

1953

Communication Conduct in an Island Community

Erving Goffman

a
mediastudies.press
public domain
edition

with a new
introduction by
Yves Winkin



Erving Goffman

COMMUNICATION CONDUCT
IN AN ISLAND COMMUNITY

A MEDIASTUDIES.PRESS PUBLIC DOMAIN EDITION

Communication Conduct in an Island Community, originally deposited in 1953 at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, is in the public domain.

Published by MEDIASTUDIES.PRESS in the PUBLIC DOMAIN series

Original formatting, spelling, and citation styles retained throughout, with occasional [*sic*] to indicate an uncorrected error.

mediastudies.press | 414 W. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, USA

New materials are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 (CC BY-NC 4.0)

COVER DESIGN: Mark McGillivray | Copy-editing & proofing: Emily Alexander

CREDIT FOR SCAN: Internet Archive, 2015 upload

CREDIT FOR LATEX TEMPLATE: Book design inspired by Edward Tufte, by The Tufte-LaTeX Developers

ISBN 978-1-951399-09-2 (print) | ISBN 978-1-951399-10-8 (pdf)

ISBN 978-1-951399-08-5 (epub) | ISBN 978-1-951399-07-8 (pdf)

DOI 10.32376/3f8575cb.baaa5oaf

Edition 1 published in December 2022

The University of Chicago

COMMUNICATION CONDUCT
IN AN ISLAND COMMUNITY

*A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Division of
the Social Sciences in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor
of Philosophy*

Department of Sociology

By

Erving Goffman

Chicago, Illinois

December, 1953

Contents

The Cradle: Introduction to the mediastudies.press edition	x
--	---

Introduction	4
--------------	---

Part One: The Context

Chapter I: Dixon	11
------------------	----

Part Two: The Sociological Model

Chapter II: Social Order and Social Interaction	23
---	----

Part Three: On Information About One's Self

Chapter III: Linguistic Behavior	31
----------------------------------	----

Chapter IV: Expressive Behavior	35
---------------------------------	----

Chapter V: The Management of Information About Oneself	46
--	----

Chapter VI: Indelicate Communication	56
--------------------------------------	----

Chapter VII: Sign Situations	60
------------------------------	----

Part Four: The Concrete Units of Conversational Communication

Chapter VIII: Introduction	66
Chapter IX: Social Occasion	77
Chapter X: Accredited Participation and Interplay	83
Chapter XI: Expression During Interplay	89
Chapter XII: Interchange of Messages	98
Chapter XIII: Polite Interchanges	105
Chapter XIV: The Organization of Attention	114
Chapter XV: Safe Supplies	119
Chapter XVI: On Kinds of Exclusion from Participation	125
Chapter XVII: Dual Participation	132

Part Five: Conduct During Interplay

Chapter XVIII: Introduction: Euphoric and Dysphoric Interplay	139
Chapter XIX: Involvement	141
Chapter XX: Faulty Persons	148
Chapter XXI: Involvement Poise	156

Chapter XXII: On Projected Selves	171
Chapter XXIII: The Management of Projected Selves	190
Interpretations and Conclusions	198
Bibliography	210

Bibliography

- Allport, Gordon, and Vernon, Philip. *Studies in Expressive Movements*. doi
New York: Macmillan, 1933.
- Bales, Robert F. *Interaction Process Analysis*. Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-
Wesley Press, 1950.
- and others. "Channels of Communication in Small Group
Interaction," *American Sociological Review*, XVI (1951), 461–468.
- . "The Equilibrium Problem in Small Groups." *Working Papers
in the Theory of Action*, by Talcott Parsons, Robert F. Bales, and
Edward A. Shils. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1953.
- Barnard, Chester I. *The Functions of the Executive*. Cambridge, Mass.:
Harvard University Press, 1947.
- Bass, B. M. "An Analysis of Leaderless Group Discussion." *Journal of
Applied Psychology*, XXXIII (1949), 527–533.
- Bateson, Gregory. *Naven*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
1936.
- , and Mead, Margaret. *Balinese Character*. New York: New York
Academy of Sciences, 1942.
- Becker, Howard S. "The Professional Dance Musician in Chicago."
Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of Sociology, Univer-
sity of Chicago, 1949.
- Beagler, Edmund. "On the Resistance Situation: the Patient is Silent."
Psychoanalytical Review, XXV (1938), 170–186.
- Blonder, Charles. *Introduction à la Psychologie collective*. Paris: Armand
Colin, 1927.
- Blumer, Herbert. "Social Attitudes and Nonsymbolic Interaction."
Journal of Educational Sociology, IX (1936), 515–523.
- Bond, D. D. *The Love and Fear of Flying*. New York: International
Universities Press, 1952.
- Bussard, J. H. S. "Family Modes of Expression. " *American Sociological
Review*, X (1945), 226–237.
- The Canons of Good Breeding: or the Handbook of the Man of Fashion*.
Philadelphia: Lee and Blanchard, 1839.
- Chapel, Eliot D. "Measuring Human Relations." *Genetic Psychology
Monographs*, XXII (1940), 3–147.

- , and Coon, Carleton S. *Principles of Anthropology*. New York: Henry Holt, 1942.
- , and Lindemann, E. "Clinical Implications of Interaction-Rates in Psychiatric Interviews." *Human Organization*, I (1942), 1–11.
- Chesterfield, Earl of. *Letters of Lord Chesterfield to His Son*. Everyman's edition. New York: Dutton, 1929.
- Cooley, Charles H. *Human Nature and the Social Order*. New York: Scribner's, 1922.
- Critchley, Macdonald. *The Language of Gesture*. London: Edward Arnold, 1939.
- Dalbiez, Roland. *Psychoanalytical Method and the Doctrine of Freud*. Translated by T. F. Lindsay. New York: Longmans, Green, 1941.
- Darwin, Charles. *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*. London: John Murray, 1872.
- Davidson, Levette J. "Some Current Folk Gestures and Sign Languages," *American Speech*, XXV (1950), 3–9.
- Doyle, Bertram. *The Etiquette of Race Relations in the South*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1937.
- Durkheim, Emile. *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Translated by J. W. Swain. New York: Macmillan, 1926.
- . "Détermination du Fait Moral." *Sociologie et Philosophie*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1951.
- Efron, David. *Gesture and Environment*. New York: King's Crown Press, 1941.
- Elias, Norbert. *Über den Prozess der Zivilisation*. Vol. I. Basel: Haus Zum Falken, 1939.
- Elliott, H. S. *The Process of Group Thinking*. New York: Association Press, 1928.
- Festinger, Leon, and Thibaut, John. "Interpersonal Communication in Small Groups." *Theory and Experiment in Social Communication*, by Leon Festinger and others. Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, 1952.
- Firth, Raymond. *We, the Tikopia*. London: Allen and Unwin, 1936.
- Fromm-Reichmann, Frieda. "Notes on the Development of a Treatment of Schizophrenics by Psychoanalytical Psychotherapy." *Psychiatry*, XI (1948), 263–273.
- Gross, Edward. "Informal Relations and the Social Organization of Work in an Industrial Office." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 1949.
- Henderson, L. J. "Physician and Patient as a Social System." *New England Journal of Medicine*, CCXII (1935), 1–15.
- Homans, George C. *The Human Group*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1950.
- Horsfall, A. B., and Arensberg, C. A. "Teamwork and Productivity in a Shoe Factory." *Human Organization*, VIII (1949), 13–25.

- Hu, Hsien Chin. "The Chinese Concept of 'Face.'" *American Anthropologist*, n.s. XLVI (1944), 45-64.
- Hughes, Everett C. "Study of a Secular Institution: The Chicago Real Estate Board." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 1928.
- . "Dilemmas and Contradictions of Status." *American Journal of Sociology*, L (1945), 353-359.
- Ichhesier, Gustav. "Misunderstandings in Human Relations." Supplement to *The American Journal of Sociology*, LV (September, 1949). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1949.
- James, John. "A Preliminary Study of the Size Determinant in Small Group Interaction." *American Sociological Review*, XVI (1951), 474-477.
- Labarre, Weston. "The Cultural Basis of Emotions and Gestures." *Journal of Personality*, XVI (1947), 49-68.
- Lasswell, Harold. *Language and Politics*. New York: Stewart, 1949.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw, Supplement I to *The Meaning of Meaning*, by C. K. Ogden and I. A. Richards. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1946.
- Mead, Margaret. *Soviet Attitudes Toward Authority*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951.
- Meerlo, J. A. M. *Conversation and Communication*. New York: International Universities Press, 1952.
- Mencken, H. M. *The American Language, Supplement II*. New York: Knopf, 1948.
- Menninger, Karl. "Purposive Accidents as an Expression of Self-Destructive Tendencies." *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, XVII (1936), 6-16.
- Miller, Delbert C., and Form, William H. *Industrial Sociology*. New York: Harper, 1951.
- Miller, George A. *Language and Communication*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1951.
- Morris, Charles. *Signs, Language, and Behavior*. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1946.
- Newman, Stanley S. "Personal Symbolism in Language Patterns." *Psychiatry*, II (1939), 177-184.
- . "Behavior Patterns in Linguistic Structures." *Language, Culture, and Personality*. Edited by Leslie Spier, A. Hallowell, and Stanley S. Newman. Menasha, Wis.: Sapir Memorial Publication Fund, 1941.
- Obrdlik, A. J. "Gallows Humor." *American Journal of Sociology*, XLVII (1942), 715-716.
- Ogden, C. K., and Richards, I. A. *The Meaning of Meaning*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1946.
- Orwell, George. *Down and Out in Paris and London*. London: Secker

- and Warburg, 1949.
- . *Shooting an Elephant*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1950.
- Park, Robert Ezra. *Race and Culture*. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1950.
- Parsons, Talcott. *The Structure of Social Action*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1937.
- . *The Social System*. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1951.
- Pear, T. H. *The Psychology of Conversation*. London: Nelson, 1939.
- Radcliffe-Brown, A. R. "Taboo." (The Frazer Lecture, Cambridge, 1939.) *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. London: Cohen and West, 1952.
- . "A Further Note on Joking Relationships." *Africa*, XIX (1949), 133–140.
- Riezler, Kurt. "Play and Seriousness." *Journal of Philosophy*, XXXVIII (1936), 505–517.
- Roethlisberger, Fritz J. "The Foreman: Master and Victim of Double-talk." *Human Factors in Management*. Edited by S. D. Hoslett. New York: Harper, 1946.
- Roy, Donald. "Quota Restriction and Goldbricking in a Machine Shop." *American Journal of Sociology*, LVII (1952), 427–442.
- Ruesch, Jurgen, and Bateson, Gregory. *Communication*. New York: Norton, 1951.
- Ryle, Gilbert. *The Concept of Mind*. London: Hutchinson's University Library, 1949.
- Sanford, F. H. "Speech and Personality: A Comparative Case Study." *Character and Personality*, X (1942), 169–198.
- Sapir, Edward. *Selected Writings of Edward Sapir*. Edited by David G. Mandelbaum. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1951.
- Schilder, Paul. "The Social Neurosis." *Psychoanalytic Review*, XXV (1938), 1–19.
- Schwartz, Morris. "Social Interaction of a Disturbed Ward of a Hospital." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Departments of Sociology, University of Chicago, 1951.
- Simmel, Georg. *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. Translated and edited by Kurt H. Wolff. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1950.
- Steinzer, B. "The Development and Evaluation of a Measure of Social Interaction." *Human Relations*, II (1949), 103–121 and 319–347.
- Stephen, Frederick F., and Mishler, Elliot Y. "The Distribution of Participation in Small Groups: An Exponential Approximation." *American Sociological Review*, XVII (1952), 598–606.
- Strodtbeck, F. L. "Husband and Wife Interaction." *American Sociological Review*, XVI (1951), 468–473.
- Sylvester Emmy. "Analysis of Psychogenic Anorexia and Vomiting in a Four-year-old Child." *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*. Vol.

- I. New York: International Universities Press, 1945.
- Trollope, Frances M. *Domestic Manners of the Americans*. 2 vols. London: Whittaker, Treacher and Co., 1832.
- Warner, W. Lloyd, and Low, J. O. *The Social System of the Modern Factory*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1947.
- Whiffman, Thomas . *The North-West Amazons*. London: Constable, 1915.
- Whorf, Benjamin Lee. "Four Articles on Metalinguistics." (Reprinted from *Technology Review* and *Language, Culture, and Personality*.) Washington, D. C.: Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, 1950.
- Whyte, William F. *Human Relations in the Restaurant Industry*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1948.
- . "Small Groups, Large Organizations." *Social Psychology at the Crossroads*. Edited by John Rohrer and Muzafer Sherif. New York: Harper, 1951.
- , and Gardner, Burleigh B. "Facing the Foreman's Problems." *Human Organization*, IV (1945), 1-17.