

# JOIN THE CONVERGENCE ON POETICS

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September 27-30, 2012  
North Creek Events Center  
University of Washington Bothell

Convergence on Poetics queries the current understanding and practice of poetics within writing communities and the academy. The conference consists of keynote

panels, poetics postings, and author performances. All events will be scheduled singularly, so that a conversation of the whole can address, in the words of George Oppen, “the meaning / Of being numerous.”

Poiesis can be defined most broadly as making and poetics as a study of making. While poesis and poetics have been important for the areas of literary studies, creative writing, textual and discourse studies, among others, their larger area of concern—i.e. making itself—crosses multiple arts and disciplines. Indeed, it is the emphasis on making, or construction, which creative arts (and other creative projects) base much of their claim for cultural significance, since in making new relations can pertain which ratiocinative approaches to knowledge formation often silence.

Poetics has far more often addressed the “how” of a text than its “what”—how work is produced, how it is disseminated, and how it is consumed. Roland Barthes remarks: “[poetics] can never be a science of content, but only of the conditions of content.” Its aim is to “know how meaning is possible, at what cost and by what means.” But while Barthes statement of poetics remains an important vantage on poetics, our own time yields a different set of questions and tensions that can be loosely grouped through the category of “what.” The poet Robert Creeley once remarked, “Form is no more than an extension of content.” By this comment, Creeley did not seek to undermine the importance of poetic form, but rather to suggest that form and content exist in a dynamic relationship.

The conference asks how the synergistic relations between “the what” and “the how” of the texts, art objects, and performances might be brought into sharper focus. Basic questions will be posed: How might poetics refashion itself within an interdisciplinary context that includes multiple arts and multiple disciplines? Is poetics just another discipline along with other disciplines or something rather different than these? What challenges do poetics face from diverse disciplinary practices? And what challenges do poetics pose for multiple areas of study?

## SCHEDULE

### **Thursday, September 27**

What Is / Are Poetics? 7:00 p.m.  
Opening Reception

### **Friday, September 28**

State of the Art 9:00 a.m.  
Poetics and Ethnography 10:30 a.m.  
Lunch 12:00 Noon  
Cross Cultural Poetics 1:30 p.m.  
Poetics, Embodiment, and Creative Practice 3:00 p.m.  
AUTHOR PERFORMANCES 8:00 p.m.

## **Saturday, September 29**

Poetics and New Media 9:00 a.m.  
Poetics and Other Arts 10:30 a.m.  
Lunch 12:00 Noon  
Poetics and Other Arts 1:30 p.m.  
POSTINGS ON POETICS 3:00 p.m.  
AUTHOR PERFORMANCES 8:00 p.m.

## **Sunday, September 30**

Poetics, Affirmation, and Dissensus 9:00 a.m.  
To be announced 10:30 a.m.

## **HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE**

### **Register**

Sign up for the conference at: [www.uwb.edu/mfa/fallconvergence](http://www.uwb.edu/mfa/fallconvergence)

### **Book a Room at the Conference Hotel**

We have reserved rooms at The Country Inn & Suites, a short drive and 15-minute walk from the University of Washington Bothell campus. A private booking link is now active: [www.countryinns.com/convergenceonpoetics](http://www.countryinns.com/convergenceonpoetics)

### **Make a Proposal**

Please send your 250 word proposal on poetics to [poeticsconference@uwb.edu](mailto:poeticsconference@uwb.edu) by July 15, and mark "proposal" in the subject line. In addition to keynote panels, we have a Saturday afternoon "postings on poetics" for five minute proposed manifestos, diatribes, and learned presentations, followed by an open mic. The Conference Committee will notify you about your proposal by the beginning of August.

## **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

This conference is supported by the UW Bothell's MFA in Creative Writing & Poetics, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW Graduate School, UW Bothell's School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW Bothell's Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and UW Bothell's Teaching and Learning Center.

UW Bothell is located just west of Interstate 405 at Exit 24. For further directions, see: [www.uwb.edu/directions](http://www.uwb.edu/directions).

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