



Erving Goffman: A Critical Introduction to Media and Communication Theory

By Yves Winkin, Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz

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Although Erving Goffman never claimed to be a media or communication scholar, his work is definitely relevant to, and has already served as a substantial resource for, those who are. This is the first detailed presentation and analysis of his life and work intended specifically for a communication audience. While primarily an introduction to Goffman's work, those already familiar with his ideas will also learn something new. In addition to summarizing Goffman's major concepts and his influence on other scholars, the book includes an intellectual biography, explication of his methods, and an example of how to extend his ideas. Readers are invited to consider Goffman as a lens through which to view much of the pattern evident in the social world. Goffman's work always appealed to the general public (several of his books became bestsellers), and so this book has implications for those who are interested in the role of media or communication in their own lives as well as those who study it professionally.

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Editorial Review

Review

«Winkin and Leeds-Hurwitz have succeeded in presenting a succinct, eminently readable introduction to the work of Erving Goffman [...]. [...] it provides an excellent, accessible, and rich overview of his prodigious output, making Erving Goffman a useful resource for students and researchers alike. [...] This slender volume punches well above its weight and should find a place on most folklorists' shelves.»

(Timothy Tangherlini, *Folklore* Vol.127 No.3 2016)

«Goffman is an intriguing figure, worthy of study as much as his theories. This text manages to separate the man from his theories, yet it illustrates the powerful relationship between the two and how, together, they constitute a continuing influential presence.»

(Daniel P. Compora, *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* April 2015)

About the Author

Yves Winkin is University Professor of Communication at the Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon (ENSL), France, and Extraordinary Professor of Anthropology at the University of Liège, Belgium. His major books include *Anthropologie de la communication* (1996, translated into Spanish and Portuguese); *Erving Goffman: les moments et leurs hommes* (1988, translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese); and *La Nouvelle Communication* (1981, translated into Greek, Spanish and Portuguese). His latest book is *Vers une marche plaisir en ville: boîte à outils pour augmenter le bonheur de marcher* (2012, with Sonia Lavadinho). His MA is from the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania; his PhD is from the University of Liège.

Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz is Director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Professor Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Among her books are: *Learning Matters: The Transformation of US Higher Education* (2012, with Peter Hoff), *The Social History of Language and Social Interaction Research* (2010), *Socially Constructing Communication* (2009, with Gloria Galanes), *Wedding as Text* (2002), *Social Approaches to Communication* (1995), *Semiotics and Communication* (1993), and *Communication in Everyday Life* (1989). Leeds-Hurwitz earned her MA and PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

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