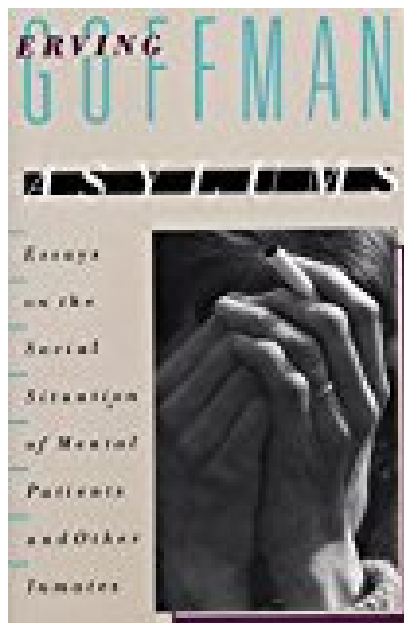


# Asylums Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Erving Goffman
- Pages : 386 Pages
- Publisher : Anchor Books / Doubleday
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0385000162

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## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

A total institution is defined by Goffman as a place of residence and work where a large number of like-situated, individuals, cut off from the wider society for an appreciable period of time, together lead an enclosed, formally administered round of life. Prisons serve as a clear example, providing we appreciate that what is prison-like about prisons is found in institutions whose members have broken no laws. This volume deals with total institutions in general and, mental hospitals, in particular. The main focus is, on the world of the inmate, not the world of the staff. A chief concern is to develop a sociological version of the structure of the self. Each of the essays in this book were intended to focus on the same issue--the inmates situation in an institutional context. Each chapter approaches the central issue from a different vantage point, each introduction drawing upon a different source in sociology and having little direct relation to the other chapters. This method of presenting material may be irksome, but it allows the reader to pursue the main theme of each paper analytically and comparatively past the point that would be allowable in chapters of an integrated book. If sociological concepts are to be treated with affection, each must be traced back to where it best applies, followed from there wherever it seems to lead, and pressed to disclose the rest of its family. Erving Goffman was Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania until his death in 1982. He is recognized as one of the worlds foremost social theorists and much of his work still remains in print. Among his classic books are *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*; *Interaction Ritual*; *Stigma*; *Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*; and *Frame Analysis*. William B. Helmreich is a professor of sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center and City College. He has written *Against All Odds*, *The Enduring Community*, *Saving Children*, and *The Things They Say Behind Your Back* all available from Transaction.

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