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New Ethics, New Formalism?

In my paper I will try to sketch out some ideas for combining formalist readings with ethical interests and context oriented, political readings.

Inspired by Dorothy Hale and her recent publications on formalism and on ethics, respectively, I will argue that ignoring literary form and novelistic aesthetics is a bad idea if one wants to discuss the ethics and politics of novels. Rather than turning from one to the other – from aesthetics to ethics and from form to politics - one needs to explore how they are necessarily intertwined in the novel and also in short stories.

Therefore I will try to discuss the ethical positioning of the reader in formalist readings of texts where the reader is positioned as a judge. The readings will try to combine narratological with poststructural insights.