Forms of Formalism

This one-day conference will focus on the ways in which French literary texts in the 20th and 21st centuries are shaped by distinctive formalist projects or by contemporary critical debates on the problem of form. The term “formalism” is understood here in a general sense as referring to procedural approaches to composition as well as to tendencies in criticism. The goal will be both a critical reappraisal of particular literary and theoretical explorations of form (Oulipo, the New Novel, Tel Quel, structuralism), and an evaluation of the notion of literary form itself. While offering a variety of perspectives on French literary texts and movements, this conference will highlight a wider set of concerns relevant to literature and poetics in general.

### Panels

**Panel 1: French Formalisms**
Moderator: Françoise Meltzer, University of Chicago
- Michel Sirvent, University of North Texas. Entre Oulipo et Nouveau Roman textuel : vers une conception transformaliste du texte.

**Panel 2: Form in Literature: Genres, Concepts, Debates**
Moderator: Robert Buch, University of Chicago
- Martin Rueff, Université de Paris VII. Qu’est-ce qu’une forme ? Structuralisme et poétiques formalistes.
- Alison James, University of Chicago. Grids and Transparencies: Forms of Realism.
- Andrea Goulet, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Maleil’s Maps and Butor’s Bleston: Space and Formal Play in the Roman Policier.

### Schedule
- **9:30 a.m.** Breakfast
- **10:00 a.m.** Panel 1: French Formalisms
- **12:00 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:00 p.m.** Panel 2: Form in Literature: Genres, Concepts, Debates
- **3:00 p.m.** Roundtable discussion: Formalism’s Future
- **5:00 p.m.** Reception

### Location
Rosenwald 405, The University of Chicago
1101 E. 58th Street — http://maps.uchicago.edu/

Event sponsored by the France Chicago Center, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, the Franke Institute for the Humanities and the Program in Poetry and Poetics. This event is free and open to the public. Persons with a disability who believe they may need assistance are requested to call 773-834-8739.