Memoir, Blog, and Selfie:
Genres of Self-Representation

A Conversation with
Carolyn R. Miller

Rhetorical genre theory has been reinvigorated by the advent of multimodal digital media, with applications in technical communication, composition studies, linguistics, and literature. These new media particularly invite the extension of rhetorical approaches to genre into the visual realm; moreover, the energetic and experimental vernacular uses of the new media also challenge us to expand our scope beyond official classroom and professional genres. This presentation will explore a cluster of genres of self-representation in both old and new media, to demonstrate where such expansions of genre analysis might take us and what a specifically rhetorical approach to such genres can offer. We will survey the rhetorical approach to genre, review its application to traditional old-media genres of self-representation (memoir), and extend it to new-media phenomena (blogging and selfies), with attention to the histories and relationships among these genres.

Carolyn R. Miller recently retired as SAS Institute Distinguished Professor of Rhetoric and Technical Communication after 42 years on the North Carolina State faculty.

Co-presented by:

- ***Communication Studies***
- ***Graduate Minor in Literacy and Rhetorical Studies***

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