



veteransinstitute

**“Comrades, do not expect any
acknowledgement nor attention.”**

Collective identity of veterans and its interrelation with the
experienced acknowledgement and appreciation by society

Yvon de Reuver

Veterans. Our mission.

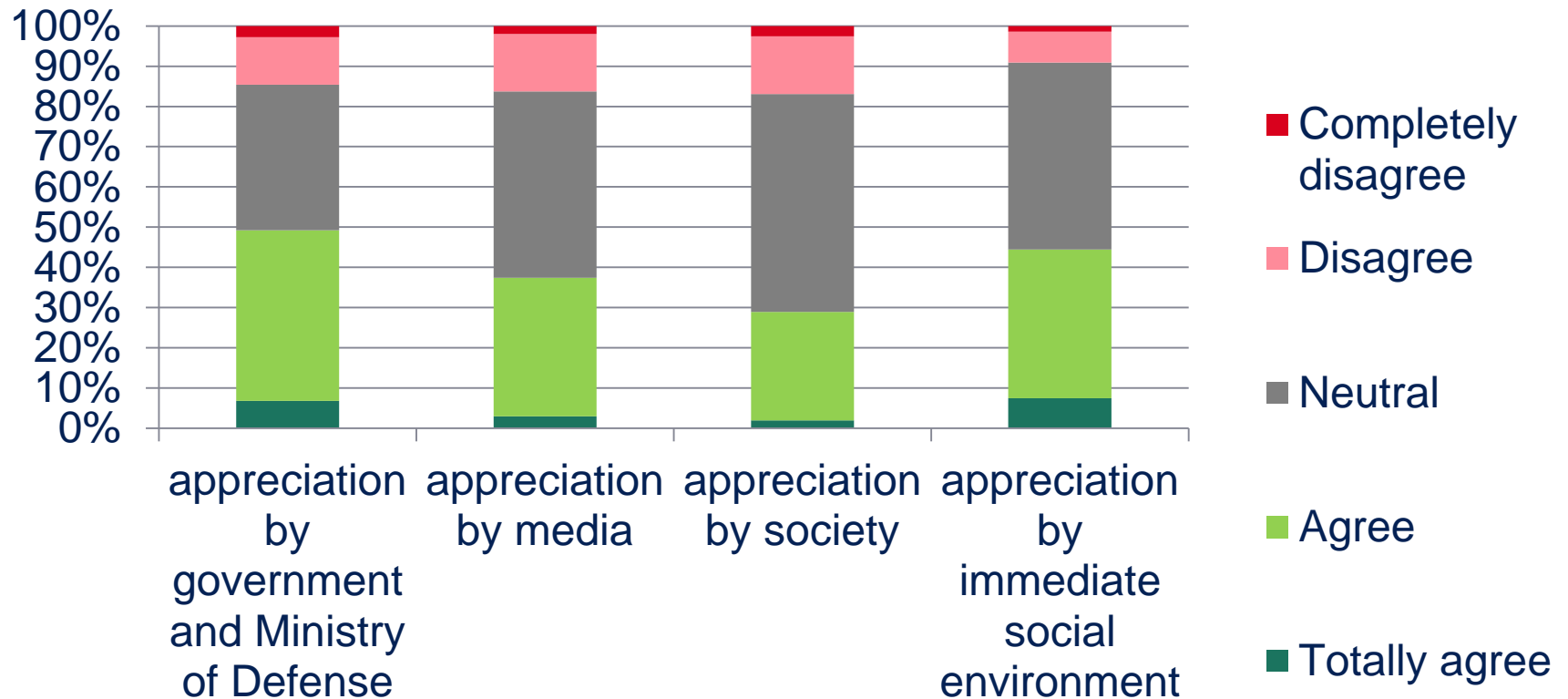
Presentation outline

- Relevance of research
- Theoretical concepts
- Theoretical framework
- Possible methodes

Survey Dutch society

- 77% of the Dutch population is positive about its veterans
- 76% thinks veterans deserve outright appreciation

Appreciation experienced by veterans

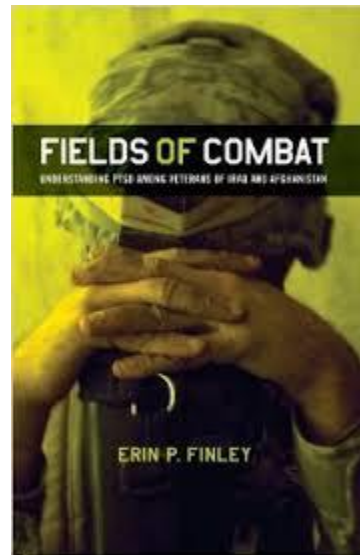


Speech by chairman of UNIFIL association

“3 lessons learned after deployment:

1. Do not expect acknowledgement nor attention.
2. Share experiences especially with those who ask.
3. Enjoy the most beautiful thing we have, our lifelong lasting and unconditional comradeship.”

Why identity and not only bonding?



Facebook page 'Dutch Military Veterans'

“Do you know a fun happening or whatever; mention it here! It does not necessarily have to be a veteran happening, because sometimes we are tired of 'being a veteran' and then we want to do 'normal' things.”

Theoretical concepts

Collective identity (Jenkins)

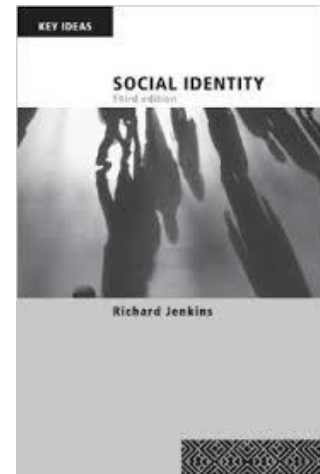
Cultural
communication
(Philipsen)

Presentation of
self (Goffman)

Organising
practices
(Nuijten)

Central theoretical concept: collective identity (Jenkins 2008)

- Relationships of similarity and difference
- Interaction between internal and external identification
- Production and reproduction of identity



Cultural communication

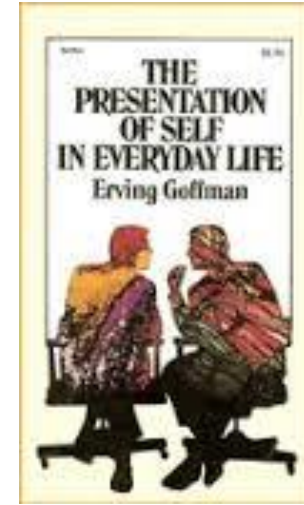
(Philipsen 1987)



- Ritual interacting, myth telling and social drama
 - to produce and reproduce identity
 - to define similarity and difference
- Communication as building block, but also an outcome of collective identity (Carbaugh 1996)

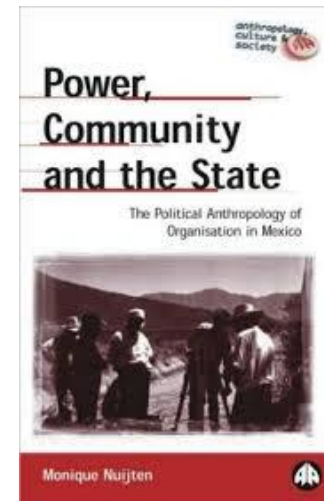
Presentation of self (Goffman 1969)

- Social world as a stage
- Performance
- Audience
- Relates to interaction between internal and external identification

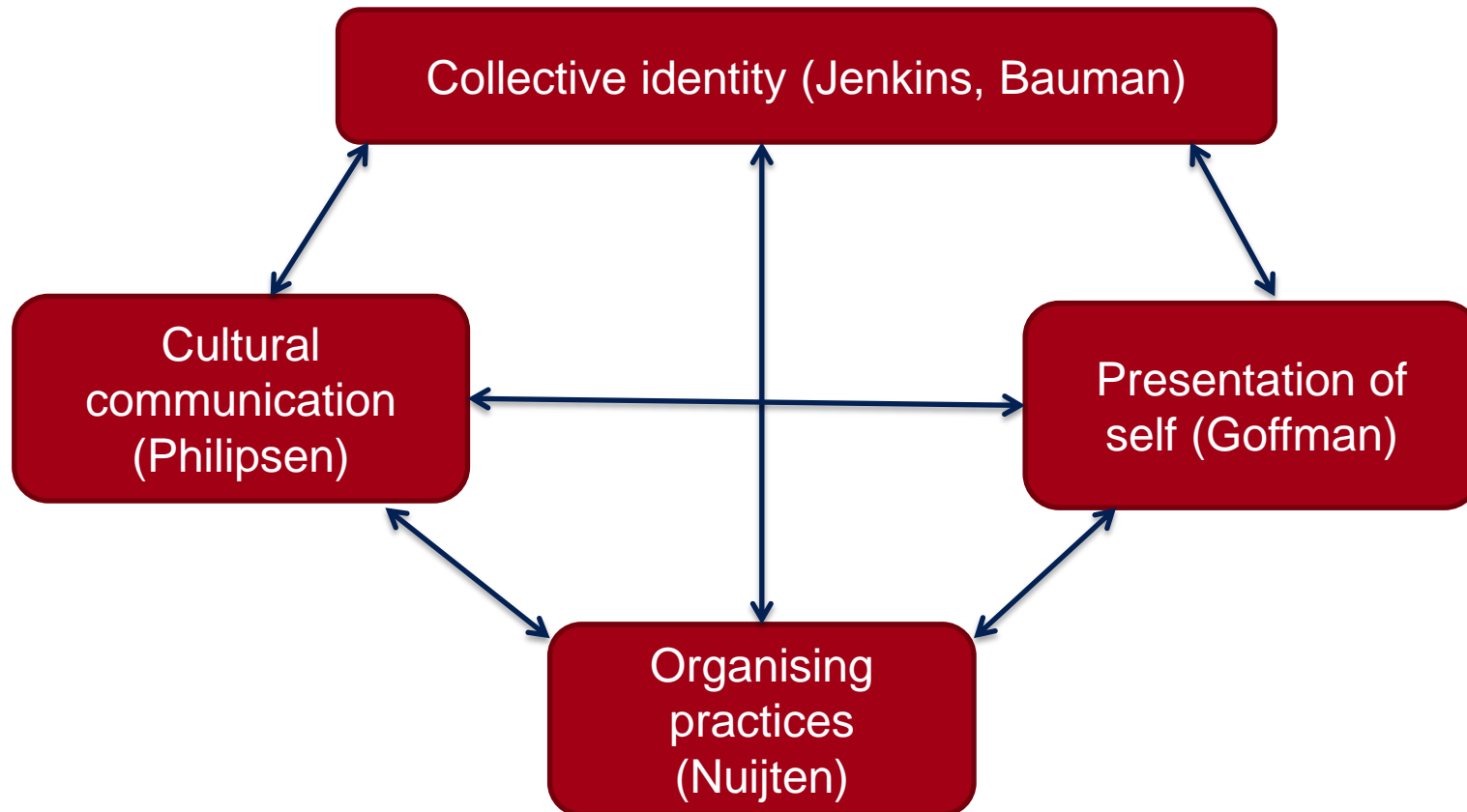


Organising practices (Nuijten 1998)

- Who does what when, with whom and how, but also which ideas lie behind these actions
- Role of power
- Debating and reflecting
- Spontaneous actions



Theoretical framework



Possible Methods

- Qualitative:
 - Open interviewing
 - Participant observation in veterans organisation
 - Following social media pages veterans organisations
- Quantitative:
 - Run questions on experienced appreciation and collective identity in yearly questionnaire



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