



Dubrovnik

June 18-22, 2018

Inter-University Centre

Introduction

Form is the eight installment of **Conjuncture** – an ongoing series of events on 21st Century philosophy, aesthetics, and politics coordinated and moderated by Nathan Brown and Petar Milat, since 2009 held at MaMa (Zagreb) and from 2017 on at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik.

The discrepant concepts to which form has been opposed – appearance, matter, content, history – suggest both the encompassing generality and peculiar malleability of this major category. Castigated as idealized abstraction or appealed to in the name of concrete determinacy, “form” traverses debates in philosophy, politics, and literary or art criticism with slippery familiarity. Although these fields could scarcely do without it, the term is deployed more frequently than it is defined or theorized. While “structure” was the site of direct theoretical elaboration in the twentieth century, “form” has not been the beneficiary of such rigorous attention, despite continual claims on its conceptual resources. Today this poses a particular problem in methodological debates between “formalism” and “historicism,” wherein sides often seem to be taken without a clear delineation of the conceptual stakes of this opposition or its proposed resolution. Moreover, to refer to form without a theoretical elaboration of what form is may obscure the thorny question of what form is not: what shadow concepts and categorial fringes encroach upon and extend from its uneven boundaries.

This five-day symposium will be devoted to querying the concept of form itself, to practicing its theoretical elaboration, and to critically applying its resources in ways that will hopefully clarify the contemporary extension and implications of the term.

Schedule

June 18, Monday

- 09:45 – 10:00 Welcome & Introduction
- 10:00 – 11:45 David Cunningham: *Form and Formlessness – Realism, Fiction and the Theory of the Novel*
- 12:00 – 13:45 Greg Ellermann: *Poetry, Plasticity, and the End of Art – Malabou, Hegel, Keats*
- 18:00 – 19:45 Jamila M. H. Mascat: *Forms of Partisanship – Totality and Universality*

June 19, Tuesday

- 10:00 – 11:45 Nathan Brown: *Baudelaire's Shadow – Toward a Theory of Poetic Determination*
- 12:00 – 13:45 Naomi Levine: *Fleshly Formalism – William Morris and the Content of Rhyme*
- 18:00 – 19:45 Michael Gallope: *Music's Negative Grammar*

June 20, Wednesday

- 10:00 – 11:45 Amanda Holmes: *Anxiety and the Spineless Organ*
- 12:00 – 13:45 Ronjaanee Chatterjee: *Lewis Carroll's Alice Books and the Ones and Twos of Femininity*
- 18:00 – 19:45 Alexi Kukuljevic: *Richard Pryor, the Conedian*

June 21, Thursday

- 10:00 – 11:45 Marty Rayburn: *Toward a Theory of the Novelistic Will*
- 12:00 – 13:45 Ante Jerić: *Chronotopic Decay – The Theory-Fiction of Luka Bekavac*
- 18:00 – 19:45 Julie Beth Napolin: *Sinister Resonance – Coloniality Hears Itself in the Novel*

June 22, Friday

- 10:00 – 11:45 S. Pearl Brilmyer & Filippo Trentin: *Inessential Forms – Ruskin, Warburg, Focillon*
- 12:00 – 13:45 Emily Ruth Capper: *The Formalism of the Happening c. 1959*
- 18:00 – 19:45 Petar Milat: *Form and Former – The Art of Anachronism*

Bios

- **S. Pearl Brilmyer** is assistant professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania where she teaches courses on nineteenth-century European literature, sexuality, philosophy, and science. She is currently at work on a book project, *The Science of Character: Matter, Form, and the Ends of Victorian Realism*, and editing, along with Zairong Xiang and Filippo Trentin, a special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* entitled “The Ontology of the Couple.”
- **Filippo Trentin** is a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Warwick specializing in 20th century Italian cinema and literature. He has held academic positions as visiting professor at The Ohio State University and as postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin. His areas of research include film studies, queer theory and aesthetics. He is the co-editor of *Rome: Postmodern Narrative of a Cityscape* (Routledge, 2016). Along with co-editing a special issue of *GLQ* with Pearl Brilmyer and Zairong Xiang, he is also working on a book entitled *Rome and the Margins of Modernism*.
- **Nathan Brown** is Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Poetics in the Department of English at Concordia University, where he is Founding Director of the Centre for Expanded Poetics. He is the author of *The Limits of Fabrication: Materials Science, Materialist Poetics* (Fordham UP, 2017) and the coeditor, with Petar Milat, of *Poiesis* (MaMa, 2017). He is presently completing a book titled *Rationalist Empiricism: A Theory of Speculative Critique*.
- **Emily Ruth Capper** is Lecturer in the Department of Art History and the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota. She completed a joint Ph.D. in Art History and in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago in 2016. Her current book project situates Allan Kaprow’s environments and happenings in dialogue with forms of experimental pedagogy that he experienced as a student and practiced as a teacher. Capper’s research has been supported by the Dedalus Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Getty Research Institute.
- **Ronjaunee Chatterjee** is a limited-term Assistant Professor in the department of English at Concordia University, where she works in Victorian studies, feminist, gender, and sexuality studies, Continental philosophy, and psychoanalysis. Her work has been published in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *French Studies*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *The New Inquiry*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*.
- **David Cunningham** is Deputy Director of the Institute for Modern and Contemporary Culture at the University of Westminster in London, and an editor of the journal *Radical Philosophy*. He has published widely on modernism, aesthetics and urban theory, including edited collections on Adorno and Literature and on Photography, and is currently working on a study of capitalism and the novel.

- **Greg Ellermann** is a Lecturer in the Department of English at Yale University; he has also taught at Rutgers and Concordia. His research concerns the romantic poetry and philosophy of nature, and he has additional interests in aesthetic theory and the visual arts, contemporary philosophy, and poetics. His essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *SubSTANCE*, *Studies in Romanticism*, *Essays in Romanticism*, *Syndicate*, and *European Romantic Review*.
- **Michael Gallope** is Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota where he is affiliate faculty in American Studies and in the Program in Moving Image Studies. He is the author of *Deep Refrains: Music, Philosophy, and the Ineffable* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), as well as many articles and essays that span topics from philosophy and critical theory to sound studies, peripheral modernisms, avant-gardes in various media, and cultures of the African diaspora. As a musician, he has worked in a variety of genres from avant-garde composition and experimental improvisation to rock music and West African electronica.
- **Amanda Holmes** is a PhD student in Philosophy at Villanova University and a 2017-2018 Fulbright Research Scholar in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her research interests lie at the intersection of phenomenology, ontology and psychoanalysis and her work focuses on questions of subjectivity, language and affect. She is currently working on her PhD dissertation, which is on the theme of anxiety in the thought of Heidegger and Lacan and is tentatively titled, "The Structure of Anxiety and the Limits of Language: Lacan with Heidegger."
- **Ante Jerić** is a doctoral candidate in philosophy at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana and a lecturer at the Arts Academy in Split. He works at the Multimedia Institute (MaMa) on the Institute's theory programme and its publishing activities. His main field of interest is continental philosophy and its connections with literature and film. He has authored a book *Uz Malabou: profili suvremenog mišljenja* (2016) and is currently writing a dissertation on the concept of life in the radical phenomenology of Michel Henry.
- **Alexi Kukuljević** is an artist and a philosopher currently based in Vienna. He is the author of *Liquidation World: On the Art of Living Absently*, published by MIT Press. His work has been exhibited at venues such as Palais de Tokyo in Paris and the ICA in Philadelphia. He is a Teaching Assistant in the department of Art Theory at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna. His most recent solo exhibition was entitled BIRDWAR at Aplus in Berlin.
- **Naomi Levine** is an assistant professor of English at Yale University and a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Her research explores the relationship between formal and historical conceptions of poetry in the nineteenth century. She is writing a book on nineteenth-century ideas about the origin of rhyme and their significance for the theory and practice of Victorian poetry and for the development of close reading. Her essays on Victorian poetics, literary history, and the history of criticism have appeared in *Victorian Studies*, *Victorian Poetry*, *Victoriographies*, and *MLQ*.

- **Jamila M. H. Mascot** is a Lecturer in Postcolonial Theory at the Graduate Gender Programme of the University of Utrecht since 2016. After completing her Phd in Philosophy at the University of Siena (Italy) with a thesis on the notion of abstraction in Hegel's Jena writings, she has been a postdoc researcher at Paris 8, at Jan Van Eyck Academie (Maastricht), at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (Berlin) and at Paris 1– Panthéon Sorbonne. Her research focuses on Hegel and contemporary Hegelianism, as well as on postcolonial theory and its critical relation to the legacy of modernity. She is currently working on a research project on the grounds of partisanship and political engagement.
- **Julie Beth Napolin** is Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities at the New School. Her book manuscript, titled *The Fact of Resonance*, proposes a theory of aural phenomena in the works of Conrad, Du Bois, and Faulkner. In 2018-19 she will be a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania working on a project titled "The Sound of Yoknapatawpha: An Acoustic Ecology."
- **Marty Rayburn** recently received his PhD at the University of Chicago. His dissertation examines the ways in which the novel as a genre inherits and complicates the philosophical problem of the will. Currently, he is interested in exploring concepts of agency, philosophical questions posed by narrative forms, and the relation between literature and film.
- **Petar Milat** is a former philosopher and the chief coordinator at Multimedia Institute/MaMa [Zagreb, Croatia], in charge of publishing, experimental music and film programmes. Since 2008 he is the director of Human Rights Film Festival, a festival of *cinéma d'auteur engagé*. The nexus of normative social and aesthetic theory is the main focus of his research. Personal website: www.zoeforward.org

Conjecture

- 2009 : **21st Century Materialism** [<http://materialism.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Božovič, Harman, Hallward, Hägglund
- 2011 : **To Have Done With Life - Vitalism and Antivitalism in Contemporary Philosophy** [<http://donewithlife.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Brassier, Hägglund, Johnston, Malabou
- 2012 : **The Art of The Concept** [<http://artofconcept.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Chion, García-Düttmann, Calder Williams, Hägglund
- 2013 : **Modernity, The Bitter End** [<http://modernity.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Hallward, Brown, Kukuljevic, Brooks & Calder Williams
- 2014 : **Sophistry - The Powers of the False** [<http://sophistry.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Cassin, Brassier, Toscano, García-Düttmann
- 2015 : **Poiesis** [<http://poiesis.mi2.hr>]
keynote-speakers: Arsić, Schestag, Wills, Rasula
- 2017 : **Structure** [<http://mi2.hr/en/2017/05/structure>]

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