2011 MLA Convention

Sessions and Events of Interest to Graduate Students

Compiled by the MLA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession

Graduate Student Lounge
Studio I, 2nd floor, J. W. Marriott
Thursday, 6 January, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 7 and 8 January, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9 January, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Thursday, 6 January

2. A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages
11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., Diamond Salon 2, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages
Presiding: Nelly Furman, MLA
Speakers: Jane Hacking, Univ. of Utah; Cathy L. Jrade, Vanderbilt Univ.; Mari Noda, Ohio State Univ., Columbus
Representatives of different types of institutions describe work and career paths in BA-, MA-, and PhD-granting programs. Aspects of the job search (including letters of application and recommendation, curriculum vitae, interviews at the convention and on campus, waiting out a sluggish market, and negotiating an offer) will be discussed.

3. A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English
11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., Diamond Salon 3, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Association of Departments of English
Presiding: Theodore Oliver Mason, Kenyon Coll.
Speakers: Jeanne Dubino, Appalachian State Univ.; Donald E. Hall, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown; Theodore Oliver Mason; Lisa R. Schneider, Columbus State Community Coll., OH
For career resources on the MLA Web site, visit www.mla.org/career_resources.

21. Rehabilitating Scholarly Ethos: Theory and Practice in Hard Times
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 404A, LA Convention Center
A special session
1. "A PhD Is a Terrible Thing to Waste: Scholarship off the Tenure Track," Peter Khost, Stony Brook Univ., State Univ. of New York
2. "But I Told the Tenure Committee I Was Creating a New Discourse: How Current Scholarship Standards Fail Junior Faculty Members," David Hyman, Lehman Coll., City Univ. of New York
3. "The End of End Studies in the Humanities," Frank Gaughan, Hofstra Univ.

22. Class Dismissed: Economic Policies, the Academic Workforce, and Student Access to Higher Education
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 406A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges and the Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages
Presiding: Paul Lauter, Trinity Coll., CT
Speakers: Sandra K. Baringer, Univ. of California, Riverside; Grover C. Furr, Montclair State Univ.; Margaret Hanzimanolis, De Anza Coll., CA; David Laurence, MLA; Paul Lauter; Miles McCrimmon, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community Coll., VA; Julia Stein, Santa Monica Coll., CA
This roundtable will examine national trends in academic staffing in two-year colleges, make comparisons with workforce conditions at four-year colleges and universities, explore points of academic articulation between two-year and four-year schools, consider budgetary implications, and gather together some practical talking points for advocacy and political action that are historically informed and economically savvy.

43A. Current Challenges to Academic Freedom
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 403A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the American Association of University Professors
Presiding: Gwendolyn Bradley, American Assn. of Univ. Professors
Speakers: Lenore Beaky, La Guardia Community Coll., City Univ. of New York; Mayra Besosa, California State Univ., San Marcos; Cary Nelson, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana; Jennifer Nichols, American Assn. of Univ. Professors; James Turk, Canadian Assn. of Univ. Teachers
The AAUP has been instrumental in making academic freedom a fundamental professional value in the academy. In this roundtable, participants will discuss individual versus departmental or institutional academic freedom, special issues faced by graduate students and contingent faculty members, and the academic freedom landscape in Canada.

70. Improving Non-Tenure-Track Appointments: Current Models from California, Colorado, and Missouri
1:45–3:00 p.m., 405, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession
Presiding: Nicolas Shumway, Univ. of Texas, Austin
1. "Dogs over Fences: Getting Security of Employment without Perfect Guarantees," Benjamin Harder, Univ. of California, Riverside
2. "NTT Participation in Faculty Governance in Colorado: An Effort to Change Culture," Sue Rowe Doe, Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins
3. "Imagining a Career off the Tenure Track: New Titles and Promotion Guidelines from Missouri," Elizabeth Landers, Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis

121. Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages
3:30–4:45 p.m., 403A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages
Presiding: David Goldberg, MLA
Speakers: Mari Noda, Ohio State Univ., Columbus; Dominique van Hooff, San José State Univ.

Demonstration interviews of candidates for positions teaching foreign languages and literature will be analyzed and critiqued by audience members, interviewers, and interviewees.

162. Collective Work, Working Collectively
5:15–6:30 p.m., 409B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession
Presiding: Cary A. DiPietro, Univ. of Toronto, Mississauga
Speakers: Elizabeth Hoffman, California State Univ., Long Beach; Maria Maisto, New Faculty Majority; Gary Rhoades, American Assn. of Univ. Professors; Nicolas Shumway, Univ. of Texas, Austin; James Turk, Canadian Assn. of Univ. Teachers
This roundtable will consider both the philosophical and practical dimensions of academic labor and explore how they are related. Specifically, how do (or should) definitions of work affect academic employment practices, and how are our employment practices dependent (or not) on our implicit and explicit definitions of academic work? To approach this topic, we are asking participants to respond to two questions: (1) What is the nature of academic work? (2) What does it mean to work collectively?

167. The Academy in Hard Times
7:00–8:15 p.m., 408A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Office of the Executive Director
Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park
Speakers: Barbara Bowen, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334; Reed Way Dasenbrock, Univ. of Hawai‘i, Mānoa; Monica F. Jacobe, Princeton Univ.; Christopher John Newfield, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; Gary Rhoades, American Assn. of Univ. Professors
Richard Alan Yarborough, Univ. of California, Los Angeles

Friday, 7 January

188. International Graduate Students and Junior Faculty Members: Shaping Our Professional Landscape
8:30–9:45 a.m., Atrium II, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
Presiding: Giovanna Montenegro, Univ. of California, Davis
Speakers: D. Emily Hicks, San Diego State Univ.; Jens Kugele, Georgetown Univ.; Fei Shi, Univ. of California, Davis; Irene Sywenky, Univ. of Alberta
This roundtable is primarily interested in the ways that the role of international students and younger scholars raises important questions for the academic community beyond questions of cultural displacement and identity. At stake are not merely the individual identities of the students and issues of access but also the institutional identities that shape the professional landscape of our (foreign) language and literature departments. Among the central questions are, For which system are international graduate students being trained? What markets are they being initiated into? How do different marketplaces value different ways of knowledge construction?

204. Deprofessionalized?
8:30–9:45 a.m., Plaza III, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Division on Teaching as a Profession
Presiding: Marc Bousquet, Santa Clara Univ.
Speakers: Kim L. Emery, Univ. of Florida; Lisa Jeanne Fluet, Boston Coll.; Monica F. Jacobe, Princeton Univ.; William Lyne, Western Washington Univ.; Bruce W. Robbins, Columbia Univ.; Jeffrey J. Williams, Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Perspectives on the forces and trends reshaping faculty work.
For discussion materials, visit http://marcbousquet.net/ after 15 Dec.

207. Lives and Archives: Finding, Framing, and Circulating Narrated Lives Now
10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Platinum Salon D, J. W. Marriott
The Presidential Forum
Presiding: Sidonie Smith, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor
1. "Lives beyond Archives," Marianne Hirsch, Columbia Univ.; Leo Spitzer, Dartmouth Coll.
2. "Cosmopolitan or Creole Lives?" Françoise Lionnet, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
3. "Between Lost and Found," Nancy K. Miller, Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York
4. "Virtual Vérité," Chon A. Noriega, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
5. "Embedded Lives: The House of Fiction, the House of History," David Palumbo-Liu, Stanford Univ.
6. "Vandalizing Life Writing at Illinois: Heap of Birds's Signs of Indigenous Life," Robert Warrior, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
For linked sessions, see meetings 336 and 505.

285. Using Your Foreign Language Proficiency and Cultural Expertise in a Federal Government Career
1:30–3:30 p.m., 403A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Office of Research
Presiding: Rusty Shughart, Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Speakers: Richard Donovan, Defense Language Inst. Foreign Language Center; Tahir Hafeez, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Julie Johnson, Dept. of State; William Rivers, National Language Service Corps; Jason Smith, National Security Agency; Peter J. Sursi, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Maha S. Tannous, Federal Bureau of Investigation
This workshop will provide an overview of various federal careers that use skills in languages and cultural expertise—translator, interpreter, instructor, intelligence analyst, language analyst, foreign language program manager, foreign service officer, and law enforcement officer. Recruiters and subject matter experts will discuss career opportunities and the application process. A question-and-answer period will follow.

330. Representation and the Problem of Democracy
3:30–4:45 p.m., Diamond Salon 7, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus
Presiding: Swati Rana, Univ. of California, Berkeley
1. "Regional Modernism: The Politics of Democratic Architecture and Domestic Narrative in Late Modernism," Christina Van Houten, Univ. of Florida
2. "'Ugly and Undistinguished': Democratic Taste in *The Blacker the Berry*," Mary Unger, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
3. "Local Representations: The Alternative Democracies of Antebellum Fiction," Bert Emerson, Claremont Graduate Univ.
4. "'We Are Two Nations': *U.S.A.* and the Democratization of Bartolomeo Vanzetti," Dan Colson, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
For abstracts, write to dmcolson@illinois.edu.

336. Lives and Archives: Giving, Taking, and Circulating Testimony
3:30–4:45 p.m., Platinum Salon C, J. W. Marriott
A linked session arranged in conjunction with the Presidential Forum **Lives and Archives: Finding, Framing, and Circulating Narrated Lives Now (207)**
Presiding: William Leake Andrews, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1. "'What Was I?': Literary Witness and the Testimonial Imperative," Leigh Gilmore, Scripps Coll.
2. "Needing Permission to Write: Human Subject Research," William Craig Howes, Univ. of Hawai'i, Mānoa
3. "Letters from Nowhere," Gillian L. Whitlock, Univ. of Queensland

371. The Academic Workplace
5:15–6:30 p.m., Olympic II, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Office of Programs
Presiding: Nelly Furman, MLA

1. “The Functions of the Office of the Dean,” John P. Zomchick, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville
2. “The Expectations of the Chair,” Malcolm Alan Compitello, Univ. of Arizona
3. “Navigating the Legal Labyrinth,” Lynne Thompson, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
4. “What Is Academic Freedom?” John W. Mowitt, Univ. of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Cash Bar Arranged by the Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
7:00–8:15 p.m., Olympic II, J. W. Marriott

Saturday, 8 January

434. Graduate Students and Academic Freedom
8:30–9:45 a.m., Diamond Salon 7, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities
Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park
Speakers: Dan Colson, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana; Jessica Lucero, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas; Cary Nelson, American Assn. of Univ. Professors; Jennifer Nichols, American Assn. of Univ. Professors; Matthew Thiele, Auburn Univ., Auburn; Michael Verderame, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
For faculty members, academic freedom pertains to freedom in research and the publication of the results thereof, freedom in teaching, and freedom to speak as a public citizen. But for graduate students, the meaning of academic freedom remains profoundly unclear. How can we best understand the ideals of academic freedom in relation to the actual conditions under which graduate students do their research and teaching?

500. “Can I Google That?”: Graduate Students Speak Out about the *MLA International Bibliography*
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Diamond Salon 8, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*
Presiding: Anna Faktorovich, Pennsylvania Highlands Community Coll.
1. “Centering and Networking the *MLA International Bibliography*,” Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York
2. “Research in English: A Comparative Study of *ABELL* and *MLAIB*,” Arun Pokhrel, Univ. of Florida

505. Lives and Archives in Graphic and Digital Modes
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Platinum Salon C, J. W. Marriott
A linked session arranged in conjunction with the Presidential Forum **Lives and Archives: Finding, Framing, and Circulating Narrated Lives Now (207)**
Presiding: Julia Watson, Ohio State Univ., Columbus
1. “Comics Form and Narrating Lives,” Hillary L. Chute, Harvard Univ.
2. “Automedial Ghosts,” Brian Rotman, Ohio State Univ., Columbus
3. “What Is Worth Saving? The Salvage Work of Comics,” Theresa Tensuan, Haverford Coll.

518. Aesthetic Narration in Nineteenth-Century America
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Olympic II, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus
Presiding: Rebeccah Bechtold, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
1. "'The Gaze and the Gut': Aesthetic Narration at the Level of the Body," Lauren Klein, Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York
2. "'She Sings Herself': Jenny Lind and P. T. Barnum's Gallery of Wonders," Rebeccah Bechtold
3. "'A Very Singular Work': Sophia Hawthorne's Anxiety of Originality," Christa Vogelius, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Respondent: Paul Gilmore, California State Univ., Long Beach

542. Graduate Students of Color: Strategies for Success
1:45–3:00 p.m., Olympic II, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada and the MLA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
Presiding: Marissa K. López, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
Speakers: Giovanna Montenegro, Univ. of California, Davis; Rafael M. Pérez-Torres, Univ. of California, Los Angeles; Luziris Turi, Univ. of Houston; Dana Williams, Howard Univ.
This interactive workshop will identify success strategies for graduate students and junior faculty members of color as they negotiate their academic careers and the job market. Following a brief overview of relevant data, we will discuss proven strategies for recruiting, retaining, and mentoring graduate students of color and focus on challenges faced by junior faculty members of color.

545. Queer Studies and the Future of the Profession
1:45–3:00 p.m., Diamond Salon 8, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the GL/Q Caucus for the Modern Languages
Presiding: Lourdes M. Torres, DePaul Univ.
1. "Queer Administration," Donald E. Hall, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown
2. "Gendered Labor in the Not-So-Queer Academy," Sharon Patricia Holland, Duke Univ.
3. "Queer Theory and Public Deliberation: Queer Research and Social Exchange in and beyond the Academy," William J. Spurlin, Univ. of Sussex

562. Careers in Two-Year Colleges
1:45–3:00 p.m., Diamond Salon 2, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the ADE Executive Committee
Presiding: Thomas Hurley, Diablo Valley Coll., CA
Speakers: Stacey Lee Donohue, Central Oregon Community Coll.; Lisa R. Schneider, Columbus State Community Coll., OH
Panelists with experience at two-year colleges will reflect on the career opportunities that exist at two-year institutions, their advantages, and the particular kinds of background and experience that qualify one for them.

Sunday, 9 January

780. Now What? After the MLA Convention
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Diamond Salon 7, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
Presiding: Monica F. Jacobe, Princeton Univ.
Speakers: Alain-Philippe Durand, Univ. of Arizona; Anna Faktorovich, Pennsylvania Highlands Community Coll.; Gail E. Finney, Univ. of California, Davis; Tobias B. Gregory, Catholic Univ. of America
This session will explore what job seekers can and should do in the weeks after the convention, covering such topics as campus visits, continuing the search, and shaping a career trajectory.
To submit questions for discussion, write to monicafjacobe@usa.net.

811. The Future of the Graduate Research Methods Class
1:45–3:00 p.m., Diamond Salon 2, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the Division on Methods of Literary Research
Presiding: Jude V. Nixon, Salem State Coll.
1. "Entering the Conversation: A Case Study in Research Methods for the Twenty-First-Century Graduate Student," Karin E. Westman, Kansas State Univ.
2. "Hands On: Practice and Theory (in That Order) in the Graduate Proseminar," Christopher Looby, Univ. of California, Los Angeles
3. "Something Old, Something New: Graduate Pedagogy and the Future of Literary Theory," Paul Kelleher, Emory Univ.

Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession
Function: Working through June 2013, will consider a range of curricular, intellectual, and professional issues that affect graduate students in language and literature; will consider publication and other projects that will assist graduate students while they pursue their education, gain experience as teachers, seek employment, and make a transition to the workplace; will bring issues that concern graduate students to the attention of the staff, the Executive Council, and other MLA committees.

Staff liaisons: Nelly Furman and Douglas Steward (csgsp@mla.org)

Dan Colson, 2010–13
Monica F. Jacobe, 2009–12; 2010–12 (Coch.)
Jens Kugele, 2008–11
Giovanna Montenegro, 2009–12
Atia Sattar, 2010–13
Heather Steffen, 2010–13
Tyechia Thompson, 2010–12
Luziris Pineda Turi, 2008–11; 2009–11 (Coch.)