

EUROPEAN SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY
OF SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

2025
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM
AND CREATIVE
PROCESSES
IN TURBULENT
TIMES



14-16 July 2025

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński
University in Warsaw, Poland
INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY



Section of
Qualitative Sociology
& Symbolic Interactionism
of the Polish Sociological
Association



CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline: March 26th, 2025

European Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Conference

“Symbolic Interactionism and Creative Processes in Turbulent Times”

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw

Institute of Sociology

14-16 July 2025

The purpose of the conference is to offer an international and interdisciplinary platform for scholars of symbolic interactionist theory and methods to expand their research, while reinforcing its foundation across various fields, including sociology, anthropology, social psychology, and ethnography.

Symbolic interactionism is integrally linked to the concept of creativity which is evident especially in blumerian variant of the theory. Blumer emphasizes the inherently creative process of interpretation, writing: “Interpretation is a formative or creative process in its own right. It constructs meanings which, as I have said, are not predetermined or determined by the independent variable”. Using Mead’s concept of the “I” – the spontaneous and creative aspect of the self – Blumer also highlights a dynamic perspective on human agency within social contexts and norms. He emphasizes individuals' capacity to navigate, challenge, and even overturn the social structures and rules that influence their surroundings. Referring to the works of Florian Znaniecki (who also laid the foundations for symbolic interactionism and wrote about creativity), Blumer conducted a methodological reflection on human documents and the nature of interpretation.

Creative processes appear in the classical work of interactionists in various contexts. Everett C. Hughes refers to a creative person as an autonomous individual who is able to skillfully and selectively respond to expectations of the insiders of his group and ‘others’ (“Sociological eye”). Anselm Strauss distinguished ‘routine’, ‘innovative’ and ‘creative’ actions, defining

creative act as innovation at its greatest, resulting in very major changes in collective perception, values, and action (“Continual permutation of action”). In methodological context, together with Barney Glaser they called category building and theory generating a creative endeavour. Krzysztof Konecki stated that originality is not a sufficient component of creative work; usefulness, adequacy, and the value assigned by a specific audience are also necessary. Goffman writes a lot about well designed (though conscious or unconscious) impression creation. Howard Becker in ‘Art Worlds’ views creativity more narrowly, as a feature of artists, in contrast to distributors and managers involved in the activities within the art field. Among contemporary sociologists drawing inspiration from the ideas of Mead, Hans Joas developed the theory of *creativity of action*. These are just some of the many threads related to creativity in symbolic interactionism.

The dilemma of whether creativity is a trait specifically human, has been revived with the widespread availability of artificial intelligence tools, which is also reflected in the writings of interactionists. A related dilemma concerns the extent to which creativity is a trait developed over time through interaction, versus an innate quality inherent to a person.

We hope that the multifaceted nature of creative processes will also be reflected in the conference presentations, such as the ones listed below, though this is not an exhaustive list:

- Processual aspects of identity
- Cultural integration and disintegration
- Intercultural communication
- Social worlds and boundary objects
- Art worlds
- Creativity in artistic work
- Creation and co-experiencing of popular music
- Ethnic food cultures and their meanings
- Reflexivity in the context of history and heritage
- Symbolic construction of communities
- Creativity in discovery and construction of a theory
- Creative writing
- Creativity in research process
- Performative actions

- Redefining key categories in the face of ecological threats
- Dark side of creativity; effects of unrestrained creativity
- Creativity and AI

The conference will concern also other aspects of symbolic interactionist theory and organisers encourage other sessions related to symbolic interactionism, grounded theory (and other methods), sessions which may not fit directly into the conference theme but stimulate open discussion. We accept both theoretical, methodological and empirical proposals.

Institute of Sociology (Sociology of Culture Department) at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, will host the conference. The event is co-organized by the Section of Qualitative Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism of the Polish Sociological Association. The Polish Sociological Association, which brings together and represents the Polish sociology community, is providing patronage for the event.

Scientific Committee:

Andrew Blasko, The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Robert Dingwall, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom

Eve Gardien, Rennes 2 University, France

Marek Gorzko, Pomeranian University in Slupsk, Poland

Elżbieta Hałas, University of Warsaw, Poland

Anna Kacperczyk, University of Lodz, Poland

Krzysztof Konecki, University of Lodz, Poland

Thaddeus Müller, Lancaster University Law School, United Kingdom

Andrea Salvini, University of Pisa

Rafał Wiśniewski, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

Grażyna Woroniecka, University of Warsaw, Poland

Izabela Bukalska, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

Organizing Committee:

Rafał Wiśniewski

Izabela Bukalska (Conference Secretary)

Katarzyna Kalinowska

Magdalena Markocka

Katarzyna Drzewek

Agnieszka Wołk

Grażyna Pol

Marianna Otmianowska

Michał Rydzewski

Michał Dziobkowski

Important dates:

Call for papers:

- January 27th, 2025: call for papers opening
- March 26th, 2025: call for papers deadline
- March 31th, 2025: papers acceptance

Program and Registration:

- April 14th, 2025: draft program releasing
- April 22th, 2025: registration opening
- May 7th, 2025: end of „early bird” registration
- May 30th, 2025: end of regular registration
- June 2nd, 2025: final program releasing
- July 14th- 16th: Conference!

Conference fees:

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION	REGULAR REGISTRATION
SSSI MEMBERS: Student: FREE PhD student: 80 EUR Researcher and Assistant Professor: 110 EUR Associate and Full Professor: 130 EUR Professionals: 160 EUR	SSSI MEMBERS: Student: 30 EUR PhD student: 110 EUR Researcher and Assistant Professor: 130 EUR Associate and Full Professor: 160 EUR Professionals 190 EUR
SSSI NON MEMBERS: Student: 50 EUR PhD student: 105 EUR Researcher and Assistant Professor: 130 EUR Associate and Full Professor: 155 EUR Professionals 190 EUR	SSSI NON MEMBERS: Student: 60 EUR PhD student: 130 EUR Researcher and Assistant Professor: 160 EUR Associate and Full Professor: 180 EUR Professionals: 220 EUR

(to become a member subscribe at: <https://www.symbolicinteraction.org/>)

Participation at a banquet: 40 EUR

For more detailed information and to stay up to date with the latest content, please visit the conference website:

<https://eusssi2025.uksw.edu.pl/pl/>

To contact the organizing team, please use the email address below:

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or conference Secretary, Izabela Bukalska: i.bukalska@uksw.edu.pl