



TITLE: The selfie and the social transformation of the public-private distinction

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This paper presents initial ideas exploring the 'selfie'. We seek to develop a sociological definition of the selfie as a specific form of digital self-portraiture. Drawing on key sociological insights provided by Erving Goffman and Georg Simmel we consider the importance of the face as a tool of social communication. We then use Goffman's formulation of public and private photographs to examine the interactionist implications of the selfie. Finally we consider how the selfie represents a seemingly innocuous episode in the transformations occurring between public and private social life.