



ACTING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD: RHETORIC & RISK MEDIA IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & MEDICINE

Science and passion, knowledge and identities are inseparable and co-evolving. They nourish each other. That is why the procedures to be devised to organize collectives should allow for the simultaneous organization of both the creation of identities and the creation and incorporation of knowledge ~ Michel Callon, et. al.

This advanced composition course is situated at the intersection of rhetoric of science, science & technology studies (STS), and digital humanities. We will engage a wide variety of theoretical approaches (feminist, materialist, critical race, queer, etc.), and a core set of concepts from rhetoric and STS (genre, ethos, networks, translation, etc.) in order to frame student selected case studies through a vast collection of risk communication practices around science, technology, and medicine: *oncology, vaccines, (cyber) security, financial crises, citizen science/DIY/hacker movements, bioterrorism, ecocide, climate change, etc.* Each topic will be united by a focus on rhetorics of uncertainty/risk, media, and personal/collective notions of how to act in a changing, uncertain world. Student work will be comprised of reading/composing with academic & popular sources, visual artifacts, personal narratives, & digital media, in order to map risk through technoscientific controversies, design a research project with multiple methods, & collaboratively build a digital space on the rhetorics of risk (no prior computer programming knowledge required).