



# Worlds of Talk: The Presentation of Self in Everyday Conversation

*Martin Malone*

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## **Worlds of Talk: The Presentation of Self in Everyday Conversation** Martin Malone

This book is about how we present our selves in everyday talk and interaction. Selves and conversations are skilful accomplishments requiring trust, dependency, and co-ordination. They are produced by multiple partners co-operating in the production of social events. The self is a 'performed character' - a 'dramatic effect' in Goffman's terms - which results from shaping our behavior to create a desired impression. Talk is both the means and the product of such events. Selves live in worlds that talk creates.

Using the methods of conversation analysis, this book seeks to discover how selves are created and transformed in everyday talk. It examines how pronouns are used to create interactional boundaries, the strategic manipulation of interactional support, talk in dealing with conflict, and stylistic differences associated with gender. Theoretical discussion is combined with fine-grained analysis of ordinary conversations.

The book will be of particular interest to students and professionals in sociology, social psychology, sociolinguistics and communication studies.

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