

CONFERENCE READINGS INTERVIEWS  
JUNE 28 - JULY 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 PARIS

Université Paris Cité

University of Chicago Center in Paris

Atelier Michael Woolworth

# BEN LERNER

## EDGE OF GENRE

POETRY - FICTION - ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

ORGANIZED BY CY CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ - UNIVERSITÉ PARIS CITÉ  
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK - UNIVERSITÉ DE ROUEN - UNIVERSITÉ PAUL VALÉRY-MONTPELLIER 3





# BEN LERNER PARIS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

"Let me walk to the edge of the genre"  
Poetry, Fiction, Artistic Collaborations

Paris, June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

## Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

Université Paris Cité, Place Paul Ricoeur,  
Olympe de Gouges, Room 265

### Post-Graduate Workshop

With *Mary K. Holland* (State University of New York,  
New Paltz),

*Daniel Katz* (University of Warwick)

*Anne-Laure Tissut* (Université de Rouen).

(Auditors welcome).

**Time:** 2.00-4.00

### Participants:

❖ *Sean Sokolov* (University of Western Ontario,  
London, Canada)

'The same but totally different': Apprehending  
the Post-Commodity in Ben Lerner's *10:04*

❖ *Paul Enequist* (Stockholm University, Sweden)

Making the Negative Readable:  
Autonomous Art at the Brink of Nothing

❖ *Marta Zanutto* (University of Liverpool, UK)

'[T]he problem of other minds':  
Disappropriation and the Limits of Polyphony  
in Ben Lerner's *The Topeka School*

❖ *Valentine Alloing* (Université Paris Cité, France)

Paranoia in the Works of Thomas Pynchon,  
Don DeLillo and John Kennedy Toole:  
Questioning the Borderline between Reality  
and Fiction

❖ *Wesley Moore* (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany)

Blurring Boundaries: Late-Modern Structures,  
Authenticity, and the Role of Fiction in Jennifer  
Egan and Ben Lerner

## Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

### Ben Lerner and Fiction

The University of Chicago Center in Paris,  
6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris

9.00-9.30 **Registration and Opening**

With *Cécile Roudeau* (Université Paris Cité)  
Director, LARCA UMR 8225

9.30-10.30 **Plenary Address**

❖ *Mary K. Holland* (State University of New York,  
New Paltz, USA)

'Love // more avant-garde than shame': Ben  
Lerner's Ethical Aesthetics

Chair: *Yannicke Chupin* (CY Cergy Paris Université)

10.30-11.00 **Coffee break**

11.00-12.20 **Lerner in Theory**

Chair: *Béatrice Pire* (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle)

❖ *Marc Farrant* (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

After Theory: Ben Lerner and the Essayistic  
Turn in Contemporary Literature

❖ *Matt Prout* (University of Bristol, UK)

'I was disturbed by the Contradiction': Theory  
and Practice in Ben Lerner's Autofictions

### Lunch break

2.00-5.00 **Mirroring the Contemporary**

Chair: *Sylvie Bauer* (Université Rennes 2)

❖ *Maud Bougerol* (Université de Rouen, France)

'Bodies, streetlights, mixed media': *10:04* and  
the Mediated Experience

❖ *Alexander Scherr* (Justus Liebig University, Giessen,  
Germany)

Speech into Stutter – a Deleuzian Reading of  
Ben Lerner's *The Topeka School*

3.20-3.40 **Coffee break**

❖ *Ryan Lackey* (University of California, Berkeley, USA)  
Ben Lerner and the Promises of Parasociality

❖ *Simon Smith* (University of Kent, UK)

"Life's White Machine"

**Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

## **Ben Lerner and Poetry**

The University of Chicago Center in Paris,  
6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris

**9.30-10.30 Plenary Address**

❖ **Daniel Katz** (*University of Warwick, Coventry, UK*)  
The Instrument With Which It's Cut: Ben Lerner's Bildung

Chair: **Olivier Brassard** (*Université Gustave Eiffel/Institut Universitaire de France*)

**10.30-11.00 Coffee break**

**11.00-12.20 Textual echoes**

Chair: **Marie Olivier** (*Université Paris-Est Créteil*)

❖ **Sean Mark** (*Université Catholique de Lille, France*)  
Ben Lerner and the Poetics of Conspiracy

❖ **Stephen Ross** (*Concordia University, Montréal, Canada*)  
On the Conversation Partner: Celan, Waldrop, Lerner

### **Lunch break**

**2.00-5.00 Lerner, Far and Near**

Chair: **Antoine Cazé** (*Université Paris Cité*)

❖ **Joseph Shafer** (*Auburn University, Alabama, USA*)  
Determining Art as Thrice Removed

❖ **Chloé Thomas** (*Université d'Angers/Université Paris Cité, France*)  
From the Hatred of Poetry to the (Self-)hatred of the Poet

**3.20-3.40 Coffee break**

❖ **Caroline Magnin** (*Sorbonne Université, Paris, France*)  
Tragedy and the Possibility of Community in Ben Lerner's *10:04*

❖ **Kyra Sutton** (*University of Berkeley, California, USA*)  
'Between the Terrestrial and the Divine': Ben Lerner and the Post Secular

**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

## **Ben Lerner and Art**

Université Paris Cité,  
5 rue Thomas Mann, Halle aux Farines – Amphi 12E

**1.00-2.00 Plenary Address**

❖ **Yasna Bozhkova** (*Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France*)

'Crucial Betweens': Ben Lerner's Dialogic Poetics  
Chair: **Karim Daanoun** (*Université Paul Valéry - Montpellier 3*)

**2.00-2.30 Coffee break**

**2.30-3.50 Ways of Seeing, Ways of Listening**

Chair: **Mathieu Duplay** (*Université Paris Cité*)

❖ **James Strowman** (*Durham University, UK*)  
'heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter': Music in Ben Lerner's Poetics

❖ **Sharon Zelnick** (*University of California, Los Angeles, USA*)  
The Photo/Text as a Medium of Jewish American Memory: Collaboration and Critique in Ben Lerner, Barbara Bloom, and Adam Golfer

**4.00-5.00 Question and Answer with Ben Lerner**

**7.15 pm**

### **Conference Banquet**

Bouillon Racine, 3 rue Racine, 75006 Paris

## **IN-PERSON EVENTS WITH BEN LERNER**

**Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **Writing and Translating *The Topeka School*** *Ben Lerner and Jakuta Alikavazovic in conversation with Adam Biles*

Jakuta Alikavazovic, French novelist and translator  
Adam Biles, Literary Director at Shakespeare and Company

**Venue:** University of Chicago Center in Paris,  
6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris

**Time:** 7.00 – 8.00

*The event will be followed by a cocktail*

**Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **Bilingual Poetry Reading**

Ben Lerner and Virginie Poitrasson, French poet and translator  
Event in collaboration with Double Change

**Venue:** Atelier Michael Woolworth,  
2 rue de la Roquette, 75011 Paris

**Time:** 7.00 – 8.00

*The event will be followed by a cocktail*

**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

### **Question and Answer with Ben Lerner**

**Venue:** Université Paris cité,  
5 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris  
La Halle aux Farines, Amphi 12 E (third floor)

**Time:** 4.00 – 5.00

# BEN LERNER PARIS CONFERENCE 2023

“Let me walk to the edge of the genre”  
Poetry, Fiction, Artistic Collaborations  
Conference, Readings, Interviews.

Paris - June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

<https://benlernerparisconference2023.weebly.com>

## Conference Venues

June 28<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Postgraduate Workshop

Université Paris Cité, 8 place Paul Ricoeur,  
Olympe de Gouges, (Second floor), Room 265  
Métro 14: Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
(exit3: Goscinny)  
Tramway T3a – Avenue de France

June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Conference

University of Chicago Center in Paris  
6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris  
Métro 14: Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
(exit3: Goscinny)

June 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Conference and Reading

University of Chicago Center in Paris  
6 rue Thomas Mann, 75013 Paris  
Métro 14: Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
(exit3: Goscinny)

June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

### Poetry Reading

Atelier Michael Woolworth,  
2 rue de la Roquette, cour Février, 75011 Paris  
[www.doublechange.org](http://www.doublechange.org)  
Métro 1, 5, 8: Bastille (Exit 1: rue de la Roquette)

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

### Conference and Q & A with Ben Lerner

Université Paris cité, 5 rue Thomas Mann,  
La Halle aux Farines, Amphi 12 E (third floor).  
Métro 14: Bibliothèque Nationale de France  
(exit3: Goscinny)

### Conference Banquet

#### Bouillon Racine

3 rue Racine, 75006 Paris  
Métro: Odéon (4 and 10), St Michel (4), Cluny Sorbonne (10)  
RER: Saint Michel – Notre Dame (B, C)

## Organizing committee:

Yannicke Chupin (CY Cergy Paris Université)  
Karim Daanoun (Université Paul Valéry – Montpellier 3)  
Daniel Katz (University of Warwick)  
Anne-Laure Tissut (Université de Rouen)

*The organizing committee wishes to thank the following institutions and organizations:*

