Annual Report on the Activities of the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada, 2012–13

The charge of the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada (CLPC) is to develop "projects designed to encourage dialogue across ethnic and racial boundaries and to promote intercultural perspectives on and comparative analyses of the literatures and languages of ethnic groups historically underrepresented in the United States and Canada." For the 2012–13 academic year, the CLPC continued to work on proposing and completing various projects that promote ethnic studies in language and literature and on addressing concerns pertaining to scholars of color in the profession. The CLPC continued the tradition of sponsoring panels at the annual convention (with the occasional intention of developing projects from these panels) and also accomplished additional goals as outlined below.

CLPC-Sponsored Panels at MLA Conventions

The following panels took place at the 2013 MLA convention in Boston.

Publishing Indigeneity: Future, Fact, and Fiction

Presiding: Frederick H. White, Slippery Rock Univ.

1. "Why the Most Popular 'Indigenous' Writer in America Is Still Tony Hillerman," Susan Berry Brill de Ramírez, Bradley Univ.
2. "Back to the Indigenous Future: Publishing Bones and Wind," Rachela Permenter, Slippery Rock Univ.

Ethnic Studies in an Era of Retrenchment

Presiding: Richard T. Rodríguez, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

1. "(Re)Occupying the Civil: From White Settler Centrism to Anti-Racist Radicalism," Cynthia Franklin, Univ. of Hawai'i, Mānoa
2. "Thinking While Brown: Ethnic Studies and Arizona's Culture Wars," Sandra K. Soto, Univ. of Arizona
3. "Growing in the Era of Retrenchment," Sandra K. Stanley, California State Univ., Northridge

Responding: Hiram Perez, Vassar Coll.

Race, Girlhood, and Social Justice in Children's Literature

(Cosponsored with the Children's Literature Association)

Presiding: Michelle Holley Martin, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia

1. "A Credit to Their People: Race and Resilient Rebirth in Ntozake Shange's *Whitewash* and Alma Flor Ada's *My Name Is Maria Isabel*," Ada McKenzie, Coll. of the Bahamas

2. "Battling for Opportunity: The Girl Soldiers of *Shuttered Windows* and *Warriors Don't Cry*," Sara Schwebel, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia

3. "Fired Up: Compromising Social Justice in the Figure of the Girl," Sarah Sahn, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

Responding: Kristen Proehl, Clemson Univ.

The following panels were arranged at our meeting at the MLA office in New York City on 24–25 September 2012 and will take place at the 2014 MLA convention in Chicago.

Transnational Indigeneities against the Law

Presiding: Cheryl L. Suzack, Univ. of Toronto

1. "Sonic Sovereignty in D'Arcy McNickle's *The Surrounded*," Beth H. Piatote, Univ. of California, Berkeley
2. "Legal Narratives as Cultural Texts: *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* (1991) and the Contemporary Formation of Oral History Narratives," Cheryl L. Suzack
3. "In the Shadow of the Marshall Court: Nineteenth-Century Native American Writings on Removal," Sabine Meyer, Univ. of Osnabruck

Global Ed?

Presiding: Sue J. Kim, Univ. of Massachusetts, Lowell

1. "From Atlanta to Baghdad: Regional Literature in the Global Classroom," Gina Caison, Georgia State Univ.
2. "Homecoming: Global Ed and the Homeland Security State," Keith Feldman, Univ. of California, Berkeley
3. "Splitting Hairs: American Academic English and the Semantics of Cultural Imperialism," Shawn Higgins, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs

The following preconvention workshop—a first in the history of the CLPC—was approved by the Program Committee and will take place at the 2014 MLA convention in Chicago. The workshop fulfills a longstanding goal of the CLPC: to reach out to K–12 educators and promote ethnic American literature in secondary school curricula.

Writing in the Windy City: Chicago-Based Ethnic American Literary Cultures in K–12 Curricula

Presiding: Anita Mannur, Miami Univ., Oxford

Speakers: John Alba Cutler, Northwestern Univ.; Olga Herrera, Univ. of Saint Thomas, MN; Amanda Marek, Univ. of Saint Thomas, MN; Sonia Alejandra Rodriguez, Univ. of California, Riverside; Mirelsie Velazquez, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

This invitation-only session aims to create dialogue among scholars who examine Chicago-based ethnic American literature and K–12 educators who currently teach or wish to adopt novels, poetry, essays, and memoirs by ethnic American writers whose work focuses on Chicago.

CLPC Publication Project

Ifeoma Kiddoe Nwankwo and I successfully secured the publication in *Profession* of a special section on the MLA report, *Data on Humanities Doctorate Recipients and Faculty Members by Race and Ethnicity*. The special section will appear in the 2013 issue of the journal and will be available on *MLA Commons* before the end of the year. Along with our cowritten introduction and a conclusion by Doug Steward, the section will feature essays by Frances Aparicio, Robert Warrior, and Dana Williams.

Ongoing and Future Projects

Members of the committee continue to work toward securing funding for a seminar on sustainability. Mentoring has been a constant concern for the CLPC, and new members are engaged in building on the efforts of former members to formalize support networks and tenure/promotion strategies for junior faculty members of color in the humanities. Another recent endeavor of the committee is to build connections with community organizations (particularly libraries, archives, cultural centers located where future conventions will take place, etc.).

The CLPC remains a dynamic group of scholars for which the MLA provides time, space, and institutional support. Each element of the MLA's commitment holds significant value not only for committee members but also for others deeply invested in the literatures of people of color in the United States and Canada. With my departure from the committee, Anita Mannur and Sue Kim will serve as cochairs in 2013–14.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard T. Rodríguez
CLPC Cochair, 2011–13

23 September 2013