The 2015 MLA Annual Convention presidential theme is Negotiating Sites of Memory.

The phrase sites of memory has many possible meanings. Like individual and collective memories expressed in verbal and other semiotic forms, the phrase is not fully translatable: it does, however, represent and misrepresent something from the past with implications for various presents and imagined futures. As a feminist scholar who has spent most of her career studying and teaching artifacts that were initially produced in times retrospectively (and still debatably) named medieval, Renaissance, and early modern, I hope that the theme Negotiating Sites of Memory will foster conversations among those who define and value that which is not modern according to various chronological schemes and theoretical paradigms.

Margaret W. Ferguson
2014–15 MLA President

Negotiating Sites of Memory is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2015 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Friday, 9 January

219. The Presidential Forum: Negotiating Sites of Memory
10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, 301, VCC West
Presiding: Margaret W. Ferguson, Univ. of California, Davis
1. “Bush Sites / Bush Stories: Politics of Place and Memory in Indigenous Northern Canada,” Peter Kulchyski, Univ. of Manitoba
2. “Mediation: Historical Memory against Incarceration and Punitive Actions,” Wai Chee Dimock, Yale Univ.
3. “The Politics of Competing Memories: Performing Palestinian and Israeli We in the Aftermath,” Ishah Salou, Univ. of Amsterdam
4. “Literary Archaeology at the Temple Mount: Recovering the Comic Version of the Sacrifice of Isaac,” Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem

316. Modes of Memory, Modes of Production: Across Indigenous Americas
1:45–3:00 p.m., 109, VCC West
Presiding: Margaret W. Ferguson, Univ. of California, Davis; Peter Kulchyski, Univ. of Manitoba
1. “See Talk Be Here There and Everywhere at One Time: Vancouver and the Memory of Skwachays,” Dylan Robinson, Queen’s Univ.
4. “Future Tense: Indigenous Film, Pedagogy, Promise,” Michelle Hermann Rabeja, Univ. of California, Riverside

Saturday, 10 January

571. Remembering the “Not Modern” in Our Time
3:30–4:45 p.m., 220, VCC West
Presiding: Valerie J. Traub, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor
1. “Composting Memory,” Frances E. Dolan, Univ. of California, Davis
2. “Poetic Remembering and Misremembering,” Stephen Guy Bray, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver
4. “Technology of Memory: Woodblock Printing and Popular Knowledge of the Global World in Ming China,” Yuming He, Univ. of California, Davis

MLA Commons
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Online Program
A searchable program for the 2015 MLA Annual Convention is available at www.mla.org/program.

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Negotiating Sites of Memory Presidential Forum Participants

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