The fact that formal languages play an important role in modern mathematics supports the view that all mathematical argument could be expressed in a single logical idiom leading to homogeneous, canonical understanding of form, shape and structure. In my presentation I will revisit some of the critics’ reasons why such view fails to capture fundamental aspects of mathematical practice, in particular, our capacity to learn imagining what we don’t know by using notations, diagrams and other modes of representation that play a shaping role for thought.

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