

Poetry & Projective Geometry: A New Research Initiative

This research initiative explores the relationship between poetics and projective geometry. My central research question is: *might the poetic word work within the realm of language as infinity does in the world of space?* Both operate primarily within human consciousness, requiring active inner engagement—imagination and ultimately intuition—to transform "given" mediums such as the words that we share, shaped by linguistic history, or fundamental elements like point, line, and plane inherent to the world, into living, experiential revelations. I want to track the journey from meaning to thinking to thought to words geometrically, positing that poetry lives between meaning (Logos) and words, uniting the two. I ask: How is poetry operative within time and space?

I will draw on Owen Barfield's work, as well as various projective geometrists' such as Olive Whicher, George Adams, and Lawrence Edwards. I aim to examine how the infinite—an "unspatial," thinkable yet not directly sensory phenomenon—mirrors the poetic dimension that envelopes words. Meaning itself is unspatial (like living thinking or infinity), and I want to track the process of "spacialization" through a geometric lens. Meaning becomes incarnated or "spatialized" through language, just as infinitely distant points ray into sensory spatial forms. Then it rests in the physical world as speech or writing.

My first steps involve further deepening my understanding of projective geometry, lots of reading, and writing on my discoveries, which will be released on my Substack, *writing the world*. I am in the process of networking with various poets and geometrists, and would love to connect further with those who take an interest in this idea and have suggestions about reading material.

This project has inspired a larger Youth Section initiative to begin annual research symposiums for young people who are developing their questions in spiritual science. These symposiums will foster collaboration and will strive to continue the work of creation in the form of a new school of individual seekers. The research that lives in universities these days is often quite distant from the life of the spirit. This impulse strives to create space for young people to become researchers in their own right and to connect them with mentors in their respective Sections of the School. The first one is geared to take place this summer before the annual Youth Section conference. It has some gumption now, after receiving funding from the Global Access Project Fund at the Goetheanum this winter. That is to say, in addition to announcing my own research project, I am calling out to other young people to announce theirs!

—Adeline Lyons lives in Spring Valley, New York, where she works as a coworker of the North American Youth Section, among other things, in the newly born Threefold Youth House. You can reach out to her at adelineroselyons@gmail.com.