Major Field - Form as Poetics

Form is a foundational concept in poetry. It is currently experiencing a resurgence in literary and cultural studies; however, while formal and formally innovative poetry is thriving right now, there is a dearth of poets retheorizing form toward poetics. This list compiles theory on form with an eye toward interdisciplinarity. The goal is to be able to reinvigorate the possibilities for theorizing form toward contemporary poetics. To that end, the list also includes a number of formally noteworthy books of contemporary poetry. This list should help me as a teacher—in teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, both the practice of form and the theory—and as a scholar as I continue to write about form.

This list speaks directly to job market interest in writers versed in form and technique, form and theory, and form and genre, as well as the ability to teach form workshops. More indirectly, this list speaks to interest in interdisciplinarity and hybridity, as well as broader interest in poetics and its relationship to poetic practices.

Theory/Criticism

Books
Caroline Levine - *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network*
Josh Robinson - *Adorno's Poetics of Form*
Theodor Adorno - *Aesthetic Theory*
David Caplan - *Questions of Possibility: Contemporary Poetry and Poetic Form*
Ian Davidson - *Ideas of Space in Contemporary Poetry*
Paul Fussell - *Poetic Meter & Poetic Form*
Angela Leighton - *On Form: Poetry, Aesthetics, and the Legacy of a Word*
Susan Stewart - *Poetry and the Fate of the Senses*
Dorothy J. Wang - *Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry*
Michael Theune - *Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns*
Anna Kornbluh - *The Order of Forms: Realism, Formalism, and Social Space*
Mecca Jamilah Sullivan - *The Poetics of Difference: Queer Feminist Forms in the African Diaspora*
Seeta Chaganti - *Strange Footing: Poetic Form and Dance in the Late Middle Ages*
Ewan James Jones - *Coleridge and the Philosophy of Poetic Form*
Ed Jonathan Culler & Ben Glaser - *Critical Rhythm: The Poetics of a Literary Life Form* (Collection of Essays)
Joseph Conte - *Unending Design: The Forms of Postmodern Poetry*
Roland Barthes - *The Responsibility of Form* (Collected Essays)
Henri Focillon - *The Life of Forms in Art*
Taylor Brandon - *The Life of Forms in Art: Modernism, Organism, Vitality*

Robert Sheppard - *The Meaning of Form in Contemporary Innovative Poetry*
Joseph Frank - *The Idea of Spatial Form*
Anahid Nersessian - *Calamitous Forms: On Poetry and Social Life*

Essays
Marjorie Levinson - "What is New Formalism?"
Jonathan Kramnick and Anahid Nersessian - "Form and Explanation"
Lyn Hejinian - "The Rejection of Closure"
Barbara Guest - "Invisible Architecture"
Denise Levertov - "Some Notes on Organic Form"
Adrienne Rich - "Format and Form"
Lisa Robertson - "Notes on Form and Belief"
TS Eliot - "Reflections on Vers Libre"
Ezra Pound "A Retrospect," "A Few Don'ts," "Brancusi," and "Gaudier-Brzeska: A Memoir"
Stefan Helmreich and Sophia Roosth - "Life Forms: A Keyword Entry"

Journal Issues
ASAP/Joural - "Special Issue: Queer Form" (Issue 2, 2017)
Post 45 - "Issue 5: Formalism Unbound"

Poetry

Tyehimba Jess - *Olio*
Jericho Brown - *The Tradition*
Diana Khoi Nguyen - *Ghost of*
AE Stallings - *Like*
M. NourbeSe Philip - *Zong!* (also listed in Criticism)
Claudia Rankine - *Don't Let Me Be Lonely*
Terrance Hayes - *American Sonnets For My Past and Future Assassin*
Robin Coste Lewis - *Voyage of the Sable Venus*
Dionne Brand - *The Blue Clerk*
Don Mee Choi - *DMZ Colony* (also listed in Criticism)
Solmaz Sharif - *Look*
Dawn Lundy Martin - *Good Stock Strange Blood*
Anne Carson - *Nox*
Stacy Doris - *Fledge: A Phenomenology of Spirit*
Myung Mi Kim - *Commons, Civil Bound*
Lisa Robertson - *Cinema of the Present, 3 Summers*
Inger Christensen - *Alphabet*
Kate Greenstreet - *The End of Something*

Mei-mei Berssenbrugge - *A Treatise on Stars*

Jennifer Scappettone - *The Republic of Exit 43: Outtakes & Scores from an Archaeology and Pop-Up Opera of the Corporate Dump*