Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year’s meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider regular staff and committee reports on association activities; special reports or requests from the Executive Council, the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, and the Elections Committee; a recommendation from the Executive Council for a change in the dues structure; and proposed constitutional amendments. Also on the assembly’s agenda is an hour-long open discussion of the following topic: The Tenured and the Precariat. Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (https://www.mla.org/dameeting_agenda).

The assembly will also consider an emergency resolution that was submitted during the Open Hearing on Resolutions on 8 January. The emergency resolution was submitted by Barbara Foley on behalf of the Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages and reads as follows:

Whereas racialized hatred and violence toward Muslims and perceived Muslims have increased since the Paris and San Bernardino killings;
Whereas global contestation over resources has resulted in US military operations directed at Muslim-majority countries;
Whereas the rise in Islamophobia and the rhetoric of “radicalization” and the “war on terror” are being deployed to justify US foreign policy, reinforce the surveillance state, and target Muslim students, professors, and BDS activists;
Be it resolved that the MLA support faculty who challenge Islamophobic rhetoric and the increased militarism, xenophobia, and racism associated with the upsurge in Islamophobia.

The assembly meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, 9 January, in JW Grand 5–6 of the JW Marriott (level 4). Members may address the assembly on any of the issues on its agenda. Because the assembly meeting is open-ended, latecomers will have a chance to join in important discussions of association policies.

The assembly meeting is open only 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 (ACC, Ballroom Prefunction, level 4) 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 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.

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 (ACC, Ballroom Prefunction, level 4).
About Convention Locations

Convention sessions take place in the Austin Convention Center (ACC) and the JW Marriott. The exhibit hall and MLA PubCentral are in the ACC. The Job Information Center is in the Hilton Austin, across 4th Street from the ACC.

Room Changes

Some sessions in the JW Marriott had to change rooms. If you are attending a session or event on 9 January in 401, 407, JW Grand 7, or JW Grand 8, please check the 2016 Program Update list (pp. 4–6) to see if the room has changed. The listings in the online and mobile versions of the Program have been corrected.

MLA Awards Ceremony

9 January, 7:00 p.m., Lone Star D, JW Marriott

The awards ceremony will take place Saturday evening and will be followed by a reception. MLA President Roland Greene will introduce William Adams, who will speak in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities. First Vice President Kwame Anthony Appiah will present the MLA publication awards. A display and video about the winners can be seen in MLA PubCentral (see below). Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal will announce the MLA International Bibliography Fellowship awards and the recipients of the seal of approval from the Committee on Scholarly Editions. ADFL President Sonja Rae Fritzsche will present the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession to Malcolm Alan Compitello, who will then speak. ADE President Kent Cartwright will present the ADE Francis Andrew March Award to John David Guillory, who will then speak. The MLA publication award recipients are as follows:

52nd Annual William Riley Parker Prize: Gordon Fraser, University of Connecticut, Storrs, for “Troubling the Cold War Logic of Annihilation: Apocalyptic Temporalities in Sherman Alexie’s The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven” (PMLA, May 2015)

46th Annual James Russell Lowell Prize: Anna Brickhouse, University of Virginia, for The Unsettlement of America: Translation, Interpretation, and the Story of Don Luis de Velasco, 1560–1945 (Oxford Univ. Press, 2014)

Honorable mention: Ramie Targoff, Brandeis University, for Posthumous Love: Eros and the Afterlife in Renaissance England (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2014)

22nd Annual Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book: Sadia Abbas, Rutgers University, Newark, for At Freedom’s Limit: Islam and the Postcolonial Predicament (Fordham Univ. Press, 2014)

Lital Levy, Princeton University, for Poetic Trespass: Writing between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine (Princeton Univ. Press, 2014)

Honorable mention: Eugenie Brinkema, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for The Forms of the Affects (Duke Univ. Press, 2014)

33rd Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize: James P. Lantoif, Penn State University, and Matthew E. Poehner, Penn State University, for Socio-cultural Theory and the Pedagogical Imperative in L2 Education: Vygotskian Praxis and the Research/Practice Divide (Routledge, 2014)

25th Annual Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize: Stephanie Sieburth, Duke University, for Survival Songs: Conchita Piquer’s Coplas and Franco’s Regime of Terror (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2014)


Honorable mention: Constance Jordan, Claremont Graduate University, for Reason and Imagination: The Selected Correspondence of Learned Hand (Oxford Univ. Press, 2013)

11th Modern Language Association Prize for a Scholarly Edition: Elizabeth Goldring, University of Warwick; Faith Eales, University of Warwick; Elizabeth Clarke, University of Warwick; and Jayne Elisabeth Archer, University of Bedfordshire, for John Nichols’s The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth I: A New Edition of the Early Modern Sources, 5 volumes (Oxford Univ. Press, 2014)

23rd Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies: Silke-Maria Weineck, University of Michigan, for The Tragedy of Fatherhood: King Laius and the Politics of Paternity in the West (Bloomsbury, 2014)

23rd Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies: Irving Goh, University of Cambridge, for The Reject: Community, Politics, and Religion after the Subject (Fordham Univ. Press, 2014)

11th Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures: Irina Paperno, University of California, Berkeley, for “Who, What Am I?": Tolstoy Struggles to Narrate the Self (Cornell Univ. Press, 2014)


Michael Nylan, University of California, Berkeley, for Exemplary Figures Fayan, by Yang Xiong (Univ. of Washington Press, 2013)

8th Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies: Nick Wilding, Georgia State University, for Giallie’s Idol: Gianfrancesco Sagredo and the Politics of Knowledge (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2014)

9th Lois Roth Award for a Translation of a Literary Work: Maureen Freely, University of Warwick, and Alexander Dawe, Istanbul, Turkey, for The Time Regulation Institute, by Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar (Penguin, 2014)


Honorable mention: Aaron Poochigian, Columbia University, for Jason and the Argonauts, by Apollonius of Rhodes (Penguin, 2014)
14th Annual William Sanders Scarborough Prize: Anthony Reed, Yale University, for Freedom Time: The Poetics and Politics of Black Experimental Writing (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2014)

Honorable mention: Mary Helen Washington, University of Maryland, College Park, for The Other Blacklist: The African American Literary and Cultural Left of the 1950s (Columbia Univ. Press, 2014)

11th Modern Language Association Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies: Julie Avril Minich, University of Texas, Austin, for Accessible Civic-ships: Disability, Nation, and the Cultural Politics of Greater Mexico (Temple Univ. Press, 2014)

Honorable mention: Urayoán Noel, New York University, for In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam (Univ. of Iowa Press, 2014)

MLA PubCentral
ACC, Ballroom Prefunction, level 4
Visit MLA PubCentral for everything related to MLA publications, including free giveaways, special discounts on orders placed at the booth, the MLA International Bibliography, MLA Commons, Commons Open Repository Exchange (CORE), and a display of the 2015 MLA-prize-winning books along with a video featuring material from the winners. Many of the prize-winning publishers are exhibiting and selling these books at their booths. The awards will be presented at the MLA Awards Ceremony (session 692), 9 January, 7:00 p.m., JW Marriott, Lone Star D, level 3.

Shop for MLA products and learn more about the forthcoming eighth edition of the MLA Handbook at PubCentral starting at 8:00 a.m. each day. All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30% throughout the convention.

Event Highlights: 9 January

588. A Creative Conversation with Bill Bradley
Saturday, 9 January, 1:45–3:00 p.m., Lone Star G-H, JW Marriott
Presiding: Peter L. Rudnytsky, Univ. of Florida
Speakers: Bill Bradley, former United States senator; Kathleen Woodward, Univ. of Washington, Seattle
In conversation with Kathleen Woodward, director of the Simpson Center for the Humanities, Senator Bradley discusses the state of our democracy and the need for a more engaged citizenry. Afterward, starting at 3:30, he will sign copies of his book Time Present, Time Past in the exhibit hall (Knopf Doubleday booths, 511 and 513).

593. Writing (on) the Border: A Creative Conversation with Oscar Casares and Rolando Hinojosa
Saturday, 9 January, 1:45–3:00 p.m., 16A, ACC
Presiding: Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Univ. of Texas, Austin
Speakers: Oscar H. Casares, Univ. of Texas, Austin; Rolando Hinojosa, Univ. of Texas, Austin
Natives of south Texas, Casares and Hinojosa discuss writing, fiction, and identity. Casares’s collection Brownsville was honored by the ALA as a notable book in 2004. Hinojosa is the author of the fifteen-volume Klal City Death Trip series. A self-translator, he writes in Spanish and English. He is the first Chicano recipient of the Premio Casa de las Américas, and he received the NBCC’s Sandorf Award in 2013.

623. The Artist as Interpreter: An Interview with Caetano Veloso
Saturday, 9 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m., Brazos, JW Marriott
Speakers: Marjorie Gabrielle Perloff, Stanford Univ.; Caetano Veloso, Rio de Janeiro
A founder of the Tropicalismo movement, the Brazilian singer-songwriter has interpreted his era from the military dictatorship of the 1960s to the present and transposed avant-garde poetry into song. He is interviewed by Marjorie Perloff.

A Poetry Reading by Antonio Cicero
Saturday, 9 January, 7:00–8:15 p.m., Lone Star A, JW Marriott
Presiding: Sonia M. Roncador, Univ. of Texas, Austin
Speaker: Antonio Cicero, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
The Brazilian writer and intellectual Antonio Cicero is the author of several books of poems (including Porventura, 2012) and philosophy (most recently, Poesia e filosofia, 2012).

Twitter
Follow the convention on Twitter and tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla16) and session hashtags (e.g., #s440).

Accessible Shuttle: 9–10 January
Because of the proximity of the Austin Convention Center, the JW Marriott, and the Hilton Austin, there will be transportation available only for attendees with disabilities.

Accessible shuttle service hours: 9 January, 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; 10 January, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Spanish Errors in Texas Penal Code
Attendees may have noticed the large signs in the convention center giving excerpts from the Texas penal code in English and Spanish. The Spanish wording contains several errors of spelling and grammar: for example, “licensia” instead of “licencia,” “no pueden” instead of “no puede.” We encourage those of you with expertise in Spanish to report the errors you notice to convention@mla.org. The MLA will write to the Texas government recommending corrections.
2017 Convention in Philadelphia
5–8 January 2017

Calls for Papers
To post or review calls for papers for the 2017 MLA convention in Philadelphia, visit https://apps.mla.org/conv_papers.

Organizing Sessions
Forms and instructions for organizing sessions at the 2017 convention will be available on the MLA Web site in March.

2017 Presidential Theme: Boundary Conditions
Kwame Anthony Appiah, the 2017 MLA president, has chosen Boundary Conditions as the presidential theme for the 2017 convention, which will be held in Philadelphia. Boundary conditions are, for mathematicians, the parameters that define the space in which one seeks solutions. So the theme offers, first, an invitation to reflect together on the parameters that determine our work. Our boundary conditions are sometimes spatial, sometimes identitarian, sometimes disciplinary and subdisciplinary, and boundaries themselves are sites of artistic production and of scholarship. As students of language and literature increasingly cross national boundaries, physically and virtually, we face new questions about composition and critical analysis, second-language pedagogy, translation, and the ideas of global literature and transnational cultural studies. How do our new boundary conditions affect our understanding of the projects of literary and cultural studies? How do new forms of communication—online education, digital libraries, blogs, hypertext, machine translation, social media, and new tools of textual analysis—reshape the boundary conditions of our work? And how are these boundary conditions affected by the new material circumstances in our universities—the growth of the precariat, challenges from opponents of liberal education, clashing conceptions of freedom of expression? Visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/cfp_main) to post a call for papers for the 2017 convention.

Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall Theater
Reserve time in your schedule so that you can attend exhibitor-sponsored presentations, readings, and product demonstrations during the breaks between convention sessions.

Saturday, 9 January
9:50–10:10 a.m.
Enchanting the Desert
Presented by Stanford University Press, booths 315 and 317
11:35–11:55 a.m.
Connected Academics: Preparing Doctoral Students for a Variety of Careers
Presented by Connected Academics, MLA PubCentral
3:05–3:25 p.m.
Build an Audience for Your Work with CORE
Presented by MLA Commons, MLA PubCentral
4:50–5:10 p.m.
Book Launch for Studying English with Robert Eaglestone and Jonathan Beecher Field
Presented by Routledge, booths 306 and 307

Exhibit hall receptions and events

Saturday, 9 January
11:30 a.m. Northwestern University Press (booth 414): Anita Starosta will sign copies of her new book, Form and Instability: Eastern Europe, Literature, Postimperial Difference, which will be on sale at a 30% discount.
3:30 p.m. Knopf Doubleday (booths 511 and 513): Immediately following his session (588), Bill Bradley will sign copies of his book Time Present, Time Past.

Ongoing in the exhibit hall

Refreshment stand

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Ongoing in the exhibit hall

Refreshment stand

Exhibit Hall

Remember to wear your badge!

ACC, Ballroom D–G, level 1, West Building
9 January: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
10 January: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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.
2016 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 (ACC, 11A, level 4, or JW Marriott, 210, level 2).

Saturday, 9 January

451. Woolf and Disability
8:30–9:45 a.m., 18D, ACC
“Deformity in Woolf’s The Years,” Maren T. Linett, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette

8:30–9:45 a.m., Lone Star C, JW Marriott
Additional speaker: Donna L. Pasternak, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

473. Editing at the Crossroads: Language Contact and Editions in Languages Other Than English
[new room]
8:30–9:45 a.m., 304, JW Marriott

480. Digital Dante
[new room]
8:30–9:45 a.m., 204, JW Marriott

503. Other Europes: Migrations, Translations, Transformations
[new room]
10:15–11:30 a.m., 204, JW Marriott

512. Teaching the Arthurian Story World
10:15–11:30 a.m., 404, JW Marriott
Presiding: Bonnie Wheeler, Southern Methodist Univ.

519. Comparative Approaches to Adoption
[new room]
10:15–11:30 a.m., 304, JW Marriott

526. Contingent Faculty Members in Service
10:15–11:30 a.m., 402, JW Marriott
“The Importance of Being an Adjunct Activist,” Tiffany Kraft, Clark Coll.

538. Perceptions of the United States in Stalinist Culture
[new room]
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 304, JW Marriott

542. The Lore and Lure of the Academic Job Market
[new room]
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 204, JW Marriott

547. English, Its Literatures, and Its Publics in an International Context
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 9A, ACC
Additional speaker: Caroline Edwards, Birkbeck Univ., London

554. Lexical and Syntactic Experimentation in Postmodernist Literature
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Lone Star C, JW Marriott
Presiding: Robert Troyer, Western Oregon Univ.

569. Keywords for the Global South
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 307, JW Marriott
Additional speaker: Rebeca Hey-Colón, Colby Coll.

578. Secret Archives: Privacy, Control, and Access
1:45–3:00 p.m., 307, JW Marriott
Presiding: Erin Ann Smith, Univ. of Texas, Dallas

579. Digital Publics
1:45–3:00 p.m., 5C, ACC
“Liberating the Text from Capitalist Obscurity,” Elizabeth Grumbach, Texas A&M Univ., College Station

588. A Creative Conversation with Bill Bradley
[new room]
1:45–3:00 p.m., Lone Star G–H, JW Marriott

590. Heidegger and Lacan
1:45–3:00 p.m., 7, ACC
“Fantasy and Phenomenology: A Question concerning Technique,” Nathan Gorelick, Utah Valley Univ.

592. Open Access: A Life Raft or a Speedboat for the Monograph?
1:45–3:00 p.m., 409, JW Marriott
“Infrastructures of Openness,” David Theo Goldberg, Univ. of California, Irvine

597. Conversation
[new room]
1:45–3:00 p.m., 204, JW Marriott

646. Water Ways of Colonial Mexico
[new room]
3:30–4:45 p.m., 304, JW Marriott

650. Elemental Ecocriticism: Thinking with Earth, Air, Fire, and Water
[new room]
3:30–4:45 p.m., 204, JW Marriott
651A. The Public Work of Interpretation  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Lone Star F–H, JW Marriott  
Presiding: Roland Greene, Stanford Univ.  
How is interpretation, the work of many MLA members, a public act? The speakers—a historian, the chair of the principal federal agency for public humanities, and a founder of rural schools—reflect on the place of interpretation in the general culture.  
Stephen Breyer, previously listed as a speaker, will not be participating in this panel.

Cash Bar Arranged by the Stanford University Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages and English Department  
7:00–8:15 p.m., JW Grand 2, JW Marriott

Cash Bar Arranged by the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, English Department  
7:00–8:15 p.m., 9C, ACC

Organizational Meeting for LLC Japanese to 1900  
7:00–8:15 p.m., 201, JW Marriott

Organizational Meeting for TC Literature and History  
8:45–10:00 p.m., 203, JW Marriott

Organizational Meeting for LLC Modern and Contemporary Chinese  
8:45–10:00 p.m., 301, JW Marriott

Sunday, 10 January

720. Actor and Audience Bodies in Early Modern Theater  
8:30–9:45 a.m., 6B, ACC  
“‘Accursed Complot to My Misery’: Felt Sympathies and Antipathies in The Spanish Tragedy,” Roya Biggie, Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York

737. (Re)Living Language Change  
10:15–11:30 a.m., 304, JW Marriott  
Respondent: David Huenlich, Univ. of Texas, Austin

765. Influencing Public Policy  
10:15–11:30 a.m., Lone Star F, JW Marriott  
Additional speaker: Emily Kirkpatrick, National Council of Teachers of English

1:45–3:00 p.m., 5C, ACC  
Additional speaker: Robert Eaglestone, Royal Holloway, Univ. of London

824. Romantic Genealogies of Kinship  
1:45–3:00 p.m., 5B, ACC  
“No Friends of the Family: Mary Shelley and Fanny Holcroft,” Julie Ann Carlson, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara

669. Chaucer and His Publics  
[new room]  
5:15–6:30 p.m., 204, JW Marriott

675. Head-to-Head or Tête-à-Tête? The (Un)Translatability of World Literature  
[new room]  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Lone Star B, JW Marriott

687. Queer History and the “Ontological Turn”  
[new room]  
5:15–6:30 p.m., 201, JW Marriott

693. Regarding Susan Sontag  
[new room]  
7:00–8:15 p.m., 204, JW Marriott

697. Reception Arranged by the School of Criticism and Theory  
[new room]  
7:00–8:15 p.m., 303–304, JW Marriott

702. Cash Bar Arranged by ABC-CLIO, Geography in Literature  
7:00–8:15 p.m., JW Grand 4, JW Marriott  
This session has been canceled.

A Poetry Reading by Antonio Cicero  
7:00–8:15 p.m., Lone Star A, JW Marriott  
Presiding: Sonia M. Roncador, Univ. of Texas, Austin  
Speaker: Antonio Cicero, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
The Brazilian writer and intellectual Antonio Cicero is the author of several books of poems (including Porventura, 2012) and philosophy (most recently, Poesia e filosofia, 2012).