AHA and MLA

The American Historical Association is holding its annual meeting in Chicago from 3 to 6 January. To promote greater collaboration and communication among humanities scholars, the MLA and the AHA have agreed to recognize and honor each other’s conference badges. Use the AHA filter in the online Program and app for sessions being held at both conventions.

About Convention Locations

Convention sessions and the registration and welcome centers are in the Hyatt Regency Chicago (Hyatt Regency) and the Sheraton Grand Chicago (Sheraton Grand). The exhibit hall is in the Hyatt Regency, and the MLA Career Center is in the Fairmont Chicago.

Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year’s meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider regular staff and committee reports on association activities, the scheduled annual increase of 2.5% in the dues amount for every membership category, a recommendation for a change in the fee structure for paid life membership, the final report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Advocacy Policies and Procedures, and proposed constitutional amendments. Also on the assembly’s agenda is an hour-long open discussion of power differentials in graduate education. Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/DA-Agenda-2019).

Since the 1 October deadline for submitting motions and regular resolutions has passed, only emergency resolutions may be added to the assembly’s agenda. Members may submit emergency resolutions to the chair of the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee up to twenty-four hours before the start of the assembly meeting. The last opportunity for submitting an emergency resolution comes at the Open Hearing on Resolutions at the convention (session 266). Please see the second section in “Checklists for Submitting Resolutions” (www.mla.org/Checklists-for-Submitting-Resolutions) for information on submission requirements.

The assembly meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, 5 January, in Grand Ballroom EF in the Hyatt Regency (Ballroom level, East Tower). Members may address the assembly on any of the issues on the assembly’s agenda. Because the assembly meeting is open-ended, latecomers will have a chance to join in important discussions of association policies.

The open hearing and the assembly meeting are open only to MLA members and accredited journalists. Please remember to wear your badge.

2019 Election Results

Second Vice President. Barbara Fuchs (Univ. of California, Los Angeles) was elected second vice president of the association. She will serve in that office from 7 January 2019 through the close of the January 2020 convention and will automatically become first vice president in 2020, serving in that office through the close of the January 2021 convention. Her term as president will begin after the close of the January 2021 convention and will continue through the close of the January 2022 convention.

Executive Council. Ann Kalscheur Suarez (San Diego Mesa Coll. and Irvine Valley Coll., CA), Anjali Prabhu (Wellesley Coll.), and Julie Shoults (Muhlenberg Coll.) were elected to at-large seats on the Executive Council for four-year terms (7 Jan. 2019 through the close of the Jan. 2022 convention).

Delegate Assembly. Fifty-three forum delegates, seventeen professional-issues delegates, and fifteen regional delegates were elected to the assembly for three-year terms (7 Jan. 2019 through the close of the 2022 convention). Their names appear in the announcement of election results at www.mla.org/About-Us/Governance/Elections/Results-of-the-2018-MLA-Elections.

Forum Executive Committees. One hundred sixty-one members were elected to serve on forum executive committees. Most terms are five years (7 Jan. 2019 through the close of the Jan. 2024 convention). The names of those elected appear in the announcement of election results at www.mla.org/About-Us/Governance/Elections/Results-of-the-2018-MLA-Elections.

Appropriate Conduct at the Convention

The largest scholarly meeting in the humanities, the MLA Annual Convention brings together thousands of members to discuss new research, participate in workshops, and build their professional networks. The MLA is committed to providing an inclusive and harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, religion, or other group identity. MLA policies on discrimination and harassment and on professional ethics are included in the Convention Guide. We also encourage those participating in interviews at the convention to review “Dos and Don’ts for MLA Convention Interviews,” on the MLA Web site. Read the complete guidelines at www.mla.org/Appropriate-Conduct.

Guest Passes to Sessions

MLA members and all others in the profession that the MLA serves are required to register in order to participate in or attend sessions. A convention speaker may obtain a pass for a guest who has no professional

Convention App and Online Program. Download the MLA 2019 app to create your own convention schedule, be alerted to session updates, learn about exhibitors, and have easy access to session information, maps, and other convention details. A searchable program for the convention is also available online (mla19.org).

The Convention Daily is published three times during the convention and is available free at the MLA registration and welcome centers, the headquarters offices, and other locations. One more issue will appear, on Saturday, 5 January.
Guest Passes to the Exhibit Hall
MLA convention registrants may obtain free passes to the exhibit hall for guests they accompany in the hall. Persons who are not registered for the convention and who are not accompanied by registrants may purchase a one-day pass to the exhibit hall for $10. These passes are available at the exhibitor information booth (Hyatt Regency, Ballroom level, East Tower).

MLA PubCentral
Hyatt Regency, Exhibit Hall, East Tower
4–5 January, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
6 January, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Visit MLA PubCentral for everything related to MLA publications. Shop for MLA titles, explore the MLA International Bibliography (and spin the MLA Bib prize wheel), find out about The MLA Style Center, update your MLA Commons profile, and browse the winners of MLA’s publication prizes, all in one central location.

All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30% with free shipping available to domestic addresses. And if you buy more than $30 in MLA titles, you will receive a free copy of MLA Members Cook!

MLA Gift Shop
Brand new this year, the MLA Gift Shop offers unique, MLA-branded merchandise, including the much anticipated MLA cookbook containing recipes contributed by MLA members.

Friday, 4 January, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Join us for a wine reception to celebrate the MLA’s new titles published in 2018.

Saturday, 5 January, 10:00 a.m.
Join us for coffee and pastries to celebrate the release of the MLA International Bibliography with Full Text.

Event Highlights: 4 January

Professional Head Shots
9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Exhibit Hall, East Tower
Visit the Bedford / St. Martin’s / Macmillan Learning exhibit booth (300 and 301) to sign up.

211. Presidential Plenary: Textual Transactions
10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Hyatt Regency, Grand Ballroom A, Ballroom level, East Tower
Linked sessions: 380: Humanities in Five, 4 January, 5:15–6:30 p.m. (Hyatt Regency, Grand Ballroom A, Ballroom level, East Tower); 440: Textual Transactions through Public Pathways: Cultural Interventions in and beyond the Academy, 5 January, 10:15–11:30 a.m. (Hyatt Regency, Crystal Ballroom C, Lobby level, West Tower)

253. MLA Style Workshop: Documenting Sources with the MLA Handbook
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Toronto, Ballroom level, West Tower

American Writers Museum: An Evening Conversation
4:00–5:00 p.m., American Writers Museum
Learn about the creation of the first museum dedicated to American writers through a conversation with three of its curators and designers, led by the museum president, Cary Cranston. Light snacks will be pro-
vided. Visit the MLA registration desk (Hyatt Regency, Ballroom level, East Tower) for registration details.

389. Presidential Address

6:45 p.m., Sheraton Grand, Sheraton Ballroom IV–V, Ballroom level 4
The MLA executive director, Paula M. Krebs, will report on the association’s 2018 activities, and the MLA president, Anne Ruggles Gere, will deliver the Presidential Address. The session is open to the public.

Cultural Excursions: 4 January

For questions or cancellations, visit the MLA membership desk (Hyatt Regency, Ballroom level, East Tower).
2:00–4:00 p.m., American Writers Museum
3:30–5:00 p.m., Private Wine Tasting at the Chopping Block

MLA Career Center and Professional Development: 4 January

Job Counseling
MLA Career Center, Fairmont Chicago, International Ballroom, level 2
Stop by the MLA Career Center for twenty-five-minute one-on-one counseling sessions.

Preparing for the Career Fair
10:00–10:45 a.m., Fairmont Chicago, Career Center lounge, International Ballroom, level 2
Are you planning on attending the Possible Futures Career Fair? Want some help perfecting your pitch? Then head to the Career Center lounge for support from career services professionals at our pop-up event.

Using ImaginePhD for Career Exploration
11:00 a.m.—12:00 noon, Fairmont Chicago, Career Center lounge, International Ballroom, level 2
ImaginePhD is a career exploration and planning tool designed specifically for humanities and social science PhDs. At these pop-up events, you will get hands-on experience using the site, as well as guidance about how to interpret and act on the results. Please bring a tablet or laptop.

Exploring Senior Leadership Positions
1:00–4:30 p.m., Fairmont Chicago, Regal, level B2
Leading academic search firms Greenwood/Asher and Academic Search will be on hand to answer questions about transitioning into upper administration and working with a search firm.

Possible Futures Career Fair
1:00–4:30 p.m., Fairmont Chicago, Imperial Ballroom, level B2
Meet a range of employers who are interested in speaking with prospective applicants from MLA fields. Complimentary coffee available from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Programs Showcase
1:00–4:30 p.m., Fairmont Chicago, Imperial Ballroom, level B2
Share and discover innovative programs and curricula and discuss best practices.

Twitter
Follow @MLANews for updates and tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla19) and session hashtags (e.g., #s389).

2020 Presidential Theme

Simon Gikandi, the 2019–20 president of the MLA, has chosen Being Human as the presidential theme for the 2020 MLA Annual Convention in Seattle.

The theme invites members to reflect on the role of literature and language in defining the nature of the human in the face of what appears to be its diminishment and to provoke debates on the role of the humanities in a changing world. What has been the role of the creative imagination in marking out the social spaces of what we call humanity? How has literature been called upon to bear witnesses to both the possibility and limits of the human in the modern world? How has the human condition been thought and written about in diverse historical periods and geographic spaces? Can literature and its criticism continue to inspire the desire for human freedom in an age of intolerance? What is the role of a diverse community of writers and readers in the thinking of the world and our relation to it?

Members are encouraged to think about these questions from the greatest range of perspectives possible—ethics and ethnicity, linguistics and literary history, environmental studies, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory, criticism, writing, composition studies, pedagogy, public culture, and civic engagement. In addition to the main theme, panels can be imagined in a number of clusters and subthemes: defining the human, literature and human rights, citizenship and belonging, technology and the new media, encounters in the classroom and workplace, and the public sphere.

Visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/cfp_main) to post a call for papers for the 2020 convention.

Exhibit Hall

Remember to wear your badge!

Hyatt Regency, Exhibit Hall, East Tower
4–5 January: 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
6 January: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

MLA Historical Highlights. Follow the white circles through the exhibit hall and discover some interesting anecdotes from the MLA archives. What musician performed at the 1934 convention? When was the MLA’s first female president elected? Did someone say saber duel? How about an MLA cruise?

Download the MLA 2019 app for exhibitor details and floor plan. Pick up a copy of the exhibit hall floor plan or the Convention Guide for an updated listing of exhibitors. Admission to the exhibit hall is restricted to persons wearing badges or carrying appropriate passes.
Friday, 4 January

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. LectureSource (booth 116). LectureSource, Inc., is offering free T-shirts to the first one hundred visitors to the booth as well as other fun prizes throughout the convention.

9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Bedford / St. Martin’s / Macmillan Learning (booths 300 and 301). Macmillan Learning is running a professional photo booth. Have your photo taken for your LinkedIn profile or résumé—just in time for interviews. Get ready for your turn in front of the bright lights!

11:00 a.m. Peter Lang (booth 107). James Beasley will be signing copies of his book, Rhetoric at the University of Chicago.

11:30 a.m.—12:00 noon. JSTOR (booth 425). Join the JSTOR Lives of Literature editors for a tour of the new collection, see new tools for research on the platform, and learn about a free course to help your students get up to speed on college-level research skills.

3:00 p.m. Duke University Press (booths 126 and 128). Please join us for a wine reception celebrating journals that have recently joined the press’s publishing program: Critical Times, English Language Notes, Journal of Korean Studies, Prism, Meridians, and Qui Parle.

3:00 p.m. University of Michigan Press (booth 130). Come say hello to 2018 MLA President Anne Ruggles Gere at our booth as she signs copies of her book Developing Writers in Higher Education: A Longitudinal Study.

3:00—4:00 p.m. JSTOR (booth 425). Meet Cathy Halley, the editor of JSTOR Daily. JSTOR Daily provides context for current events with articles grounded in JSTOR’s peer-reviewed content. Join Cathy for conversation, highlights of articles aligned with teaching, and information on how to pitch a story to the Daily (it’s a paid gig!).

4:30—5:30 p.m. MLA PubCentral. Join us for a wine reception to celebrate the MLA’s new titles published in 2018.

Saturday, 5 January

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. LectureSource (booth 116). LectureSource, Inc., is offering free T-shirts to the first one hundred visitors to the booth as well as other fun prizes throughout the convention.

9:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Bedford / St. Martin’s / Macmillan Learning (booths 300 and 301). Macmillan Learning is running a professional photo booth. Have your photo taken for your LinkedIn profile or résumé—just in time for interviews. Get ready for your turn in front of the bright lights!

10:00 a.m. MLA PubCentral. Join us for coffee and pastries to celebrate the release of the MLA International Bibliography with Full Text.

11:30 a.m. Peter Lang (booth 107). Author May Spangler will be signing copies of her book, Paris in Architecture, Literature, and Art.

11:30 a.m.—12:00 noon and 3:00—3:30 p.m. JSTOR (booth 425). Join the JSTOR Lives of Literature editors for a tour of the new collection, see new tools for research on the platform, and learn about a free course to help your students get up to speed on college-level research skills.

4:00—5:00 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Press (booth 426). Join us in celebrating two new JHUP titles: Kathleen Fitzpatrick’s Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University and John Warner’s Why They Can’t Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities.

4:30—5:30 p.m. Princeton University Press (booth 220). Join Princeton University Press for a reception to celebrate this year’s new books and award winners.

Sunday, 6 January

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. LectureSource (booth 116). LectureSource, Inc., is offering free T-shirts to the first one hundred visitors to the booth as well as other fun prizes throughout the convention.

11:30 a.m.—12:00 noon. JSTOR (booth 425). Join the JSTOR Lives of Literature editors for a tour of the new collection, see new tools for research on the platform, and learn about a free course to help your students get up to speed on college-level research skills.

2019 Program Update

The following list includes changes in meeting times and locations, speakers (and their presentation titles and affiliations) who joined the MLA or who agreed to speak at a session after the 7 April deadline for inclusion in the Program, and other corrections. The list does not announce speaker cancellations. Program updates are subject to the approval of the MLA staff; please write to updates2019@mla.org with any changes.

Friday, 4 January

191. Critical Pedagogies and German Studies: Implementation and Inclusion
8:30—9:45 a.m., Colorado, Sheraton Grand

234. The Persistence of Boethius
10:15—11:30 a.m., Roosevelt 1, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Kenneth Hawley, Lubbock Christian U

235. Imaging Hungary through Literature
10:15—11:30 a.m., Goldcoast, Sheraton Grand
Additional speaker: Shoshana Milgram Knapp, Virginia Polytechnic Inst and State U

243. Ethnographic Fictions
10:15—11:30 a.m., Michigan 1AB, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Colleen Eils, United States Military Acad.
271. Spanish and Portuguese for Specific Purposes in the Twenty-First Century: Engaging the Humanities
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Mississippi, Sheraton Grand
Presiding: Sheri Spaine Long, American Assn. of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

275. Résumé Workshop
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Acapulco, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Jennifer Furlong, Graduate Center, City U of New York

281. Textual Transactions of Native Literary Pedagogy
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Roosevelt 3, Hyatt Regency
Additional speakers: April J. Anson, U of Oregon; Dan Radus, State U of New York, Cortland

283. What’s “Rights” Got to Do with It? Adjuncts Are Professionals Too!
1:45–3:00 p.m., Toronto, Hyatt Regency
Additional speaker: Mary-Beth Brophy, Ocean County C, NJ

284. Post-critique and the Profession
1:45–3:00 p.m., Randolph 3, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Peter Lurie, U of Richmond

297. “The Best of Its Kind, Whatever the Kind”: A Roundtable on PMLA
1:45–3:00 p.m., Acapulco, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Angela Gibson, MLA

306. Image-Text Encounters in South Asian Graphic Narratives
1:45–3:00 p.m., Colorado, Sheraton Grand
Presiding: Anna Waymack, Cornell U

307. Disability, Disclosure, and the Academy
1:45–3:00 p.m., Columbus G, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Kavita Daiya, George Washington U

308. Writing in the Age of Anxiety
1:45–3:00 p.m., Columbus AB, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Jean Ferguson Carr, U of Pittsburgh

338. Žižek! Politics, Philosophy, Psychoanalysis
3:30–4:45 p.m., Toronto, Hyatt Regency
“Positing the Presuppositions: Marx with Žižek,” Bruno Bosteels, Columbia U
Respondent: Jean-Michel Rabaté, U of Pennsylvania

5:15–6:30 p.m., Acapulco, Hyatt Regency
This session has been canceled.

375. Late Medieval Epic and Societal Changes in France and Spain
5:15–6:30 p.m., Ontario, Sheraton Grand
This session has been canceled.

380. Humanities in Five
5:15–6:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency
Additional speakers: Santa Arias, U of Kansas; Devoney Looser, Arizona State U

Saturday, 5 January

454. Touching Empire
10:15–11:30 a.m., Gold Coast, Hyatt Regency
“Tactile Empire,” Rajani Sudan, Southern Methodist U

470. Interdisciplinarity and Its Implications for Equitable Education in Composition Studies
10:15–11:30 a.m., Water Tower, Hyatt Regency
“A Deaf Writer’s Experience in Translingual Practice in Writing Center,” Manako Yabe, U of Illinois, Chicago

484. New Perspectives in Book History
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Roosevelt 1, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Erin Ann Smith, U of Texas, Dallas

496. Decolonizing the Oceans in Early American Writing
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Randolph 2, Hyatt Regency
“The Uncommon and Surprising Times of Briton Hammon,” John Casey, Brown U

501. Peter Abrahams, RIP—Commemorating a Pan-African Life
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Plaza Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency
“Peter Abrahams and Routes of Connection in the Global South,” Nesrine Chahine, Stockton U

542. Getting Funded in the Humanities: An NEH Workshop
3:00–5:00 p.m., Columbus IJ, Hyatt Regency
This session has been canceled.

559. Making Women: The Female Readership of Dante’s Works
3:30–4:45 p.m., Michigan B, Sheraton Grand
“Maria Francesca Rossetti’s A Shadow of Dante: Negotiating Scholarly Identity in the Age of Patriarchal Dantismo (1870s–1910s),” Federica Coluzzi, U of Manchester

580. Sweet Home Chicago? Rethinking Blues Literature
5:15–6:30 p.m., Acapulco, Hyatt Regency
“Plantation Futures Blues: Refusing Forgetting and James Hannon’s Delicious Foods,” Eve Dunbar, Vassar C

599. Connected Academics: A Showcase of Career Diversity
5:15–6:30 p.m., Plaza Ballroom B, Hyatt Regency
Additional speaker: Amanda Norton, Northwestern U

617. Cash Bar Arranged by the Stanford University Department of English and Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages [new location]
7:15–8:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom B, Hyatt Regency
Sunday, 6 January

631. The Neurodiverse Nineteenth Century [new time]
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., New Orleans, Hyatt Regency

667. Teaching Holocaust Literature and Culture in Relation to Technology and Diversity in the Twenty-First-Century Classroom II
10:15–11:30 a.m., Randolph 1, Hyatt Regency
This session has been canceled.

674. New Perspectives in Ecocriticism: Latinx Approaches
10:15–11:30 a.m., Roosevelt 3, Hyatt Regency
Presiding: Maia Gil’Adi, U of Massachusetts, Lowell

689. The Revolution Might Not Be Televised: Intersectional Feminisms and Popular Culture
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Grand Suite 3, Hyatt Regency
This session has been canceled.

709. Orientalism and Its Discontents: Rethinking Approaches to Islam and Islamic Studies in Modern Europe
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Mayfair, Sheraton Grand
This session has been canceled.

710. Producing Global Performance
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Randolph 3, Hyatt Regency