

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: Symbolic Interactionism

Instructor:

Residency: March 2019

Date:

Module Description:

This module consists of an introduction to the theoretical perspective of symbolic interactionism, its historical roots, core concepts and implications for practice and research in social work. Based on examples from instructor's and students' own experiences of social work practice we discuss together how (or if) the symbolic interaction perspective can assist our understanding of people's choice of actions. Please bring with you to the session some examples where you have found it difficult to understand one of your clients.

Module Objectives:

To be familiar with the basics and the core concept within symbolic interactionism

To have reflected on the utility of this perspective in social work practice and in social work research

To have critically reflected on pros and cons of the use of this perspective in social work practice and research

Required Readings:

Carter, Michael J. and Fuller Celene.(2016) Symbols, meaning, and action: The past, present, and future of symbolic interactionism. *Current Sociology Review*. Vol. 64(6) 931-961

<https://doi-org.proxy.ub.umu.se/10.1177%2F0011392116638396>

Hammersley, M. (1990) *Dilemma Qualitative Method : Herbert Blumer and the Chicago Tradition*, Chapter Three Chicago Sociology, Routledge. ProQuest Ebook Central,

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/umeaub-ebooks/detail.action?docID=179074>.

Hughes, P. (2016) Using symbolic interactionism insights as an approach to helping the individual with Asperger's syndrome overcome barriers to social inclusion. *British Journal of Special Education*. Vol. 43, (1) 60-74. <https://doi-org.proxy.ub.umu.se/10.1111/1467-8578.12124>

Recommended Readings:

Elliott, Rodney D. and Meltzer, Bernard N. (1981) Symbolic Interactionism and Psychoanalysis: Some Convergences, Divergences, and Complementarities *Symbolic Interaction*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Fall 1981), pp. 225-244