

THE ACADEMY IN HARD TIMES

*With the academy facing one of the most difficult periods in its history, the MLA Program Committee has designated 6 January 2011, the first day of the Los Angeles convention, as a focal point for a series of panels and workshops on the theme *The Academy in Hard Times*. Inside are the programs for this initiative.*



Thursday, 6 January, 11:45 a.m.

4. Strategies for Search Committees

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m., Diamond Salon 1, J. W. Marriott
Program arranged by the ADFL Executive Committee.

Thursday, 6 January, 12:00 noon

5. Teaching American Literature in an Age of Scarcity: Pedagogy and the Profession

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 404B, LA Convention Center

7. German in the Life of the University: A View from the Trenches

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 405, LA Convention Center

12. Labor in the Digital Humanities

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 407, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Information Technology and the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities.

20. Capitalism and the Humanities

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 409A, LA Convention Center

21. Rehabilitating Scholarly Ethos: Theory and Practice in Hard Times

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 404A, LA Convention Center

22. Class Dismissed: Economic Policies, the Academic Workforce, and Student Access to Higher Education

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 406A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges and the Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages.

29. The Brave New World of Scholarly Books: Publishing in Tempestuous Times

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 410, LA Convention Center

43A. Current Challenges to Academic Freedom

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 403A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the American Association of University Professors.

Thursday, 6 January, 1:45 p.m.

48. Hacking the Profession: Academic Self-Help in an Age of Crisis

1:45–3:00 p.m., 407, LA Convention Center

53. Critical University Studies

1:45–3:00 p.m., 304A, LA Convention Center

56. Writing Programs, Hard Times, and Effective Actions

1:45–3:00 p.m., 410, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

58. Collaborative Strategies for Hard (and Good) Times: Local, Regional, International Options

1:45–3:00 p.m., 404B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature.

70. Improving Non-Tenure-Track Appointments: Current Models from California, Colorado, and Missouri

1:45–3:00 p.m., 405, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession.

72. African American Studies in the Postrace Era

1:45–3:00 p.m., 406B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture.

73. Governance Matters

1:45–3:00 p.m., 409B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Division on Teaching as a Profession.

Thursday, 6 January, 3:30 p.m.

91. Meeting in the Library: Academic Labor at the Interface

3:30–4:45 p.m., 410, LA Convention Center

99. Reports from the Field: Protesting Higher Education Cutbacks

3:30–4:45 p.m., 409B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages.

100. Unions in Academe: Navigating Hard Times

3:30–4:45 p.m., 405, LA Convention Center

106. The Strange Death of the Liberal University in Britain?

3:30–4:45 p.m., 406B, LA Convention Center

122. Why Can't We Teach What We Are Trained to Teach? Program Consolidation, Elimination, Realignment

3:30–4:45 p.m., 408A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee.

123. Staking Your Claim: Are You Represented in Your Institution's Strategic Plan?

3:30–4:45 p.m., 404B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession.

127. Is There a Crisis in Black Research Publishing?

3:30–4:45 p.m., 409A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals and the Division on Black American Literature and Culture.

Thursday, 6 January, 5:15 p.m.

130. German in Hard Times in the Life of the University

5:15–6:30 p.m., 404B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the American Association of Teachers of German.

133. In Our Own Image: Remaking Academia in a Changing Economic Climate

5:15–6:30 p.m., 404A, LA Convention Center

140. What Is "College Level Writing" in the Twenty-First Century?

5:15–6:30 p.m., 410, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

150. New Tools, Hard Times: Social Networking and the Academic Crisis

5:15–6:30 p.m., 406A, LA Convention Center

161. Skills and Strategies for the New Normal in Higher Education

5:15–6:30 p.m., 405, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the ADFL Executive Committee.

162. Collective Work, Working Collectively

5:15–6:30 p.m., 409B, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession.

Thursday, 6 January, 7:00 p.m.

167. The Academy in Hard Times

7:00–8:15 p.m., 408A, LA Convention Center
Program arranged by the Office of the Executive Director. *Presiding:* Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park

Speakers: Barbara Bowen, Professional Staff Congress; Reed Way Dasenbrock, Univ. of Hawai'i, Mānoa; Monica F. Jacobe, Princeton Univ.; Christopher John Newfield, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; Gary Rhoades, American Assn. of Univ. Professors; Richard Alan Yarborough, Univ. of California, Los Angeles

Michael Bérubé is MLA second vice president and Paterno Family Professor in Literature at Penn State University. He is the author of seven books, most recently *The Left At War*. He has written on the ethical treatment of part-time faculty members, the role of graduate students in the profession, and the threats to academic freedom posed by the overreliance on contingent labor.

Barbara Bowen is president of the Professional Staff Congress, the union that represents faculty and staff members at the City University of New York. A member of CUNY's doctoral faculty, she has a history in the labor movement and a strong belief in grassroots organizing as the key to a union's power.

Reed Way Dasenbrock has been a full-time administrator since 1994. He is the author of *The Literary Vorticism of Ezra Pound and Wyndham Lewis; Imitating the Italians: Wyatt, Spenser, Synge, Pound, and Joyce*; and *Truth and Consequences: Intentions, Conventions, and the New Thematics*. He is vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa.

Monica F. Jacobe, a writer, is working on a memoir that explores what it means to grow into womanhood without a female role model in twenty-first-century America and on a critical examination of the transformative nature of work identity in southern novels since the 1960s.

Christopher Newfield teaches American studies in the English Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of *The Emerson Effect: Individualism and Submission in America; Ivy and Industry: Business and the Making of the American University, 1880–1980*; and *Unmaking the Public University: The Forty-Year Assault on the Middle Class*.

Gary Rhoades is general secretary of the American Association of University Professors. His research has focused on professions in academe, university restructuring, and science and technology issues in higher education. He is the author of *Managed Professionals: Unionized Faculty and Restructuring Academic Labor*.

Richard Yarborough is professor of English and faculty research associate with the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has written on Frederick Douglass, Charles Chesnut, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Richard Wright. He directs the Library of Black Literature reprint series for the University Press of New England.