Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year’s meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider staff and committee reports on association activities, a special report on the reorganization of MLA divisions and discussion groups, and two regular resolutions. Also on the assembly’s agenda is a one-hour open discussion of strategies for strengthening humanities education as a public good. Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/dameeting_agenda).

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 296). Please see the second section in “Checklists for Submitting Resolutions” (www.mla.org/submit_checklist) for information on submission requirements.

The assembly meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 11 January, in Grand Ballroom III of the Chicago Marriott. 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.

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 one of the MLA registration and welcome centers on the day of the session, before the centers close. 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.

MLA Awards

MLA Awards Ceremony

11 January, 6:45 p.m., Sheraton IV–V, Ballroom level 4, Sheraton Chicago

Marianne Hirsch will present several awards, including the Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities, to be given to John Sayles, who will then speak. The session is open to the public and will be followed by a reception.

Display of 2013 MLA-prize-winning books, with a video

River Promenade outside River Exhibition Hall, level 1, Sheraton Chicago

A display of the books that received 2013 MLA prizes and honorable mentions and a video featuring material from the winners are located near the exhibit hall. Many of the prizewinning publishers are exhibiting and have copies of these books for sale at their booths. The awards will be presented at the MLA Awards Ceremony (see above).

Event Highlights: 9 January

92. Beyond the Department Wall: A Roundtable with Past MLA Presidents on Expanding Networks in Language Study
3:30 p.m., Chicago X, Ballroom level 4, Sheraton Chicago

119. Open Hearing on the Future of the MLA Divisions and Discussion Groups
5:15 p.m., Chicago VI, Ballroom level 4, Sheraton Chicago

155A. A Screening of Eight Men Out, a Film by John Sayles
6:30 p.m., Grand I, 7th floor, Chicago Marriott

Shuttle Bus Schedule: 9 January

ADA service hours: 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Shuttle service among headquarters hotels: 11:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.
Sheraton Chicago: Board at convention entrance.
Chicago Marriott: Board on Ohio Street at Rush Street.
Fairmont Chicago: Board at lower-level motor lobby.

Coat Check

9 January: 11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
10 and 11 January: 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
12 January: 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Sheraton Chicago (Lobby Level 3, around the corner from Parlor A): $2 per item
Chicago Marriott (7th floor, at the built-in desk near escalators): $1.75 per item
There will be an unattended coat rack in the Job Information Center interview room (Fairmont, Imperial Ballroom, level B2) during the center’s hours.

Online Program

A searchable Program for the convention is available (www.mla.org/program), as is a streamlined version for mobile devices (mla14.org). The mobile Program is best viewed with Firefox, Chrome, and Safari. To use the mobile Program on an Android device, download Firefox or Chrome from the app store on your device and select it as your browser when opening mla14.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 throughout the hotels. Two more issues will appear, on Friday, 10 January, and on Saturday, 11 January.
Discussion of Career Options for Humanities PhDs

10 January, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Regal, Fairmont Chicago

Designed for graduate students and recent doctoral program graduates who are thinking about pursuing careers beyond the classroom, this nuts-and-bolts conversation features three career-services professionals who will lead an informal discussion and offer brief presentations about the various employment paths and postdoctoral opportunities open to recipients of PhDs in the humanities. It will cover practical suggestions about where to begin, how to approach different kinds of searches, how to prepare application materials, how to incorporate a postdoc into career development, and how to make good use of campus career-services offices. The discussion is part of the MLA’s ongoing work, with support from the Mellon Foundation, to broaden the career horizons of humanities scholars and graduate students. Participants are encouraged to bring their CVs and other application materials for review. The presenters will be Jennifer E. Hobbs, Northwestern Univ.; Patrick Houlihan, Univ. of Chicago; and Kamilah McCoy, Northwestern Univ.

Twitter and Flickr Display

Tweets with the hashtag #mla14 and MLA convention photos posted on Flickr will appear on a screen in the MLA registration and welcome center in the Chicago Marriott (5th floor), and the Twitter feed will also be featured on the MLA home page throughout the convention. We encourage attendees to tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla14) and session hashtags (e.g., #s421) and to tag their convention photos with mla14 on Flickr.

MLA Commons

MLA Commons (commons.mla.org) is a scholarly network designed to facilitate active member-to-member communication, to support the work of divisions and discussion groups, and much more.

Account activation and assistance

MLA registration and welcome center, 5th floor, Chicago Marriott (all times during center hours)

Live presentations

10 January, 4:50–5:10 p.m., and 11 January, 9:50–10:10 a.m., Exhibit Hall Theater, River Exhibition Hall, level 1, Sheraton Chicago

Exhibit Hall

River Exhibition Hall, level 1, Sheraton Chicago

Pick up a copy of the exhibit hall floor plan for an updated listing of exhibitors, or visit www.mla.org/list_of_2014_exhibit. Admission to the exhibit hall is restricted to persons wearing badges or carrying appropriate passes.

MLA exhibit booth happenings (booth 100)

All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30%.

Friday, 10 January

9:00–10:00 a.m. MLA International Bibliography staff members will be on hand to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help with searches.

3:30 p.m. Reception to celebrate new titles released by the MLA in 2013.

Saturday, 11 January

9:00–10:00 a.m. MLA International Bibliography staff members will be on hand to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help with searches.

10:30 a.m. Coffee reception to celebrate the MLA International Bibliography.

Other exhibit hall receptions and events

Friday, 10 January

1:15 p.m., Oxford University Press booths (319, 321). Meet Gordon Hutner, editor of American Literary History, to discuss your work.


4:00–5:00 p.m., Princeton University Press booth (326). Reception to celebrate the forthcoming publication of Dictionary of Untranslatables: A Philosophical Lexicon, edited by Barbara Cassin. Translation edited by Emily Apter, Jacques Lezra, and Michael Wood.

4:00–5:00 p.m., Cambridge University Press booths (325, 327). Meet Ato Quayson, editor of the Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry, new in 2014. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Saturday, 11 January

4:00 p.m., Oxford University Press booths (319, 321). Meet Martha Cutter, editor of MELUS: Multi-ethnic Literature of the United States, to discuss your work.

Exhibit Hall Theater

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

Friday, 10 January

9:50–10:10 a.m.
EBSCO Databases and Services
Presented by EBSCO Information Services, booth 148

11:35–11:55 a.m.
Navigating the Job Market
Presented by Inside Higher Ed, booth 146

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m.
Search Strategies for the MLA International Bibliography
Presented by the MLA International Bibliography, booth 100

3:05–3:25 p.m.
The Modern Art Cookbook
Presented by the University of Chicago Press, booths 423, 425, and 427

4:50–5:10 p.m.
How You Can Use MLA Commons
Presented by MLA Commons, booth 100

2014 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 in the Chicago Marriott (Scottsdale, 5th floor) or the Sheraton Chicago (Parlor A, Lobby level 3).

Thursday, 9 January

19. Outsiders In, Insiders Out in Italian Cinema and Literature
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Superior A, Sheraton Chicago
2. “Lo sguardo turco bagnato in Bagno turco (Ferzan Özpetek, 1997),” Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville

38. Digital Practice: Literary Remediations
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Arkansas, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Leslie Morris, Univ. of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Responding: Richard E. Langston, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

48. Academic Boycotts: A Conversation about Israel and Palestine [new room]
1:45–3:00 p.m., Sheraton IV–V, Sheraton Chicago

56. Variorum Editing
1:45–3:00 p.m., Cook, Chicago Marriott
3. “Some Thoughts on the Milton Variorum,” Edward Jones, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater

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Saturday, 11 January

9:50–10:10 a.m.
How You Can Use MLA Commons
Presented by MLA Commons, booth 100

11:35–11:55 a.m.
ProQuest Flow, the Only Research Tool You’ll Need
Presented by ProQuest, booth 239

1:20–1:40 p.m.
ProQuest, the MLA International Bibliography, and the Next Generation of Literature Online
Presented by ProQuest, booth 239

3:05–3:25 p.m.
The Humanities Matter at ProQuest: Online Collections Providing Real Knowledge for the Real World
Presented by ProQuest, booth 239

4:50–5:10 p.m.
FastPencil! An End-to-End Self-Publishing Solution
Presented by FastPencil, booth 803

65. New Discourses about Conservatism in German Literature, Philosophy, and Popular Culture
1:45–3:00 p.m., Parlor F, Sheraton Chicago

88. Beyond “the Evolution of Stories” and “the Story of Evolution”
3:30–4:45 p.m., Huron, Chicago Marriott
Presiding: Jane F. Thrailkill, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

155A. A Screening of Eight Men Out, a Film by John Sayles
6:30–8:45 p.m., Grand I, Chicago Marriott

176. The Naked Eye: Visuality and Vulnerability
7:00–8:15 p.m., Superior A, Sheraton Chicago
Additional speaker: Allison Crawford, Univ. of Toronto

Friday, 10 January

193. Pre-Raphaelite, Aesthetic, and Fin de Siècle Children’s Literature
8:30–9:45 a.m., Addison, Chicago Marriott

3. “Illustrated Labors: Text, Textile, and ‘Wise-talk’ in Christina Rossetti’s Sing-Song,” Jesse Cordes Selbin, Univ. of California, Berkeley

220. Modern Consciousness: Pirandellian Obsessions
8:30–9:45 a.m., Huron, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Daniela Bini, Univ. of Texas, Austin

261. Applying Linguistics to the Learning of Middle Eastern Languages
10:15–11:30 a.m., Huron, Sheraton Chicago
1. “How Strategic Can They Be? Differences between Student and Instructor Attitudes toward Language Learning Strategies,” Gregory Ebner, United States Military Acad.

12:00 noon—1:15 p.m., Clark, Chicago Marriott
Additional presider: Angelica Alicia Duran, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette

312. The Future of Basic Writing in an Age of Accelerated Learning
1:45–3:00 p.m., Chicago F, Chicago Marriott
3. “Literacy War Z: Zombie Remediation,” Tom Fox, California State Univ., Chico

314. Storms at/of the Court
1:45–3:00 p.m., Parlor G, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Albrecht Classen, Univ. of Arizona

333. The Values of Literary Studies
1:45–3:00 p.m., Clark, Chicago Marriott
Additional speaker: Robin Truth Goodman, Florida State Univ.

379. Culture and Activism in the 2011–13 Russian Protest Movements
3:30–4:45 p.m., Parlor C, Sheraton Chicago
3. “Address Your Questions to Dostoevsky”: On Samosud and the Privatization of Punishment in Russia,” Serguei Alex Oushakine, Princeton Univ.

417. Why Teach Literature?
[new room]
5:15–6:30 p.m., Chicago VII, Sheraton Chicago

420A. Metaphors of Dual Citizenship: Adoption and Disability
5:15–6:30 p.m., Great America, Chicago Marriott
Respondent: Emily Hipchen, Univ. of West Georgia

421. The Presidential Address
6:45 p.m., Sheraton IV–V, Sheraton Chicago
The title of Marianne Hirsch’s address is “Connective Histories in Vulnerable Times.”

666. Cash Bar Arranged by the University of Toronto
[new date and room]
7:00–8:15 p.m., Chicago A–B, Chicago Marriott

Cash Bar Arranged by the Indiana University Department of English
7:00–8:15 p.m., Northwestern–Ohio State, Chicago Marriott

Saturday, 11 January

485. Digital Practice: Social Networks across Borders
10:15–11:30 a.m., Missouri, Sheraton Chicago
“Network Politics, Wireless Protocols, and Public Space,” Erik Born, Univ. of California, Berkeley

573. Wit, Humor, and the “Serious” Text
1:45–3:00 p.m., Grace, Chicago Marriott
Presiding: Bruce F. Michelson, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

588. The Victorian Visual Artist and the Ideal of Realism
3:30–4:45 p.m., Minnesota, Chicago Marriott

606. Technology and Teaching Vulnerable Languages in Vulnerable Times
3:30–4:45 p.m., Colorado, Sheraton Chicago
Additional speaker: Rebecca Horn, Univ. of Utah

621. Federal Government Opportunities in Foreign Languages for Language Instructors and Program Representatives
3:30–5:30 p.m., Chicago X, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Erik Pohlmann, Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Additional speakers: Sarah Grace Gleisner, International Institute of Education; Miguel Gonzalez, FBI; Julie Johnson, US Department of State; Roy Savoy, Defense Language and National Security Education Office

Officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Foreign Language Program Office and other government agencies will describe language-training opportunities sponsored by the federal government as well as pathways for future employment possibilities for students. This session is designed to provide a broad exposure for professors and university program administrators of federal programs in foreign languages and an understanding of how universities can assist federal agencies in providing training and preparing students for future employment, as well as of what federal language-training programs are available to current undergraduate and graduate students.

626. Bernard Shaw and Adaptation: Reinvention, Refinishing, Embodiment
5:15–6:30 p.m., Grace, Chicago Marriott

653. Global Pirandello
5:15–6:30 p.m., Michigan B, Sheraton Chicago

Reception Arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture
7:00–8:15 p.m., Chicago A–B, Chicago Marriott

Cash Bar Arranged by the Division on the Victorian Period and the Division on the English Romantic Period
7:00–8:15 p.m., Los Angeles–Miami, Chicago Marriott

Sunday, 12 January

684. Interracial, Cross-Species, Cross-Gender: The Political Value of Queer Coalition
8:30–9:45 a.m., Parlor G, Sheraton Chicago

766. The (Dis)Embodied Scholar: Access in Theory and Practice
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Los Angeles–Miami, Chicago Marriott
Additional speaker: Stephanie Lynn Kerschbaum, Univ. of Delaware, Newark

772. Women on Work, Women’s Work
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Mississippi, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Elizabeth Erbeznik, Northern Illinois Univ.
Respondent: Elizabeth Erbeznik

776. E-literature and Translations: Database, Platform, Language
1:45–3:00 p.m., Chicago A–B, Chicago Marriott