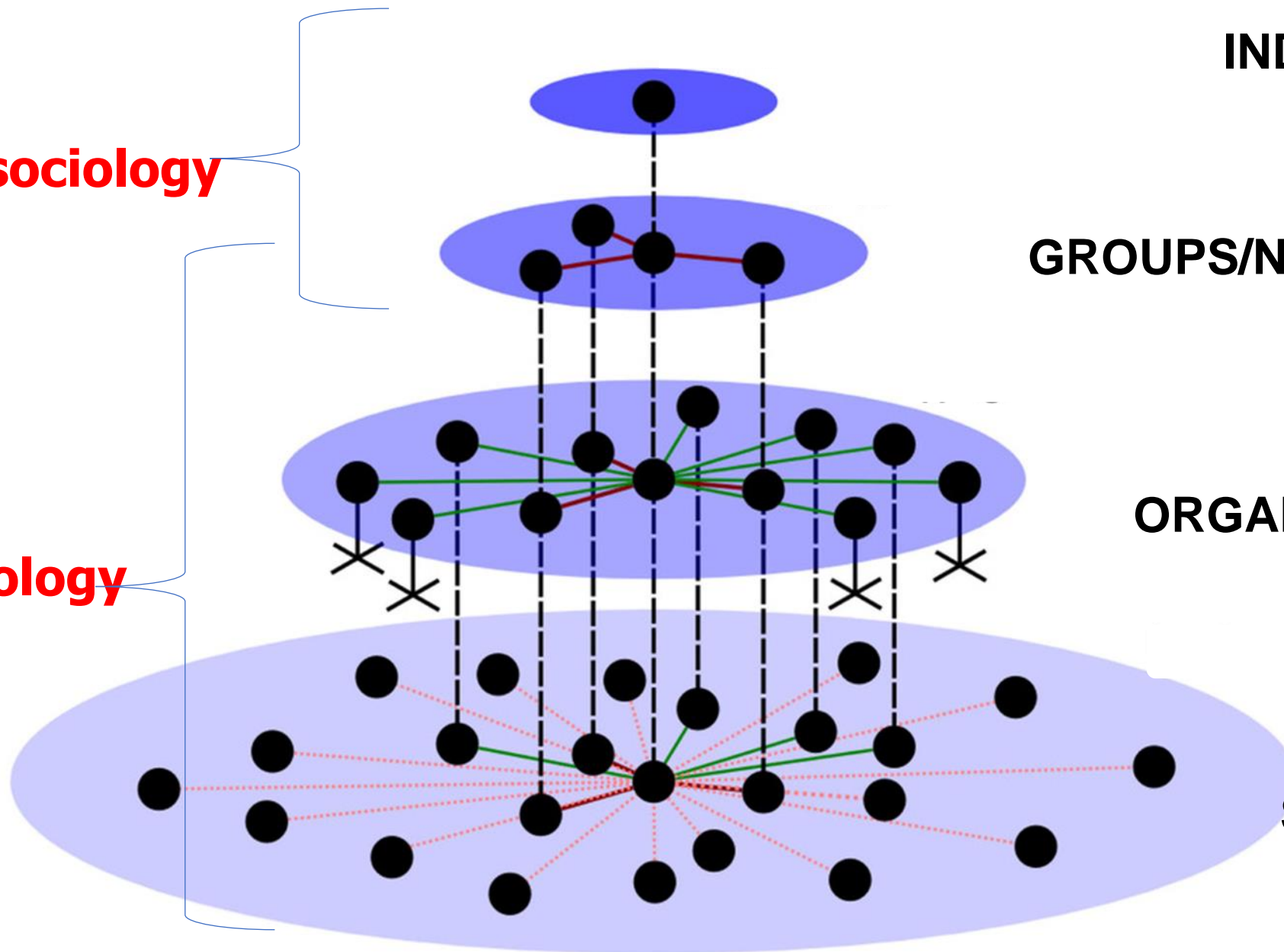
ORGANIZATIONS



SOCIETIES

Microsociology

Macrosociology



Micro



Meso



Macro

Intra-individual

PSYCHOLOGY

Individuals

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Small Groups

Social Networks

SOCIOLOGY

Organizations

Countries

Globalization

YOU CAN'T SEE ME!



SELF RECOGNITION IN THE MIRROR

Lacan: Mirror Stage



Gallup Jr: Mirror test



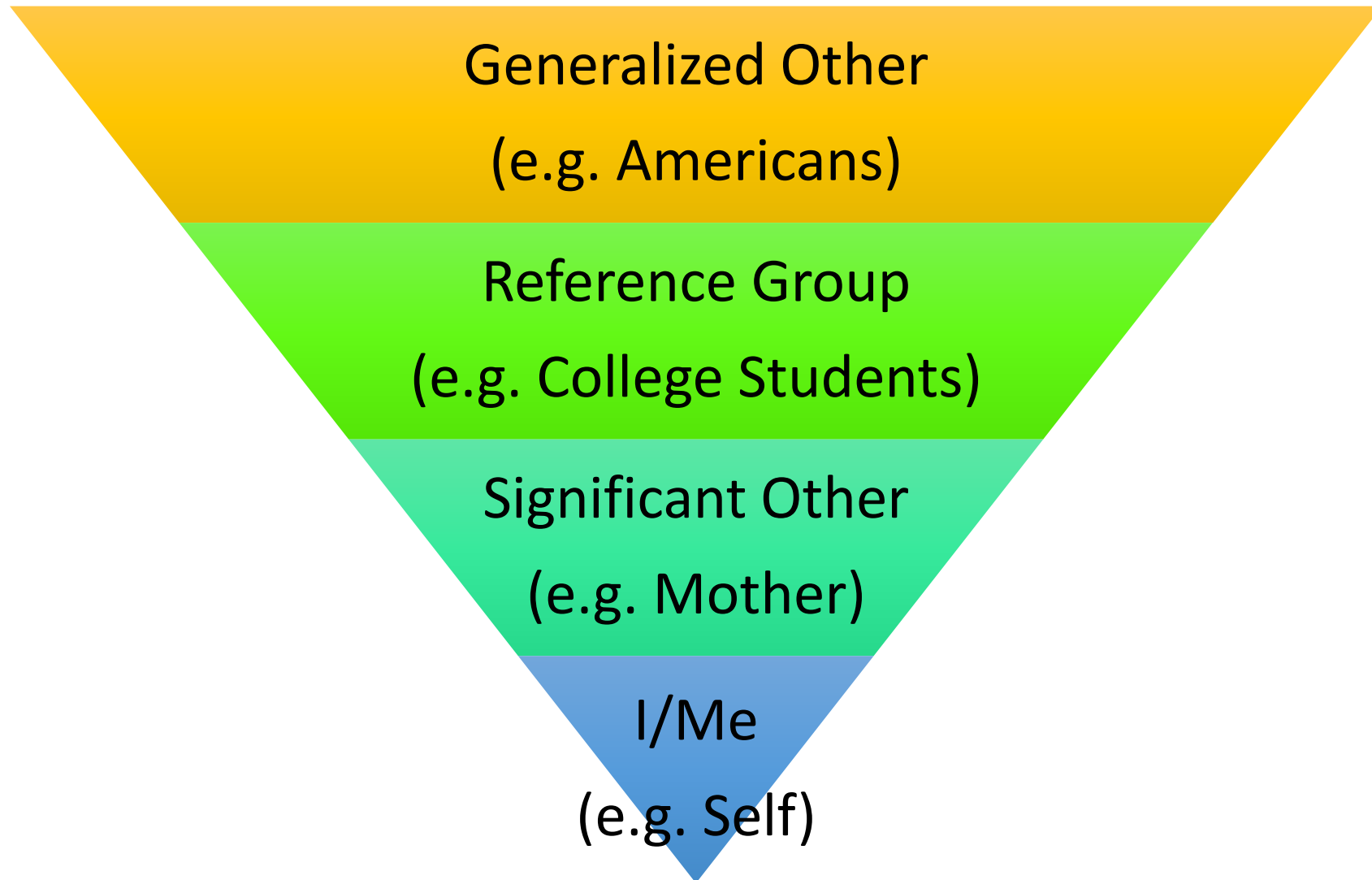
HOW DOES “SELF” DEVELOP?

- **It emerges/is created through a social process**
 - **Socialization; social interaction**
- **Development of the Self and the Other**
 - **“I” – one’s sense of agency, action, power**
 - **“me” – the self as one imagines others see them**
 - **“other” – sense of someone or something outside of yourself**

A TODDLER SOCCER GAME...A HOT MESS



MEAD'S STAGES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



COOLEY'S THE LOOKING-GLASS SELF

1902!

The imagination of
our appearance to
the other person

The imagination of
his/her judgment
of that
appearance



Some sort of self-
feeling, such as
pride or
mortification

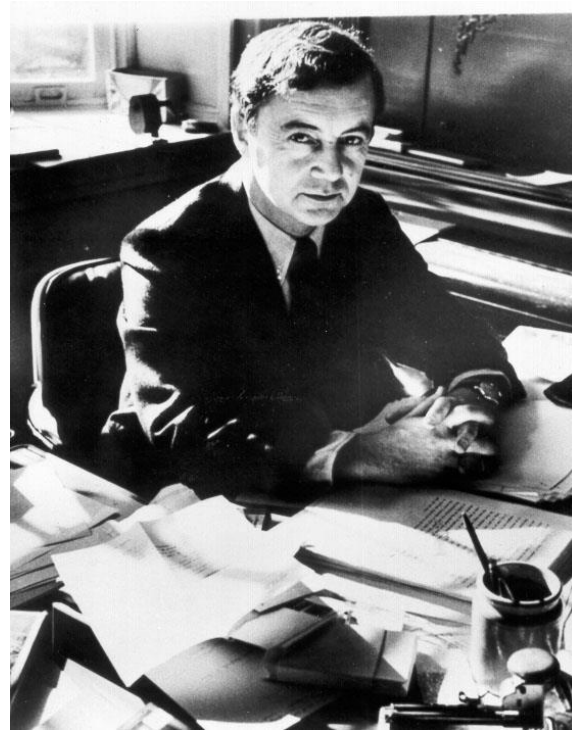
SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

- A theoretical tradition in **microsociology**
 - The study of everyday human behavior in the context of face-to face interaction
 - Face-to-face interaction, and the rules behind these interaction, are the basis of all forms of social organization

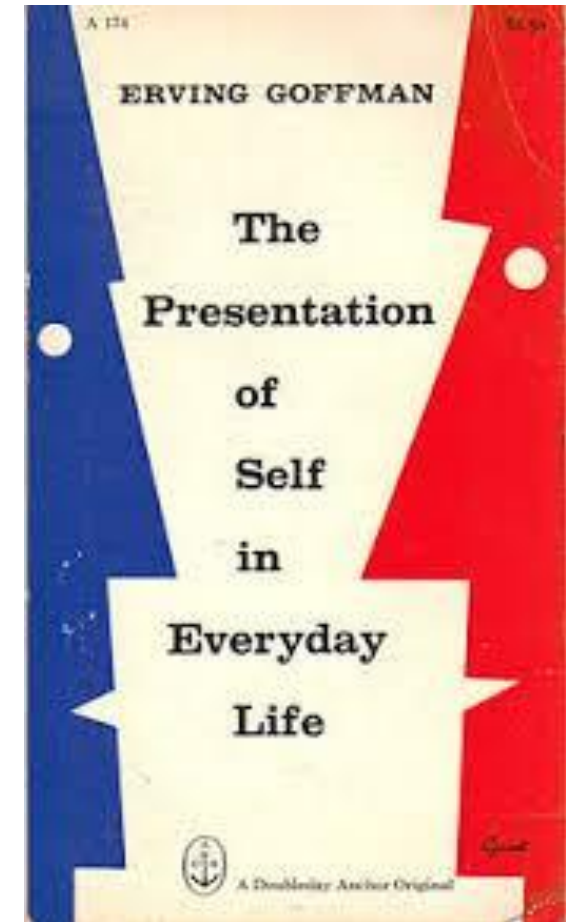
SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

- **Symbolic interactionists...**
 - **hold that society emerges from patterned interactions between individuals**
 - **are particularly attentive to the ways roles, symbols, and language shape social interaction**

THE PRESENTATION OF SELF IN EVERYDAY LIFE



Erving Goffman
(1922-1982)



DRAMATURGICAL THEORY OF SOCIAL INTERACTION

- The view of social life as a theatrical performance in which we are all **actors** with **roles, scripts, costumes** and **sets**.
- Uses the language of theater to describe the social façade we create on a daily basis as we go about our social lives

IMPRESSION MANAGEMENT

- **Life as a 'play'**
- **We – as 'actors' – struggle...**
 - **to make a good impression on our audience (who are also actors),**
 - **to confirm to others that they are making a good impression as well**
- **This keeps social situations fluid and controlled**

IMPRESSION MANAGEMENT

- Nonverbal communication
- Expressions *given* vs. *given off*



IMPRESSION MANAGEMENT

- **Front stage vs. backstage behavior**
 - **Visible; part of the performance**
 - **Behaviors we engage in when no audience is present**
- **Face and Saving face**



Social Q's

Lighthearted advice about awkward social situations.



ETHNOMETHODOLOGY

- **A sociological tradition that studies the stock of common-sense knowledge and procedures by which ordinary members of a society make sense of their social circumstances and interactions.** (Eglitis et al. 2021)
 - **Ethno + methodology**
 - **Everyday interactions as accomplishments**
 - **Garfinkel's breaching experiments**
 - **Examples**

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN THE INTERNET AGE

- **Anonymity, potential to craft a new presentation of self, alter identity**
- **New ways of communicating**



NEXT CLASS

- **Deviance and Stigma**
 - **Becker 1963**