



## AHA and MLA

The American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting in Chicago from 3 to 6 January. To promote greater collaboration and communication among humanities scholars, the MLA and the AHA have agreed to recognize and honor each other's conference badges. Use the AHA filter in the online Program and app for sessions being held at both conventions.

## About Convention Locations

Convention sessions and the registration and welcome centers are in the Hyatt Regency Chicago (Hyatt Regency) and the Sheraton Grand Chicago (Sheraton Grand). The exhibit hall is in the Hyatt Regency, and the MLA Career Center is in the Fairmont Chicago.

## Appropriate Conduct at the Convention

The largest scholarly meeting in the humanities, the MLA Annual Convention brings together thousands of members to discuss new research, participate in workshops, and build their professional networks. The MLA is committed to providing an inclusive and harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, religion, or

other group identity. MLA policies on discrimination and harassment and on professional ethics are included in the *Convention Guide*. We also encourage those participating in interviews at the convention to review "Dos and Don'ts for MLA Convention Interviews," on the MLA Web site. Read the complete guidelines at [www.mla.org/Appropriate-Conduct](http://www.mla.org/Appropriate-Conduct).

## Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year's meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider regular staff and committee reports on association activities, the scheduled annual increase of 2.5% in the dues amount for every membership category, a recommendation for a change in the fee structure for paid life membership, the final report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Advocacy Policies and Procedures, and proposed constitutional amendments. Also on the assembly's agenda is an hour-long open discussion of power differentials in graduate education. Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/DA-Agenda-2019](http://www.mla.org/DA-Agenda-2019)).

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 266). Please see the second section in "Checklists for Submitting Resolutions" ([www.mla.org/Checklists-for-Submitting-Resolutions](http://www.mla.org/Checklists-for-Submitting-Resolutions)) for information on submission requirements.

The assembly meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, 5 January, in Grand Ballroom EF in the Hyatt Regency (Ballroom level, East Tower). 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 open hearing and the assembly meeting are open only to MLA members and accredited journalists. Please remember to wear your badge.**

## 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 or by MLA members who have not registered for the convention.



Field Museum

CHRIS NGUYEN ON UNSPLASH

**Convention App and Online Program.** Download the MLA 2019 app to create your own convention schedule, be alerted to session updates, learn about exhibitors, and have easy access to session information, maps, and other convention details. A searchable program for the convention is also available online ([mla19.org](http://mla19.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. Two more issues will appear, on Friday, 4 January, and on Saturday, 5 January.



## Event Highlights: 3 January

### *A River Called Titas*

3:00–6:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Columbus KL, Ballroom level, East Tower

A screening of the Bengali filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak's masterpiece *A River Called Titas* (1973). Composed by an Indian filmmaker entirely in Bangladeshi creole, the film attempts to represent the world of female agency within a sexually violent rural subalternity just after the establishment of Bangladesh. Ghatak's film also considers the contemporary global issue of manipulations of the physical environment.

### 133. Readers (and Fans) Write Back to Books

5:15–6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Crystal Ballroom A, Lobby level, West Tower

New digital platforms enable fans and readers to interact with writers and publishers in a variety of ways, but that interaction is not totally new. How do readers shape literature and literary history? This lively exploration of fandom, readership, and publishing covers the Harlem Renaissance, Harry Potter, and girls who take matters into their own hands.

### Humanities without Walls 2019 National Humanities Summit on Automation: Cultural Potentials

7:00–8:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency, Crystal Ballroom B, Lobby level, West Tower

Humanities without Walls and the Chicago Humanities Festival convene a two-part summit exploring the impact of automation on work and labor from literary and cultural perspectives. Part 2 will be held 4 January, 3:30–5:00 p.m., at the AHA Annual Meeting, Palmer House Hilton, Monroe Room.

### MLA Night Out

7:30–10:30 p.m., Fairmont Chicago, Rouge, Lobby level

Drop in for a set of live music along with light snacks and a cash bar during this inaugural evening event. All are welcome. Visit the MLA registration desk (Hyatt Regency, Ballroom level, East Tower) to purchase tickets.

### Cultural Excursions: 3 January

For questions or cancellations, visit the MLA membership desk (Hyatt Regency, Ballroom level, East Tower).

11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, Art Institute of Chicago

12:30–4:30 p.m., Chicago Shakespeare Theater

### MLA Career Center

#### Preparing for the Career Fair

3 January, 2:00–3:00 p.m., and 4 January, 10:00–10:45 a.m., Fairmont Chicago, Career Center lounge, International Ballroom, level 2

Are you planning to attend the Possible Futures Career Fair? Want some help perfecting your pitch? Then head to the Career Center lounge for support from career services professionals at our “Preparing for the Career Fair” pop-up.

#### Using *ImaginePhD* for Career Exploration

4 and 5 January, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, Fairmont Chicago, Career Center lounge, International Ballroom, level 2

*ImaginePhD* is a career exploration and planning tool designed specifically for humanities and social science PhDs. At these pop-up events, you will get hands-on experience using the site, as well as guidance about how to interpret and act on the results. Please bring a tablet or laptop.

### MLA PubCentral

Hyatt Regency, Exhibit Hall, East Tower

4–5 January, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

6 January, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Visit MLA PubCentral for everything related to MLA publications. Shop for MLA titles, explore the *MLA International Bibliography* (and spin the *MLA Bib* prize wheel), find out about the MLA Archives Project, learn about *The MLA Style Center*, update your *MLA Commons* profile, and browse the winners of MLA's publication prizes, all in one central location.



Chicago Theater



## MLA Gift Shop

Brand new this year, the MLA Gift Shop offers unique, MLA-branded merchandise, including the much anticipated MLA cookbook containing recipes contributed by MLA members.

## MLA Style Help

On 4 and 5 January, MLA staff editors will lead workshops (sessions 253 and 437) on using the method for citing sources explained in the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*. Both sessions are suitable for librarians and teachers as well as for students.

## MLA Books

All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30%, with free shipping available to domestic addresses. Five new MLA titles will be released at the convention in Chicago, and all will be available for purchase. If you spend more than \$30 on MLA titles, you will receive a free copy of *MLA Members Cook!*

## MLA International Bibliography

Staff members from the *MLA International Bibliography* will be on hand to answer questions, provide demonstrations, help with searches, and provide assistance for setting up your ORCID profile and using BibLink for updates.

## 2018 MLA Prize Winners

All the 2018 MLA-prize-winning books will be on display, and a video will feature material from the winners. The awards will be presented at the MLA Awards Ceremony (session 614), 5 January, 7:00 p.m., Sheraton Grand, Sheraton Ballroom IV–V, Ballroom level.

## MLA Commons

Discover how *MLA Commons* can facilitate member-to-member communication, support the work of MLA groups, and so much more. Update your *MLA Commons* profile, learn about *Humanities Commons*, and find out the advantages of making your work openly available with the *Commons Open Repository Exchange (CORE)*.

## Twitter

Follow @MLAnews for updates throughout the convention and tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla19) and session hashtags (e.g., #s389).

## Exhibit Hall

*Remember to wear your badge!*

Hyatt Regency, Exhibit Hall, East Tower

4–5 January: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

6 January: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Professional Head Shots.** Come to the exhibit hall for your complimentary professional head shot. The photographer will be available Friday, 4 January, and Saturday, 5 January, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit the Bedford / St. Martin's / Macmillan Learning exhibit booth (300 and 301) to sign up.

Download the MLA 2019 app for exhibitor details and floor plan. 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.

### Friday, 4 January

9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Bedford / St. Martin's / Macmillan Learning (booths 300 and 301). Macmillan Learning is running a professional photo booth. Have your photo taken for your *LinkedIn* profile or résumé—just in time for interviews. Get ready for your turn in front of the bright lights!

3:00 p.m. Duke University Press (booths 126 and 128). Please join Duke UP for a wine reception celebrating journals that have recently joined the press's publishing program: *Critical Times*, *English Language Notes*, *Journal of Korean Studies*, *Prism*, *Meridians*, and *Qui Parle*.

4:30–5:30 p.m. MLA PubCentral. Join us for a wine and cheese reception to celebrate the MLA's new titles and the publication of the *MLA International Bibliography with Full Text*.

### Saturday, 5 January

9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Bedford / St. Martin's / Macmillan Learning (booths 300 and 301). Macmillan Learning is running a professional photo booth. Have your photo taken for your *LinkedIn* profile or résumé—just in time for interviews. Get ready for your turn in front of the bright lights!

## 2019 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. Program updates are subject to the approval of the MLA staff; please write to updates2019@mmla.org with any changes.

### Thursday, 3 January

#### 1. Fund-Raising 101: How to Raise Money for Your Programs and Events

8:30–11:30 a.m., Randolph 2, Hyatt Regency

Presiding: Jan Parkin, Roosevelt U

**60. James Baldwin: Interventions**

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Michigan 3, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Adrienne Brown, U of Chicago

**69. Politics and the Periphery: Heine, Franzos, Kafka [new location]**

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Michigan A, Sheraton Grand*

**Use Your Research and Communication Skills as an Intelligence Analyst in the Federal Government**

3:30–5:30 p.m., *Gold Coast, Hyatt Regency*  
 Program arranged by the MLA Career Center  
*Presiding:* Doris Johnson, Dept. of Homeland Security  
 Learn how your research, critical thinking, and communication skills can be used as an intelligence analyst in the federal government. These skills are needed to help decision makers understand the various threats that impact national security today, including cyber threats. Representatives from government agencies will speak.

**110. Chaucerian Economies**

5:15–6:30 p.m., *Grand Suite 5, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Emma Lipton, U of Missouri, Columbia  
 “The Country and the City Six Hundred Years avant la Lettre,”  
 Ethan E. H. Knapp, Ohio State U, Columbus

**164. Gender, Precarity, Materiality**

7:00–8:15 p.m., *Michigan 1C, Hyatt Regency*  
 “Pregnant Men, Inhuman Reproduction, and the ‘Creation of African America’ in Octavia Butler and Kara Walker,” Lauren Heintz, California State U, Los Angeles

**Friday, 4 January****275. Résumé Workshop**

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., *Acapulco, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Jennifer Furlong, Graduate Center, City U of New York

**306. Disability, Disclosure, and the Academy**

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Columbus G, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Anna Waymack, Cornell U

**308. Writing in the Age of Anxiety**

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Columbus AB, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Jean Ferguson Carr, U of Pittsburgh

**338. Žižek! Politics, Philosophy, Psychoanalysis**

3:30–4:45 p.m., *Toronto, Hyatt Regency*  
 “Positing the Presuppositions: Marx with Žižek,” Bruno Bosteels, Columbia U  
*Respondent:* Jean-Michel Rabaté, U of Pennsylvania

**380. Humanities in Five**

5:15–6:30 p.m., *Grand Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency*  
*Additional speakers:* Santa Arias, U of Kansas; Devoney Looser, Arizona State U

**Saturday, 5 January****454. Touching Empire**

10:15–11:30 a.m., *Gold Coast, Hyatt Regency*  
 “Tactile Empire,” Rajani Sudan, Southern Methodist U

**496. Decolonizing the Oceans in Early American Writing**

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., *Randolph 2, Hyatt Regency*  
 “The Uncommon and Surprising Times of Briton Hammon,” John Casey, Brown U

**501. Peter Abrahams, RIP—Commemorating a Pan-African Life**

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., *Plaza Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency*  
 “Peter Abrahams and Routes of Connection in the Global South,”  
 Nesrine Chahine, Stockton U

**559. Making Women: The Female Readership of Dante’s Works**

3:30–4:45 p.m., *Michigan B, Sheraton Grand*  
 “Maria Francesca Rossetti’s *A Shadow of Dante*: Negotiating Scholarly Identity in the Age of Patriarchal Dantismo (1870s–1910s),”  
 Federica Coluzzi, U of Manchester

**580. Sweet Home Chicago? Rethinking Blues Literature**

5:15–6:30 p.m., *Acapulco, Hyatt Regency*  
 “Plantation Futures Blues: Refusing Forgetting and James Hannaham’s Delicious Foods,” Eve Dunbar, Vassar C

**599. Connected Academics: A Showcase of Career Diversity**

5:15–6:30 p.m., *Plaza Ballroom B, Hyatt Regency*  
*Additional speaker:* Amanda Norton, Northwestern U

**Sunday, 6 January****674. New Perspectives in Ecocriticism: Latinx Approaches**

10:15–11:30 a.m., *Roosevelt 3, Hyatt Regency*  
*Presiding:* Maia Gil’Adí, U of Massachusetts, Lowell

**710. Producing Global Performance**

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., *Randolph 3, Hyatt Regency*  
 “‘And Praise Jehovah, Who Created Men Black’: Staging History in *Jonny spielt Auf*,” Paul Edwards, Harvard U