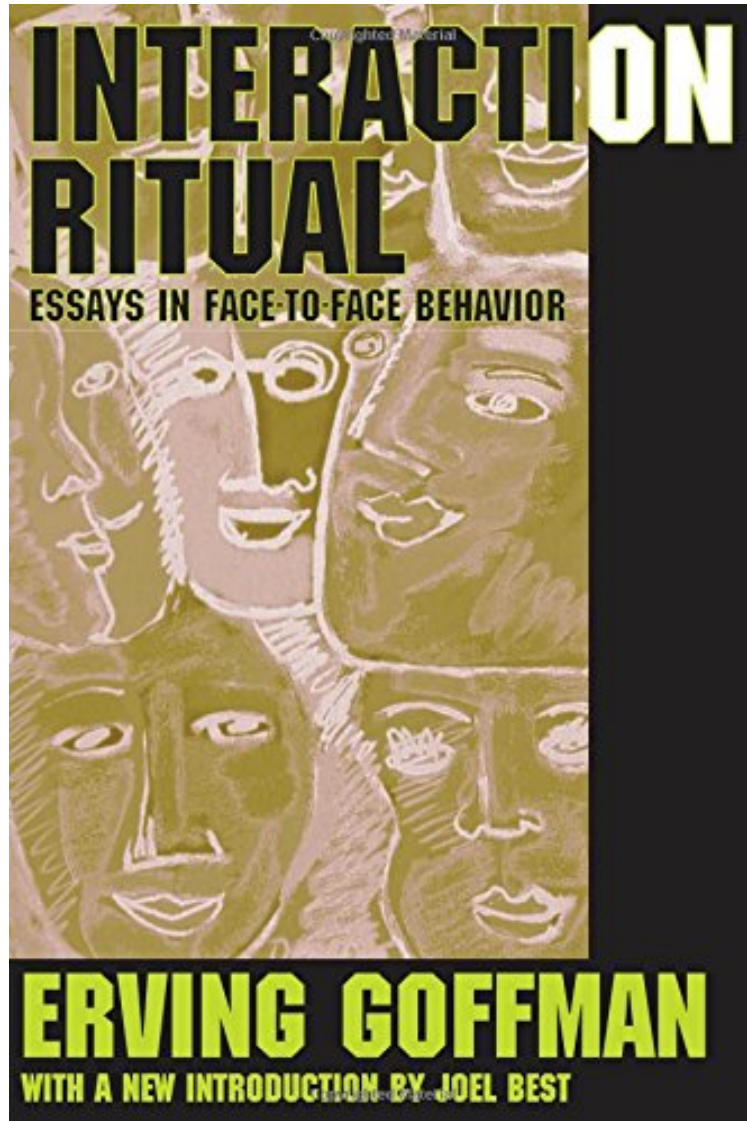


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Interaction Ritual: Essays in Face-to-Face Behavior

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Printing quality poor -By careful buyerThis is not a review of the book but of the printing quality. The text is off center so that there is a wide left margin and little or no right margin. The first few pages lost one character space to the right. The rest of the text appears to be intact. But no excuse for sloppy printing technique. I am sure the book is insightful and interesting, like all of Goffman's work.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Customergood0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five

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"Not then, men and their moments. Rather, moment and their men," writes Erving Goffman in the introduction to his groundbreaking 1967 *Interaction Ritual*, a study of face-to-face interaction in natural settings, that class of events which occurs during co-presence and by virtue of co-presence. The ultimate behavioral materials are the glances, gestures, positionings, and verbal statements that people continuously feed into situations, whether intended or not. A sociology of occasions is here advocated. Social organization is the central theme, but what is organized is the comingling of persons and the temporary interactional enterprises that can arise therefrom. A normatively stabilized structure is at issue, a "social gathering," but this is a shifting entity, necessarily evanescent, created by arrivals and killed by departures. The major section of the book is the essay "Where the Action Is," drawing on Goffman's last major ethnographic project observation of Nevada casinos. Tom Burns says of Goffman's work "The eleven books form a singularly compact body of writing. All his published work was devoted to topics and themes which were closely connected, and the methodology, angles of approach and of course style of writing remained characteristically his own throughout. *Interaction Ritual* in particular is an interesting account of daily social interaction viewed with a new perspective for the logic of our behavior in such ordinary circumstances as entering a crowded elevator or bus." In his new introduction, Joel Best considers Goffman's work in toto and places *Interaction Ritual* in that total context as one of Goffman's pivotal works: "His subject matter was unique. In sharp contrast to the natural tendency of many scholars to tackle big, important topics, Goffman was a minimalist, working on a small scale, and concentrating on the most mundane, ordinary social contacts, on everyday life."

About the Author Erving Goffman was Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania until his death in 1982. He is recognized as one of the worlds foremost social theorists and much of his work still remains in print. Among his classic books are *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, *Interaction Ritual*, *Stigma*, *Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*, and *Frame Analysis*. Joel E. Best is professor at the department of sociology and criminal justice, University of Delaware. He is the author of numerous books, including *Flavor of the Month: Why Smart People Fall for Fads*; *Deviance: Career of a Concept*; and *Random Violence: How We Talk about New Crimes and New Victims*.