About Convention Locations

The Vancouver Convention Centre (VCC) has two buildings, East and West, connected by an underground walkway. Convention sessions take place in both buildings. The exhibit hall, MLA PubCentral, and the MLA registration and welcome center are in VCC West. The Job Information Center is in the Fairmont Waterfront, across the street from VCC East and connected by an underground walkway (not wheelchair accessible).

Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year’s meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider regular staff and committee reports on association activities, a special report from the Elections Committee on the composition of the Delegate Assembly, proposed constitutional amendments, and a motion. Also on the assembly’s agenda is a ninety-minute open discussion of how the MLA should engage with controversial issues. Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/dameeting_agenda).

The assembly meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 10 January, in East Ballroom AB of the VCC (Convention level, East Building). 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 meeting is open to MLA members and accredited journalists. Please remember to wear your badge.

Regional MLAs

Visit the regional MLAs table near the MLA registration and welcome center (VCC, Prefunction, Level 1, West Building) to learn about the opportunities for professional development and financial support provided by the regional MLAs.

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 interest in language or literature to hear a presentation by that speaker. The speaker must request the pass at the MLA registration and welcome center on the day of the session, before the center closes. Passes may not be requested by guests of speakers, by MLA members who have not registered for the convention, or for any reason except seeing the requester speak in a particular session.

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 exhibit registration booth outside the exhibit hall (VCC, Ballroom AB, level 1, West Building).

MLA PubCentral

VCC, Prefunction, level 1, West Building

Visit the new MLA PubCentral for everything related to MLA publications. View a display of the 2014 MLA-prize-winning books and a video featuring material from the winners. Many of the prizewinning publishers are exhibiting and have copies of these books at their booths; booth locations appear on the exhibitor map. The awards will be presented at a ceremony on 10 January at 6:45 p.m. (301, level 3, VCC West), which will be immediately followed by a reception.

Shop for MLA products at the MLA booth throughout the convention. All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30%.

Please remember to wear your badge.

Online Program

A searchable Program for the convention is available (www.mla.org/program), as is a streamlined version for mobile devices (mla15.org). Please take a moment to provide feedback on the sessions you attend by clicking the Session Survey button on any session page in the online Program.

The Convention Daily is published three times during the convention and is available free at the MLA registration and welcome center, the headquarters office, and various other locations. This issue is the last.
MLA Awards Ceremony

10 January, 6:45 p.m., 301, level 3, VCC West

The awards ceremony will take place Saturday evening and will be followed by a reception. First Vice President Roland Greene will present the MLA publication awards. A display and video about the winners can be seen in MLA PubCentral (see above). Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal will present the MLA International Bibliography Fellowship awards and announce the recipients of the seal of approval from the Committee on Scholarly Editions. ADFL President Sibelan Forrester will present the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession to Olga Kagan, who will then speak. ADE President Dana A. Williams will present the ADE Francis Andrew March Award to Neal Lester, who will then speak. MLA President Margaret W. Ferguson will present the MLA Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement to Rolena Adorno, who will then speak. The MLA publication award recipients are as follows:

William Riley Parker Prize: Christopher Cannon, New York University, for “From Literacy to Literature: Elementary Learning and the Middle English Poet” (PMLA, May 2014)

Honorable mention: John Levi Barnard, College of Wooster, for “Ancient History, American Time: Chesnutt’s Outsider Classicism and the Present Past” (PMLA, January 2014)

James Russell Lowell Prize: David Rosen, Trinity College, and Aaron Santesso, Georgia Institute of Technology, for The Watchman in Pieces: Surveillance, Literature, and Liberal Personhood (Yale Univ. Press, 2013)

Honorable mention: Michael North, University of California, Los Angeles, for Novelty: A History of the New (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013)

Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book: Raúl Coronado, University of California, Berkeley, for A World Not to Come: A History of Latino Writing and Print Culture (Harvard Univ. Press, 2013)

Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize: Suresh Canagarajah, Penn State University, for Translingual Practice: Global Englishes and Cosmopolitan Relations (Routledge, 2013)

Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars: Joël Des Rosiers, Montreal, for Métaspora: Essai sur les patries intimes (Triptyque, 2013)

Howard R. Marraro Prize: Justin Steinberg, University of Chicago, for Dante and the Limits of the Law (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013)

Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize: Mabel Moraña, Washington University in St. Louis, for Arguedas / Vargas Llosa: Dilemas y ensamblajes (Iberoamericanica, 2013)

Honorable mention: Claire F. Fox, University of Iowa, for Making Art Panamerican: Cultural Policy and the Cold War (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2013)

Honorable mention: Javier Irigoyen-García, University of Illinois, Urbana, for The Spanish Arcadia: Sheep Herding, Pastoral Discourse, and Ethnicity in Early Modern Spain (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2013)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies: Carmen Nocentelli, University of New Mexico, for Empires of Love: Europe, Asia, and the Making of Early Modern Identity (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2013)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies: Valérie Loichot, Emory University, for The Tropics Bite Back: Culinary Coups in Caribbean Literature (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2013)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures: Devin Fore, Princeton University, for Realism after Modernism: The Rehumanization of Art and Literature (MIT Press, 2012)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work: Nathaniel E. Dubin, Saint John’s University (emitus), for his translation of The Fabliaux (Liveright, 2013)

Honorable mention: Jason Grunebaum, University of Chicago, for his translation of The Girl with the Golden Parasol, by Uday Prakash (Yale Univ. Press, 2013)

Honorable mention: John Nathan, University of California, Santa Barbara, for his translation of Light and Dark, by Natsume Sōseki (Columbia Univ. Press, 2013)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies: Ruth Ben-Ghiat, New York University, for Italian Fascism’s Empire Cinema (Indiana Univ. Press)

Modern Language Association Prize for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project: Roger E. Stoddard, Harvard University (emitus), and David R. Whitesell, University of Virginia, for A Bibliographical Description of Books and Pamphlets of American Verse Printed from 1610 through 1820 (Penn State Univ. Press, 2012); Thomas J. Hinnebusch, University of California, Los Angeles; Arturo Díaz, University of California, Los Angeles; and Barbara Blankenship, University of California, Los Angeles, for the UCLA Language Materials Project (www.lmp.ucla.edu)

William Sanders Scarborough Prize: Samantha Pinto, Georgetown University, for Difficult Diasporas: The Transnational Feminist Aesthetic of the Black Atlantic (New York Univ. Press, 2013)

Honorable mention: Francesca T. Royster, DePaul University, for Sounding like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2013)

Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies: Maurice Wolfthal, for his translation of My Four Years in Soviet Russia, by Yitzkhak Erlichson (Academic Studies Press, 2013)

Modern Language Association Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages: LeAnne Howe, University of Georgia, for Chtoctalking on Other Realities (Aunt Lute Books, 2013)

Honorable mention: Beth H. Piato, University of California, Berkeley, for Domestic Subjects: Gender, Citizenship, and Law in Native American Literature (Yale Univ. Press, 2013)
Event Highlights: 10 January

537. A Creative Conversation with Roy Miki and Smaro Kamboureli  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 118, VCC West

641. MLA Awards Ceremony  
6:45 p.m., 301, level 3, VCC West

643. A Creative Conversation with the Canadian Poet JonArno Lawson  
7:00–8:15 p.m., 118, VCC West

One-on-One NEH Consultations

After the workshop on getting funded in the humanities (session 531, 10 Jan., 1:30–3:30 p.m., 1, VCC East), a staff member of the National Endowment for the Humanities will be available for one-on-one consultations from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. in 11, VCC East.

Cultural Excursions: 10 January

For questions or cancellations, visit the MLA membership desk (VCC, Pre-function, level 1, West Building)

8:20–10:00 a.m.  
Vancouver Public Library Architecture and Special Collections Tour. (No shuttle; close to most convention hotels)

3:00–5:00 p.m.  
Italian Kitchen Canapé and Wine Pairing. (No shuttle; close to most convention hotels)

Screening of In the Land of the Head Hunters

Saturday, 10 January, 12:00 noon, Vancity Theater, 1181 Seymour Street, $13 per ticket. MLA convention attendees are invited to attend a screening of Edward S. Curtis’s 1914 silent film featuring the Kwakw̱ḵ'wakw People of Vancouver Island.

Accessible Shuttle Schedule: 10–11 January

Because of the proximity of the Vancouver Convention Centre and the Fairmont Waterfront, transportation will be available only for attendees with disabilities. Accessible shuttle service hours: 10 January: 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; 11 January: 7:20 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Coat Racks

Coat racks are not monitored. Please do not leave valuable items unattended.

VCC: near the MLA registration and welcome center (Prefunction, level 1, West Building)

Fairmont Waterfront: outside the Job Information Center interview room (Waterfront Ballroom, Lobby level)

Vancouver Information and Restaurants

VCC, near lobby stairs, level 1, West Building

10 January: 8:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
11 January: 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Visit the Vancouver Visitor Services desk for information about Vancouver and its attractions, assistance with restaurant reservations, and a list of locations offering discounts to MLA convention registrants who present their convention badges.

Twitter

Follow the convention on Twitter and tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla15) and session hashtags (e.g., #s406).

2016 Presidential Theme: Literature and Its Publics: Past, Present, and Future

Roland Greene, the 2016 MLA president, has chosen Literature and Its Publics: Past, Present, and Future as the presidential theme for the MLA Annual Convention in Austin. Who is the public for literature? This question is foundational to the work MLA members do and to the state of our discipline and profession. The theme invites members to consider the public face of all of our objects of attention—not only literature and other kinds of texts but film, digital media, and rhetoric—and to consider our indispensable role in bringing texts and their audiences together. How is our work as teachers, historians, editors, and critics—above all, as interpreters—a public act? Sessions might reflect on the current public status of literature and other kinds of texts in our society; address the nature of public reception according to period, genre, author, or otherwise; or imagine different futures. To solicit contributions for a convention session that engages with this theme, you may post a call for papers on the MLA Web site between the week of 12 January and 28 February 2015. Session proposal forms for the 2016 convention will be available online by early March.

2016 Convention in Austin

7–10 January 2016

Calls for Papers

To post or review calls for papers for the 2016 MLA convention in Austin, visit www.mla.org/conv_papers beginning the week of 12 January 2015.

Organizing Sessions

Forms and instructions for organizing sessions at the 2016 convention will be available on the MLA Web site in March.

Exhibit Hall

Remember to wear your badge!

VCC, Ballroom AB, level 1, West Building

10 January: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
11 January: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Pick up a copy of the exhibit hall floor plan for an updated listing of exhibitors, or visit www.mla.org/list_of_2015_exhibit. Admission to the exhibit hall is restricted to persons wearing badges or carrying appropriate passes.
Exhibit Hall Receptions and Events

Saturday, 10 January

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Artstor (booth 408). Stop by Artstor’s booth to enter our book raffle! Prizes include Neil MacGregor’s acclaimed Shakespeare’s Restless World. Winners announced on the final day of the exhibition.

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. International Publishers Marketing (booth 518). Drop off your business card at our booth to be entered in a drawing for five books of your choice from our display. Drawing will be at 10:00 a.m. on 11 January.

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. Cambria Press (booth 402). Pick out a book you want. Drop off your card for the giveaway draw. Winners announced on Sunday at 10 a.m.

4:00–5:30 p.m. Bedford/St. Martin’s (booths 302, 303, 304). Celebrate the Humanities with Bedford/St. Martin’s. Join the editors of Bedford/St. Martin’s for a wine-and-cheese reception; stop by anytime during the conference to tell us about the value of teaching literature and the humanities.

Sunday, 11 January

10:00 a.m. International Publishers Marketing (booth 518). Drawing for five books of your choice from our display. Enter by dropping off your business card at our booth anytime during exhibit hall hours.

10:00 a.m. Cambria Press (booth 402). Stop by to see if you won in the giveaway draw. Great last-day prices after 10 a.m.!

11:00 a.m. Artstor (booth 408). Book raffle prizewinners announced. Prizes will be mailed to winners who cannot claim their books in person. Enter by visiting our booth anytime during exhibit hall hours on 9 and 10 January. Prizes include Neil MacGregor’s acclaimed Shakespeare’s Restless World.

Ongoing in the Exhibit Hall

Refreshment stand

Exhibit Hall Theater

Reserve time in your schedule to attend exhibitor-sponsored presentations, readings, and product demonstrations during the breaks between convention sessions.

Saturday, 10 January

9:50–10:10 a.m.

Bloomsbury Digital Publishing
Presented by Bloomsbury, booths 403, 405, 502

1:20–1:40 p.m.

Using Juxta Editions to Create Digital Scholarly Editions
Presented by Juxta Editions, booth 504

2015 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. Changes in times and locations of meetings must be approved by the headquarters staff (105–106, level 1, VCC West).

Saturday, 10 January

433. New Currents in Medieval Iberian Studies
8:30–9:45 a.m., 9, VCC East
“A vueltas con la edad media y lo postcolonial: Validez y retos de la literatura medieval de viajes en los estudios postcoloniales hispánicos,” Raúl Álvarez-Moreno, Univ. of British Columbia

444. Francoist Memory
8:30–9:45 a.m., 13, VCC East
“Los cuerpos de la memoria: Exhumación y archivo oculto de la España franquista,” Ignasi Gozalo, Univ. of Pennsylvania

472. The First Year of College and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members: Paradoxes, Problems, Possibilities
10:15–11:30 a.m., 214, VCC West
Presiding: Nicole B. Wallack, Columbia Univ.

496. Text-nology Idea Jam: The Book of the Future
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 207, VCC West
Presiding: Andrea R. Harbin, State Univ. of New York, Cortland

503. Memory, Trauma, and Violence in Arabic Literature and Culture
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 16, VCC East
“War and the Muslim Female Body in Twenty-First-Century Palestinian American Discourse,” Nancy El Gendy, Univ. of Oklahoma

514. Afterimages of Slavery
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 7, VCC East
“Tomás Gutiérrez Alea’s The Last Supper and the Traps of the Slaveholding Archive,” Agnes Ivelisse Lugo-Ortiz, Univ. of Chicago

515. Careers for Humanists: What Can Graduate Programs Do?
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 214, VCC West
Additional speaker: Emily Swafford, American Historical Assn.

537. A Creative Conversation with Roy Miki and Smaro Kamboureli
1:45–3:00 p.m., 118, VCC West
Speaker: Roy Miki, Simon Fraser Univ.
This session features a conversation between Smaro Kamboureli and Roy Miki, a highly acclaimed poet, critic, editor, and professor emeritus at Simon Fraser University. Their dialogue will revolve around Miki’s poetry and criticism, Asian Canadian literary studies, various aspects of his work as community organizer and cultural activist, and questions of justice and the worldly effects of our writing as intellectuals and researchers.
563. Second Parts / Second Acts
1:45–3:00 p.m., 9, VCC East
"After Thought: Rewriting Devotion, the Novel, and the Art of Memory," María M. Carrión, Emory Univ.

576. Newspapers as a Poetic Medium, 1880–1900
3:30–4:45 p.m., 217, VCC West
Presiding: Natalie M. Houston, Univ. of Houston

578. The Fiction of Mo Yan: Post–Nobel Prize Assessments
5:15–6:30 p.m., 2, VCC East
"Mo Yan in(to) English," Jonathan Christian Stalling, Univ. of Oklahoma

618. Narratological Dickens
5:15–6:30 p.m., 121, VCC West
Presiding: Susan S. Lanser, Brandeis Univ.

621. The Cold War and Experimental Fiction
5:15–6:30 p.m., 10, VCC East
Presiding: Kevin M. F. Platt, Univ. of Pennsylvania

639. Strategies for Advocacy, Lobbying, and Activism in the Humanities
5:15–6:30 p.m., 117, VCC West
Additional speaker: Silvia Aguinaga Echeverría, Univ. of California, Davis

641. MLA Awards Ceremony
6:45 p.m., 301, VCC West
7. Dana A. Williams, Howard Univ.

Organizational Meeting for LLC Latina and Latino
7:00–8:15 p.m., 1, VCC East

Sunday, 11 January

678. Politics of Difference and Poetics of Reconciliation
8:30–9:45 a.m., 14, VCC East
"Beyond the Binaries: Intizar Husain’s Integrative Imagination," Amritjit Singh, Ohio Univ., Athens

700. Ignite Talk: Envisioning the Energy Humanities, Narrating Energy Pasts and Futures
10:15–11:30 a.m., 121, VCC West
Additional speaker: Adam Dickinson, Brock Univ.

741. Socialist Romanticism: Late USSR and the Poetics of Historical Imagination
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 19, VCC East

778. Representations of Slavery in the Nineteenth Century
1:45–3:00 p.m., 17, VCC East