**Chapter 5: Interaction, Groups, and Organizations: Connections That Work**

**This American Life**

**Recommended Readings**

Elijah Anderson, Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City Anderson interviewed others in middle- and lower-class Philadelphia neighborhoods to observe the ways that issues of racism, economic problems, and political forces have led to the current problems experienced by those in the inner city. Concerns about presenting one's self as "masculine" and not "acting too white" both emerge through interviews.

Robert N. Bellah, Richard Madsen, William M. Sullivan, and Ann Swidler, Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American LifeIn this book, Bellah et al. examine the daily religious practices of a variety of Americans and the social significance those practices hold for them.

Stephen E. Cornell and Douglas Hartmann, Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities in a Changing WorldIn this book, Cornell and Hartmann use case studies and examples to describe the ways that we construct our racial and ethnic identities. In the second edition, the impacts of modernization and globalization on our personal identities are discussed.

Erving Goffman, Presentation of Self in Everyday LifeGoffman, in his classic work, examines the ways that we consciously try to craft our identities. He uses the metaphor of dramaturgy to explain the ways that we attempt to shape others' views of our identities.

Elaine Hatfield and Susan Sprecher, Mirror, Mirror. . .The Importance of Looks in Everyday LifeHatfield and Sprecher draw on a variety of empirical experiments to explain how we interpret one another's appearances and treat each other differently based upon our perceptions.

Arlie Hochschild, The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human FeelingHochschild examines those who must sell their emotional labor as a part of their careers (such as flight attendants) to examine the effects of commodifying feelings.

Stanley Milgram, Obedience to Authority  
Milgram's controversial experiments are detailed along with the implications of our willingness to obey authority figures.

Viviana Zelizer, The Purchase of Intimacy Zelizer explores the role that money plays in defining social relationships through analyzing legal case studies.

Kieran Healy, Last Best Gifts: Altruism and the Market for Human Blood and Organs   
Healy discusses altruism, not as a nature of human kindness, but the organizationally created efforts to secure resources through a gift economy.

Katherine Chen, *Enabling Creative Chaos: The Organization Behind the Burning Man Event*

In her book, Chen details the findings of her ethnography of the Burning Man Arts Festival in the Nevada desert. She focuses on the organizational efforts that sustain the event of seemingly unregulated creativity.

Albert-Laszlo Barabasi, *Bursts: The Hidden Pattern Behind Everything We Do*

Barabasi, a scholar of social networks, argues in the book that human behavior is predictable because of the habit of people to follow the orders and wishes of those in power. Barabasi shows that any “burst” of human behavior is only a testament to the universality of behavior throughout history.

Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*

In this book, Gladwell argues that when small groups of people alter their behavior it can create a change in mass behavior until the whole culture adapts to assimilate the behavior. He uses many popular examples to make his argument clear and easy to follow.

Irving L. Janis. *Groupthink: Psychological Studies of Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*

In light of all the buzz about group learning for students, this book reminds us that “group think” is not always good. Using several case studies of what he considers to be "groupthink"--The Bay of Pigs invasion, the escalation of the Korean War in 1950, the attack on Pearl Harbor and escalation of the Vietnam War, he shows how top decision-makers walled themselves off from dissenting voices and tended to reinforce one another's preexisting positions. In counterpoint are two successes, where groupthink did not triumph--the Cuban Missile Crisis and the development of the Marshall Plan.

Helen Rose Fuchs Ebaugh. *Becoming an Ex: The Process of Role Exit*. Sociologist Ebaugh examines the phenomenon of becoming an “ex”—for example, an ex-convict, an ex-nun, a divorced person, or a mother who lost custody of her children.

William M Kephart and William M. Zellner. *Extraordinary Groups: An Examination of Unconventional Lifestyles*. Among the groups described in this very readable book are the Amish, the Oneida community, the Mormons, Hasidic Jews, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and the Romani (commonly known as Gypsies).