

Erving Goffman

Quotes

*Way, World, Self, May, Normal, Reality, Men, Identity, Taken, Easy, Agents,
Moral, Normalcy, Different, Able, Asylums, Meaningful, Exercise, Fundamentals,
Special*

Choose your self-presentations carefully, for what starts out as a mask may become your face.

~Erving Goffman

The self... is not an organic thing that has a specific location, whose fundamental fate is to be born, to mature, to die; it is a dramatic effect arising diffusely from a scene that is presented.

~Erving Goffman

The normal and the stigmatized are not persons, but perspectives.

~Erving Goffman

All the world is not, of course, a stage, but the crucial ways in which it isn't are not easy to specify

~Erving Goffman

Stigma is a process by which the reaction of others spoils normal identity.

~Erving Goffman

Society is organized on the principle that any individual who possesses certain social characteristics has a moral right to expect that others will value and treat him in an appropriate way.

~Erving Goffman

Society is an insane asylum ran by the inmates.

~Erving Goffman

Any group of persons - prisoners, primitives, pilots, or patients - develop a life of their own that becomes meaningful, reasonable and normal once you get close to it.

~Erving Goffman

Approved attributes and their relation to face make every man his own

jailer; this is a fundamental social constraint even though each man may like his cell.

~Erving Goffman

There seems to be no agent more effective than another person in bringing a world for oneself alive, or, by a glance, a gesture, or a remark, shriveling up the reality in which one is lodged.

~Erving Goffman

So I ask that these papers be taken for what they merely are: exercises, trials, tryouts, a means of displaying possibilities, not establishing fact.

~Erving Goffman

The world, in truth, is a wedding.

~Erving Goffman

Man is not like other animals in the ways that are really significant: Animals have instincts, we have taxes.

~Erving Goffman

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