

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452350003321
Autore	Miller Stephen
Titolo	Conversation : A History of a Declining Art // Stephen Miller
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT : , : Yale University Press, , [2008] ©2008
ISBN	1-281-72237-5 9786611722371 0-300-13018-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (357 p.)
Disciplina	302.3/46
Soggetti	Conversation analysis Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [315]-328) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- I. Conversation and Its Discontents -- II. Ancient Conversation: From the Book of Job to Plato's Symposium -- III. Three Factors Affecting Conversation: Religion, Commerce, Women -- IV. The Age of Conversation: Eighteenth-Century Britain -- V. Samuel Johnson: A Conversational Triumph; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu: Conversation Lost -- VI. Conversation in Decline: From Raillery to Reverie -- VII. Conversation in America: From Benjamin Franklin to Dale Carnegie -- VIII. Modern Enemies of Conversation: From Countercultural Theorists to "White Negroes" -- IX. The Ways We Don't Converse Now -- X. The End of Conversation? -- Bibliographical Essay -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Essayist Stephen Miller pursues a lifelong interest in conversation by taking an historical and philosophical view of the subject. He chronicles the art of conversation in Western civilization from its beginnings in ancient Greece to its apex in eighteenth-century Britain to its current endangered state in America. As Harry G. Frankfurt brought wide attention to the art of bullshit in his recent bestselling <i>On Bullshit</i> , so Miller now brings the art of conversation into the light, revealing why good conversation matters and why it is in decline. Miller explores the conversation about conversation among such great writers as Cicero,

Montaigne, Swift, Defoe, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and Virginia Woolf. He focuses on the world of British coffeehouses and clubs in "The Age of Conversation" and examines how this era ended. Turning his attention to the United States, the author traces a prolonged decline in the theory and practice of conversation from Benjamin Franklin through Hemingway to Dick Cheney. He cites our technology (iPods, cell phones, and video games) and our insistence on unguarded forthrightness as well as our fear of being judgmental as powerful forces that are likely to diminish the art of conversation.

---