Language is at the heart of our profession and a constant topic of interrogation. Literature enhances the imagination, builds the capacity for creative thinking, and cultivates the quality of language. Learning takes place through language, from transmission of information to critical thinking, and the encounter with imaginative literature plays a special role in educational development.

I hope that my choosing Language, Literature, Learning as the presidential theme will provoke innovative thinking about our commitments to literature and language and the learning opportunities for students. Please browse through this brochure for information on the more than sixty sessions that will focus on this theme. The 2012 convention in Seattle will be an exciting gathering. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Russell A. Berman
2011 MLA President
Language, Literature, Learning is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2012 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

**Presidential Forum**

**Friday, 6 January**

202. The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Metropolitan A, Sheraton

**Presiding:** Russell A. Berman, Stanford Univ.

1. “Networking the Field,” Kathleen Fitzpatrick, MLA
3. “Learning to Unlearn,” Judith Halberstam, Univ. of Southern California
4. “Borrowing Privileges: Dreaming in Foreign Tongues,” Bala Venkat Mani, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
5. “Teaching Literature and the Bitter Truth about Starbucks,” Christopher Freeburg, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

283. What Makes Language Literary?

1:45–3:00 p.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

**Presiding:** Sabine Wilke, Univ. of Washington, Seattle

**Speakers:** Charles Francis Altieri, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Daniel Dooghan, Univ. of Tampa; Frances Ferguson, Johns Hopkins Univ., MD; Alexander C. Y. Huang, George Washington Univ.
Saturday, 7 January

431. Language and Learning
10:15–11:30 a.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton
A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning
Presiding: Barbara K. Altmann, Univ. of Oregon
Speakers: Mark Bauerlein, Emory Univ.; Anne Ruggles Gere, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Catherine Ingold, National Foreign Language Center; Claire J. Kramsch, Univ. of California, Berkeley

527. Democracy, Language, and Literature
1:45–3:00 p.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton
A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning
Presiding: Gaurav G. Desai, Tulane Univ.
3. “Jiangbu (Rivers and Lakes) Online: A Contemporary Reincarnation of Outlaws of the Marsh,” Hui Faye Xiao, Univ. of Kansas
Charles Francis Altieri
Professor of English
Rachel Anderson Stageberg
Endowed Chair
University of California, Berkeley

Barbara K. Altmann
Professor of French
Director of Oregon Humanities Center
University of Oregon

Mark Bauerlein
Professor of English
Emory University

Russell A. Berman
Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities
Stanford University
Judith Halberstam
Professor of English, Gender Studies, and American Studies and Ethnicity
University of Southern California

Anne Ruggles Gere
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Gertrude Buck Collegiate Professor
Director of Sweetland Center for Writing
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Christopher Freeburg
Assistant Professor of English
University of Illinois, Urbana

Alexander C. Y. Huang
Associate Professor of English, Theatre, and International Affairs
George Washington University

Catherine Ingold
Executive Director of the National Foreign Language Center
University of Maryland, College Park

Claire J. Kramsch
Professor of German
University of California, Berkeley
Bala Venkat Mani
Associate Professor of German
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Negar Mottahedeh
Associate Professor of Literature and Women's Studies
Duke University

Imani Perry
Professor of African American Studies
Princeton University

Sabine Wilke
Professor of German
Chair of Department of Germanics
University of Washington, Seattle

Hui Faye Xiao
Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Literature and Culture
University of Kansas
The following is a list of sessions related to the presidential theme, Language, Literature, Learning, arranged by divisions, discussion groups, allied and affiliate organizations, and individual members.

Thursday, 5 January

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton  
A special session

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Aspen, Sheraton  
A special session

28. What Is the Future of French in French Studies?  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Ravenna C, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Conseil International d’Études Francophones

43. Making a Case for the Humanities: Advocacy and Audience  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 612, WSCC  
Program arranged by the MLA Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee

45. Spenser, Donne, and the Work of Poetry  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 619, WSCC  
Program arranged by the International Spenser Society and the John Donne Society

65. After the *Heath*: Teaching US Multilingual Literature  
1:45–3:00 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Literature of the United States in Languages Other Than English

68. What Works? Integrating Culture into First-Year English and Foreign Language Courses  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 613, WSCC  
Program arranged by the Community College Humanities Association
82. Arabic Language and Identity: Transregional Texts and Transnational Discourses
3:30–4:45 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton
A special session

91. Indigenous Languages and Literatures in the Americas
3:30–4:45 p.m., 619, WSCC
Program arranged by the Division on Ethnic Studies in Language and Literature

5:15–6:30 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on Chicana and Chicano Literature

132A. The Futures of Jewish American Literature: Celebrating the New Studies in American Jewish Literature
5:15–6:30 p.m., 303, WSCC
A special session

151. Language, Literature, and . . . ? New Models for Foreign Language Departments
7:00–8:15 p.m., Issaquah, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on Slavic and East European Literatures

156. Genre in the Genome Age
7:00–8:15 p.m., 303, WSCC
A special session

161. The Webs We Weave: Online Pedagogy in Community Colleges
7:00–8:15 p.m., 615, WSCC
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges

165. Teaching Early Literature and Why It Matters
7:00–8:15 p.m., 306, WSCC
A special session
**Friday, 6 January**

166. Tone in Narrative  
*8:30–9:45 a.m., 617, WSCC*  
Program arranged by the International Society for the Study of Narrative

184. Beyond the Arabian Nights: Middle Eastern Fiction in the World Literature Course  
*8:30–9:45 a.m., Columbia, Sheraton*  
A special session

189. Transpacific Formalisms of the Mid-Twentieth Century  
*8:30–9:45 a.m., Issaquah, Sheraton*  
A special session

199. Reading Langston Hughes in the Age of Barack Obama  
*8:30–9:45 a.m., 614, WSCC*  
Program arranged by the Langston Hughes Society

201. Translating and Translation in Israeli Literature  
*8:30–9:45 a.m., Seneca, Sheraton*  
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Hebrew Literature

249. Building Digital Humanities in the Undergraduate Classroom  
*12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton*  
A special session

263. Reading across Communities: Linguistic Approaches to the Teaching of Literature  
*12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton*  
Program arranged by the Division on Linguistic Approaches to Literature

274. Intersections between American Indian and Other Literary Traditions  
*12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 307, WSCC*  
Program arranged by the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures
284. Responses to a Changing World: German Language, Literature, and Culture in the Twenty-First Century
1:45–3:00 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton
A special session

288. Radical Learning Strategies
1:45–3:00 p.m., 606, WSCC
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College

320. Reenvisioning Foreign Language Education in the Current Economy
3:30–4:45 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the American Association of University Supervisors and Coordinators

330. Learned Journals and Libraries: Knowledge Economies and Economics of Knowledge
3:30–4:45 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the Discussion Group on Libraries and Research in Languages and Literatures

332. Digital Narratives and Gaming for Teaching Language and Literature
3:30–4:45 p.m., Aspen, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Information Technology and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

341. Learning to Connect the Multiple Fields of an English Department
3:30–4:45 p.m., 614, WSCC
A special session

349. Digital Pedagogy
5:15–6:30 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton
A special session

360. Expanding the Language Mission across the Disciplines: A Session in Honor of John Grandin
5:15–6:30 p.m., Greenwood, Sheraton
Program arranged by the ADFL Executive Committee
365. Language Learning and Identity Construction
5:15–6:30 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on Applied Linguistics

372. New Approaches to Civil War Poetry: Dickinson, Whitman, Melville
5:15–6:30 p.m., 619, WSCC
Program arranged by the Melville Society and the Emily Dickinson International Society

Saturday, 7 January

396. Chinese Narrative, World Literature: The Appeal and the Peril of Being Worldly
8:30–9:45 a.m., Aspen, Sheraton
A special session

408. What Do Graduate Students in Spanish Need to Learn, and Why?
8:30–9:45 a.m., Issaquah, Sheraton
Program arranged by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

414. Teaching Creative Writing
8:30–9:45 a.m., 304, WSCC
Program arranged by the Division on Teaching as a Profession

419. Good Practices in Hiring, Developing, and Reviewing Contingent Faculty Members
8:30–9:45 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession

428. Technology and Chinese Literature and Language
10:15–11:30 a.m., Boren, Sheraton
A special session

435. Issues Facing Graduate Students of Color in the Profession
10:15–11:30 a.m., 309, WSCC
Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus
442. New Media, New Pedagogies  
10:15–11:30 a.m., 613, WSCC  
Program arranged by the Division on Prose Fiction

476. New Directions in Ecocriticism: Scientific Knowledge and Literary Critique  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 608, WSCC  
A special session

482. Of Kings’ Treasuries and the E-Protean Invasion: The Evolving Nature of Scholarly Research  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 613, WSCC  
Program arranged by the Division on Methods of Literary Research

484. Dissenting Voices  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Division on Arabic Literature and Culture

499. Literary Multilingualism and Exile in Twentieth-Century Fiction  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Ravenna C, Sheraton  
A special session

530. Translation and World Literature  
1:45–3:00 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton  
A special session

532. Reading Writing Interfaces: Electronic Literature’s Past and Present  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 613, WSCC  
A special session

538. Shuttling to Learn  
1:45–3:00 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Division on Language and Society

545. German Graduate Education 2020: Strategies for the Future  
3:30–4:45 p.m., Issaquah, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the American Association of Teachers of German
567. Pinter in Seattle: A Creative Conversation with Frank Corrado and Harry Burton
3:30–4:45 p.m., 608, WSCC
Program arranged by the Harold Pinter Society

571. Coding Culture: Humanities Responses to Biological Theories of Culture
3:30–4:45 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton
A special session

572. The Philosophical Example
3:30–4:45 p.m., 615, WSCC
A special session

593. Forms and Effects: Linguistic Approaches to the Teaching of Literature
5:15–6:30 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on Linguistic Approaches to Literature

602. Language, Literature, Learning: Ezra Pound as Teacher, Teaching Ezra Pound
5:15–6:30 p.m., 613, WSCC
Program arranged by the Ezra Pound Society

---

Sunday, 8 January

632. Academically Adrift?
8:30–9:45 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton
A special session

637. Language in/as Living Organism: The New Genre of Geno-Poetry
8:30–9:45 a.m., 615, WSCC
A special session

644. Pedagogy and Print Culture in the Sixties
8:30–9:45 a.m., 306, WSCC
A special session

652. The Role of Translation in Foreign Language Departments
8:30–9:45 a.m., Jefferson, Sheraton
Program arranged by the American Translators Association
664. Sound and Voice in the Creative Writing Classroom: Practice-Based Pedagogies  
10:15–11:30 a.m., 614, WSCC  
A special session

674. Giving It Away: Sharing and the Future of Scholarly Communication  
10:15–11:30 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals

682. Criticism and Crisis  
10:15–11:30 a.m., 618, WSCC  
Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century American Literature

706. Dynamic Learning for Advanced Proficiency  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Division on Applied Linguistics

710. Academically Adrift? Language, Literature, and Learning in the Small College English Department  
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 606, WSCC  
Program arranged by the MLA Office of Research

725. Poetry, Poetics, Politics in the Modern Arab World  
1:45–3:00 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton  
A special session

731. Common First-Year Readings and Themes: Theory, Practice, Problems, Promise  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 608, WSCC  
Program arranged by the Division on the Teaching of Writing

732. Northwest Poetry and Poetics  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 606, WSCC  
A special session