



# Top 5 criticisms

## Not all Interactions are meaningful

Interactionists overstate the importance of interactions between individuals in society, suggesting that individuals are constantly striving to make sense of the world around them through what others say and think. For many people, most interactions barely register in their subconscious mind

## Underestimates the role of social institutions

Reynolds research into Interactionists found that they focus more on interactions and self-concepts than the structure of power and control in society. The focus on the individual might given the approach a diverse portfolio of research ideas, but it fails to recognise the influence of society

## Ignores inequality

Interactionists focus on face to face interactions in society without often acknowledging the power structures and conflict in society. In observing these interactions, it often fails to explain how the norms and values of behaviour are agreed, merely suggesting they are part of a social convention

## Lacks Coherence

Some sociologists criticise Interactionism as an approach as it relies heavily on unrelated concepts such as labelling and the dramaturgical approach which are seen as descriptive of what has happened, rather than proposing an explanation for social behaviours. There is no underlying theory behind it.

## Fails to explain how meanings are created

Interactionism is often criticised for taking the side of those that have committed crimes or deviant behaviour, but fails to explain how they come to be labelled in the first place. Furthermore, its focus on criminals rather than the real victims leads other sociologists to criticise their ideas such as labelling

# of Interactionism