

DYNAMICS OF FORM

Literary Modeling between Assembling
and Dissolution of Form

Call for Papers

Postgraduate Conference of the Research Training Group "Literary Form. History and Culture of Aesthetic Modeling", University of Münster
12-14 October 2017

Literary form has repeatedly been subject to transformation, subversion, parody and ironic commentary. The conceptual evolution of form and the playful use of its notions have led to a significant fragmentation of its various possible meanings, yet it continues to be the "blind spot of aesthetics" (Adorno, *Aesthetic Theory* [1970], 2004).

Despite the elusiveness of the term, new approaches such as modeling theory have recently highlighted the dynamic potential of literary form. Current research has focused on the question of how literary forms can function as models, providing mobile elements in, for example, the re-assessment of the genre question. The postgraduate conference "Dynamics of Form" wants to explore the tension between the assembling and the dissolution of literary form in an interphilological context.

While trying to reach a deeper understanding of the transformational processes evolving from the assembling and the dissolution of form, the conference covers synchronic and diachronic transformations with a particular focus on the cultural and discursive aspects of genre theory. Hence, it presupposes a dynamic concept of form. Papers may include, but are not limited to, the following thematic fields:

1) History and Politics of Form

A historic perspective on literature foregrounds questions about the conditions and functions of literary form, as well as its potential to operate as a model. This view necessitates a close reading of these aspects, their interrelations, and their cultural and historic contextualisation.

2) Aesthetics of Form

Form has always been an element of an aesthetic programme, especially in prescriptive poetics. Questions pertaining to the relationship between form and content within the context of aesthetic modeling, and to the influence of form on literary models of space and time, are yet to be tackled.

3) Experimenting with Form

Of equal interest are trans- and intramedial experiments with form that challenge a static understanding, foregrounding an essential re-evaluation of its boundaries.

The conference addresses postgraduate students and will be held at the University of Münster from 12 to 14 October, 2017. Please send in your abstract of no more than 300 words for a 20 minute presentation in German or English, as well as a biographical note including Email address, full mailing address, affiliation and research interests, via email to Jutta Gerber (j_gerb04@uni-muenster.de) or Thomas Kater (t_kate02@uni-muenster.de) by April 15, 2017.

Please note that travel and accommodation expenses can only be reimbursed to a limited number of participants who have difficulties funding their trip to Münster.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to send your questions to either Jutta Gerber (j_gerb04@uni-muenster.de) or Thomas Kater (t_kate02@uni-muenster.de).

For more information on the Research Training Group "Literary Form" and updates on the conference, please visit our website uni-muenster.de/GRKLitForm/en or <https://www.facebook.com/DynamikderForm/>