

Why Erving Goffman Never Made it into the Swedish Textbooks (abstract)

Persson, Anders
2011
Link to publication
Citation for published version (APA): Persson, A. (2011). Why Erving Goffman Never Made it into the Swedish Textbooks (abstract). Abstract from The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction 2011 Couch-Stone Symposium.
Total number of authors: 1

General rights

Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or recognise.

- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
 You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Download date: 17. May. 2025

Why Erving Goffman Never made it into the Swedish Textbooks

Anders Persson, Lund University anders.persson@soc.lu.se

Abstract. This paper investigates to what extent and how the sociological perspective of Erving Goffman is represented in Swedish sociology-textbooks and why it is represented the way it is. The investigation has been restricted to central Swedish textbooks during the period 1970-2000 and consequently it does not give a complete picture, but since the choice of textbooks reflects central currents and persons in Swedish sociology during the period, the picture is with high probability valid. The study shows a very marginal position for the sociological perspective of Goffman in the textbooks studied and probably one can therefore also conclude that Swedish sociology has been only marginally influenced by that perspective. In only one of the investigated textbooks is the sociology of Goffman given a space larger than a brief reference and in that textbook Goffman is framed as a kind of critical welfare sociologist. Why is he framed like that and how is it done? In the nineties the perspective of Goffman grows more popular in undergraduate education and in Swedish textbooks published after 2000 by younger, but established Swedish sociologists, the Goffman perspective is given a larger space. It seems as if Goffman, 30 years after his death, is making it into the Swedish sociology-textbooks – and probably also into Swedish sociology.