



# Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach to Social Psychology and Sociology

By Kent L. Sandstrom, Daniel D. Martin, Gary Alan Fine

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**Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach to Social Psychology and Sociology** By Kent L. Sandstrom, Daniel D. Martin, Gary Alan Fine

The classroom is a dynamic, interactive environment in which students are continually evaluating, questioning, debating, and in turn, shaping social reality. *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach to Social Psychology and Sociology*, Third Edition, provides students with a succinct, engaging, and affordable introduction to symbolic interactionism, the perspective that social reality is created, negotiated, and changed through the process of social interaction.

Focusing on how elements of race and gender affect identity, authors Kent L. Sandstrom, Daniel D. Martin, and Gary Alan Fine use interesting, relevant real-world examples to discuss the personal significance of symbolic interactionism, its expanding theoretical scope, and its relationship to other prominent perspectives in sociology and social psychology. They skillfully cover empirical research topics that are inherently interesting to students, such as the dynamics of self-development, impression management, identity transformation, gender play, rumor transmission, and collective action.

Thoroughly revised and updated in the third edition, this best-selling book now offers additional group assignments and activities at the end of each chapter in order to encourage student participation. Featuring updated case studies throughout, this edition also moves the section on theoretical perspectives to the beginning of the text, thereby providing students with a more thorough conceptual framework from the outset.

Rich in pedagogical tools--including end-of-chapter summaries, key points and concepts, glossaries, readings lists, and discussion questions--*Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality: A Symbolic Interactionist Approach to Social Psychology and Sociology*, Third Edition, effectively demonstrates the tremendous power people have in determining social reality. Ideal for courses in symbolic interaction, individual and society, and social psychology, this unique text helps students understand how symbolic interactionism works, both in theory and in practice.

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"It is nothing short of astounding that *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality* is so thorough a review of interactionism. I am amazed at how easily the authors include such volumes of information--yet the material is never overwhelming. . . . This text is an excellent resource for sociologically oriented social psychology courses. It deftly and thoroughly pairs accessible discussion of interactionist theories, methods, and concepts with contemporary case-study applications. That approach alone is praiseworthy, but combined with genuine prose and material that students can relate to, *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality* deserves more than praise. It deserves to be required reading."--Bryce Merrill, *University of Colorado, Boulder*

"*Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality* is an essential resource for helping students gain an in-depth understanding of the historical development, guiding propositions, and contemporary vibrancy of the perspective of symbolic interactionism."--John Baugher, *University of Southern Maine*

### About the Author

**Kent L. Sandstrom** is Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology at the University of Northern Iowa.

**Daniel D. Martin** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

**Gary Alan Fine** is Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University.

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