

CGC Conference Call for Papers 2012 Conference Theme: Profiles

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Many media outlets, from Entertainment Tonight to Gawker and Perez Hilton spend a lot of time profiling the day-to-day life of celebrities. Players of online gaming create profiles which help them navigate their way through a given space. Setting up a profile—willingly or unwillingly—is fundamental to various online activities, from social networking to tracking Google searches. Developments in security and surveillance technologies, such as biometrics, create ideal body types and act as a way for determining whether one is or is not a security risk. Media coverage of recent events like the "Occupy" movement produce a new profile of protesters. The profile in photography represents an early example of a "media format" and draws attention to the ways profiling refers to various acts of representation and the kinds of political, aesthetic, and cultural dynamics that go into the creating, maintaining and disseminating of a profile in mediated environments. Historical profiles create a past we can interact with, demographic profiles conceptualize our current identity, while genetic and behavioural profiles try to predict our future. This conference examines these different meanings of profile and their intersections.

Among other related topics, we seek papers that consider topics such as:

The politics of profiling in journalism
Visualizing profiles
Profiling the body: biometrics and biopolitics
Profiling the self: identity creation and performance
Profiling and social theory
Marginalized Profiles
#following and grouping profiles
Design and defaults of digital profiles
Profiles of play

We seek proposals for individual paper presentations as well as pre-formed panels that interpret and explore the theme of Profiles. Submissions from faculty and graduate students and from those who study in departments outside of communication are welcomed and encouraged. Please submit an abstract of up to 200 words (preferably in Word format) outlining your proposed paper topic along with your name, affiliation, contact information (e-mail address), and audio/visual needs.

Abstract deadline: Friday, Feb 3, 2012

Please e-mail submissions (or questions) to: cgc.conference@gmail.com