

## A Symbolic Interactionism Perspective in the Social Rehabilitation Theory and Clinical Social Work

### Abstract

The interactionist approach to deviance is summarized drawing heavily on Blumer's conception of continual self-indication and Becker's examination of the socialization of deviants. The concepts of the self, the definition of the situation, significance, reciprocity and interaction constitute an idea of a human being who is best defined by such terms as *homo reciprocus* (man in interaction), *homo symbolicus* (symbolic man), *homo faber* (man the maker) and *homo aestimans* (man who evaluates). Symbolic interactionism is used to guide professional assessment and intervention by human services professionals. Correction officers, social workers, counselors, street workers, therapists are positions that would apply the ideas presented in the article.

**Key words:** *symbolic interactionism, clinical social work, social maladjustment*

### Introduction

A theoretical trend of symbolic interactionism (Mead, 1934, Blumer, 1969, Lyman, 1988, Stryker, 2002, Hałas 2001, 2006) has called into question the meaning of such concepts as needs, traumatic experiences or intrapsychic conflicts in the explanation of subjective behavior. Instead, it has established a concept apparatus that in a completely different way determines the source of social and individual actions. The concept of the self, the definition of the situation, significance, reciprocity and interactions constitute a conception of man who is best defined by such terms as *homo reciprocus* (man in interaction), *homo symbolicus* (symbolic man),