

FROM THE EDITORS

With this issue closing the year 2022, *Przeegląd Socjologiczny* commemorates the hundredth anniversary of Erving Goffman's birth and the fortieth of his death. One of the most renowned and influential sociologists of the 20th century, Goffman was the author of both volumes read primarily in academic (not only sociological) milieux as well as those which – without sacrificing erudition – became bestsellers, reaching wide-ranging circles of readers.

It would be difficult to pinpoint a single reason for the exceptional and enduring impact of Goffman's oeuvre. Certainly key in this was Goffman's vital contribution to the sociological analysis of face-to-face interaction (a relatively new area of sociological inquiry at the time) and his unconventional analytical style – combining inventiveness in the creation of new conceptual-frameworks with an abundance of eye-catching illustrations. There is no end to the literature on the subject of or works inspired by Erving Goffman. Indeed, it would seem an arduous challenge to say something new about Goffman – and yet the authors of the articles presented in this issue have managed to do so. It is an honor for *Przeegląd Socjologiczny* that our jubilee issue opens with texts by two of the most distinguished authorities and commentators on Goffman's legacy. First, Greg Smith analyses a 1975 letter (unknown for years) from Erving Goffman to Allen Grimshaw in which the former sets his own scholarly works in unique order. This presents a rare opportunity for anyone interested in Goffman to familiarise themselves with Goffman's own view of the main themes in his oeuvre, accompanied by professional and expert commentary, instead of relying on the common opinion which typically points erroneously to the purportedly mosaic nature of Goffman's sociology. Next, Yves Winkin considers the circumstances underlying the creation and the contents of Goffman's 1953 doctoral dissertation, not officially published until 2022. Going further, Winkin traces in successive works the continuation of themes surfacing in that dissertation. As becomes clear, Goffman would develop the ideas sketched therein in a number of his ensuing publications – among them, in his first, most well-known book, *The presentation of self in everyday life*. Moreover, the effects of the sociology of interaction he outlined in his dissertation on Goffman's later writings serve as additional testimony to the (not always perceived) coherence and consistency of his thinking.

Erving Goffman is a figure so well known that many sociologists feel obliged to consider themselves an authority on his achievements. It is also a fact that the vast majority of commentaries by these self-proclaimed experts do not go beyond formulaic and superficial models of interpretation. Therefore, all the greater here is the Editorial Board's indebtedness to the authors of the next four articles: they place select aspects of Goffman's texts under a microscope, develop the themes discovered therein, and offer new, oftentimes unexpected interpretations. These articles prove that, despite the passage of time, it is still worth reaching into the works of Goffman and studying them in depth, impervious to widespread clichés about their contents.

Andrew Carlin scrutinises Goffman in terms of his hitherto underestimated sociology of information, concurrently unveiling its complex relationship with the relatively unknown concept of information formulated by the founder of ethnomethodology, Harold Garfinkel (see, for instance, his early texts published in 2008 in the volume, *Toward a sociological theory of information*). As is known, Goffman primarily dealt with interactions under conditions of a physical co-presence. Consequently, Jürgen Raab – author of the commendable, *Erving Goffman: From the perspective of the new sociology of knowledge* [2019] – ponders the possibilities of a Goffman-inspired analysis of communication mediated by digital media, while reminding the reader of the importance of the theory-method link as presented by Goffman.

Contrary to the usual tendency to employ Goffman solely at the microscale level of interpersonal contacts, Andreas Langenohl suggests that Goffman's perspective also be applied in the analysis of macrosocial processes. A research space in which such an approach could prove especially useful, according to Langenohl, is the Social Studies of Finance (SSF). Finally, Gwendolyn Gilliéron provides new impetuses to research on stigma. The focus of her empirical investigation and theoretical reflection is the situation of mixed heritage persons in Switzerland and Morocco – particularly the processes of their stigmatisation and the ways they deal with this phenomenon.

Finally, this issue concludes with a book review section in which we note two extremely valuable and instructive collections of Goffman studies, published precisely in the jubilee year of 2022. Discussed are *The Routledge international handbook of Goffman studies* (ed. by Michael H. Jacobsen and Greg Smith) and the *Goffman-Handbuch: Leben – Werk – Wirkung* (ed. by Karl Lenz and Robert Hettlage). Here, with local readers of Erving Goffman in mind, the reviews of the aforementioned volumes are published in Polish as well as in English (on the journal's website).