

MLA 2017

Philadelphia

About Convention Locations

Convention sessions take place in the Pennsylvania Convention Center (PCC) and the Philadelphia Marriott, which are connected by a covered walkway. The MLA registration and welcome center, MLA PubCentral, the exhibit hall, and the Job Information Center are located in the PCC.

Coffee and Refreshment Stand

For morning and afternoon meals and snacks, visit the refreshment stand in the exhibit hall (PCC, Ballroom AB, Ballroom level) to purchase coffee, tea, fruit, muffins, sandwiches, and other items.

7 January: 9:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

8 January: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

A convention badge or appropriate pass is required to enter the exhibit hall, so please remember to wear your badge.

Delegate Assembly Agenda

At this year's meeting, the Delegate Assembly will consider regular staff and committee reports on association activities, a request for comment on the Program Committee's proposal for new and revised convention session formats, a recommendation from the Executive Council and the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee for restructuring the association's dues categories, proposed constitutional amendments, and three regular resolutions.

Information on these agenda items can be accessed at the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/da-agenda).

The assembly will also consider an emergency resolution that was submitted after the 1 October deadline for regular resolutions and that was discussed during yesterday's Open Hearing on Resolutions. The emergency resolution was submitted by Michael Bérubé and reads as follows:

Whereas, the Modern Language Association upholds the ideal of free and unfettered scholarly exchange, including the right of scholars to travel across international borders;

Whereas, the MLA opposes discrimination—among faculty, staff, and students—on the basis of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion or national origin; and

Whereas, the MLA is aware that the Trump Administration threatens to violate these core principles of democracy and academic freedom,

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Be it resolved that the MLA strongly endorses the statement of the American Association of University Professors, "Higher Education after the 2016 Election," and urges members to disseminate it widely.

The assembly meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, 7 January, in Grand Ballroom Salon GH in the Philadelphia Marriott (level 5). 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 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 (PCC, Grand Hall, level 2) to learn about the opportunities for professional development and financial support provided by the regional MLAs.

MLA Awards Ceremony (677)

7 January, 8:15 p.m., Philadelphia Marriott, Liberty Ballroom ABC, level 2

The awards ceremony will take place Saturday evening and will be followed by a reception. MLA President Kwame Anthony Appiah will present the Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities to Anna Deavere Smith, who will then speak. Appiah will present a statement of appreciation to Simon E. Gikandi, editor of *PMLA* (2011–16), who will then speak. First Vice President Diana Taylor will present the MLA Publication Awards. A display and video about the winners can be seen in MLA PubCentral (see p. 3). Executive Director Rosemary G. Feal will announce the *MLA International Bibliography* Fellowship awards, the recipient of the seal of approval from the Committee on Scholarly Editions, and the American Literature Society's Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American Literary Studies. ADFL President Karen A. Stolley will present the ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession to Ofelia Zepeda, who will then speak. ADE President Stacey Lee Donohue will present the ADE Francis Andrew March Award to Sandra Sellers Hanson, who will then speak. The MLA publication award recipients are as follows:

Convention App and Online Program. Download the app for the 2017 convention to create your own convention schedule, be alerted to session updates, and have easy access to session information, maps, and other convention details. A searchable program for the convention is also available online (www.mla.org/program).

The *Convention Daily* is published three times during the convention and is available free at the MLA registration and welcome center, the headquarters offices, and various other locations. This issue is the last.

Philadelphia

- 53rd Annual William Riley Parker Prize:** Yasser Elhariry, Dartmouth College, for “Abdelwahab Meddeb, Sufi Poets, and the New Francophone Lyric” (*PMLA*, March 2016)
- 47th Annual James Russell Lowell Prize:** Caroline Levine, Cornell University, for *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2015)
- 23rd Annual Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book:** Supriya Rajan, University of Rochester, for *A Tale of Two Capitalisms: Sacred Economics in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2015)
- 34th Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize:** Deborah Brandt, University of Wisconsin, Madison, for *The Rise of Writing: Redefining Mass Literacy* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Elizabeth Losh, University of California, San Diego, for *The War on Learning: Gaining Ground in the Digital University* (MIT Press, 2014)
- 31st Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars:** Mimi Yiu, Vancouver, British Columbia, for *Architectural Involutions: Writing, Staging, and Building Space, c. 1435–1650* (Northwestern Univ. Press, 2015)
- 24th Howard R. Marraro Prize:** Marilyn Migiel, Cornell University, for *The Ethical Dimension of the Decameron* (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2015)
- 26th Annual Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize:** Enrique Fernandez, University of Manitoba, for *Anxieties of Interiority and Dissection in Early Modern Spain* (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2015)
Anne Lambright, Trinity College, Connecticut, for *Andean Truths: Transitional Justice, Ethnicity, and Cultural Production in Post-Shining Path Peru* (Liverpool Univ. Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Núria Silleras-Fernández, University of Colorado, Boulder, for *Chariots of Ladies: Franciscan Eiximenis and the Court Culture of Medieval and Early Modern Iberia* (Cornell Univ. Press, 2015)
- 24th Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies:** Steven S. Lee, University of California, Berkeley, for *The Ethnic Avant-Garde: Minority Cultures and World Revolution* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2015)
Ayesha Ramachandran, Yale University, for *The Worldmakers: Global Imagining in Early Modern Europe* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2015)
- 24th Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies:** Hannah Freed-Thall, Brown University, for *Spoiled Distinctions: Aesthetics and the Ordinary in French Modernism* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2015)
- 12th Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures:** John K. Noyes, University of Toronto, for *Herder: Aesthetics against Imperialism* (Univ. of Toronto Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Yuliya Komska, Dartmouth College, for *The Icon Curtain: The Cold War's Quiet Border* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2015)
- 12th Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work:** Fred Bridgham, University of Leeds, and Edward Timms, University of Sussex, for *The Last Days of Mankind*, by Karl Kraus (Yale Univ. Press, 2015)
- Honorable mention:** Thoraya El-Rayyes, Amman, Jordan, for *The Perception of Meaning*, by Hisham Bustani (Syracuse Univ. Press, 2015)
- Honorable mention:** Dorothy Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley, for *Marie de France: Poetry* (W. W. Norton, 2015)
- 19th Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies:** Arielle Saiber, Bowdoin College, for *Measured Words: Computation and Writing in Renaissance Italy* (Univ. of Toronto Press)
- 10th Modern Language Association Prize for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project:** P. Gabrielle Foreman, University of Delaware; Jim Casey, University of Delaware; and Sarah Lynn Patterson, University of Delaware, for *The Colored Conventions Project* team, for *The Colored Conventions Project* (coloredconventions.org/)
- 15th Annual William Sanders Scarborough Prize:** Uri McMillan, University of California, Los Angeles, for *Embodied Avatars: Genealogies of Black Feminist Art and Performance* (New York Univ. Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Nadia Ellis, University of California, Berkeley, for *Territories of the Soul: Queered Belonging in the Black Diaspora* (Duke Univ. Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Angela Naimou, Clemson University, for *Salvage Work: U.S. and Caribbean Literatures amid the Debris of Legal Personhood* (Fordham Univ. Press, 2015)
- 8th Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies:** Kathryn Hellerstein, University of Pennsylvania, for *A Question of Tradition: Women Poets in Yiddish, 1586–1987* (Stanford Univ. Press, 2014)
Honorable mention: Jan Schwarz, Lund University, Sweden, for *Survivors and Exiles: Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust* (Wayne State Univ. Press, 2015)
- 2nd Modern Language Association Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages:** James H. Cox, University of Texas, Austin, and Daniel Heath Justice, University of British Columbia, for *The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2014)
Honorable mention: ku‘ualoha ho‘omanawanui, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa, for *Voices of Fire: Reweaving the Literary Lei of Pele and Hi‘iaka* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2014)
- 1st Annual Matei Calinescu Prize:** Paul K. Saint-Amour, University of Pennsylvania, for *Tense Future: Modernism, Total War, Encyclopedic Form* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2015)
Honorable mention: Rebecca L. Walkowitz, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, for *Born Translated: The Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2015)

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 the MLA registration and welcome center on the day of the session, before the center closes. Passes may not be requested by guests of speakers or by MLA members who have not registered for the convention.

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 (PCC, Ballroom Prefunction, Ballroom level).

MLA PubCentral

PCC, Grand Hall, level 2

Visit MLA PubCentral starting at 8:00 a.m. each day for everything related to MLA publications, including free giveaways, the *MLA International Bibliography*, *MLA Commons*, *Commons Open Repository Exchange (CORE)*, *Humanities Commons*, and a display of the 2016 MLA-prize-winning books. Meet with an MLA acquisitions editor to discuss your ideas and learn about the MLA publications program.

For only \$20 you can own a stylish Paving the Way T-shirt and support the MLA's new advocacy campaign, Paving the Way: For the Future of the Humanities.

All MLA titles ordered at the booth will be discounted 30% throughout the convention. Buy \$30 worth of MLA merchandise and receive a \$10 Reading Terminal Market gift card.

Saturday, 7 January

3:30–5:15 p.m. Meet with an experienced MLA editor to discuss the changes in the new, eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*. The editor will offer advice for teaching the new style and guidance on how to document sources in your own work.

Event Highlights: 7 January

Job Counseling

Job Information Center, PCC, 204, level 2

Stop by the Job Information Center for twenty-five-minute one-on-one counseling sessions.

MLA International Bibliography Demonstrations

10:15–10:45 a.m., PCC, 105B, level 1

Humanities Commons and CORE Introductory Sessions

10:15–11:00 a.m., PCC, 102A, level 1

498. Finding a Broader Audience; or, Academics Are Writers, Too

10:15–11:30 a.m., PCC, 202A, level 2

563. Reinventing the PhD: Celebrating Change, Rethinking Resistance

1:45–3:00 p.m., PCC, 202A, level 2

604. Connected Academics: Transferable Skills and Résumés for Language and Literature PhDs

3:30–4:45 p.m., PCC, 202A, level 2

Anna Deavere Smith Book Signing

4:20 p.m., Exhibit Hall, PCC, Ballroom AB, Ballroom level

Anna Deavere Smith, recipient of the Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities, will be signing copies of her books, including *Talk to Me* and *Letters to a Young Artist*, in the Knopf Doubleday booths (520 and 522). See page 4 for information on other signings and events in the exhibit hall.

Benefit for the Humanities

6:30–8:00 p.m., Plaza Ballroom, level 3, Ritz Carlton, 10 Avenue of the Americas

RSVP required.

677. MLA Awards Ceremony

8:15 p.m., Philadelphia Marriott, Liberty Ballroom ABC, level 2

Event Highlights: 8 January

699. Candid Conversations: Mentorship in the Humanities

8:30–9:45 a.m., PCC, 202A, level 2

757. Connected Academics and Graduate Deans

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., PCC, 202A, level 2

Cultural Excursion: 7 January

10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Rosenbach Museum and Library Banned Books Tour. (No shuttle; close to most convention hotels)

Twitter

Follow @MLAconvention on *Twitter* and tweet sessions using the convention hashtag (#mla17) and session hashtags (e.g., #S422).

Accessible Shuttle: 7–8 January

Because of the proximity of the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Philadelphia Marriott to each other and to the other convention hotels, there will be transportation available only for attendees with disabilities. Preference is given to those who make reservations in advance (ADAdesk@mla.org; 310 562-0606).

Shuttle loading areas: PCC, 12th Street at Arch Street, near level 1 meeting rooms; Philadelphia Marriott, Filbert Street entrance
Accessible shuttle service hours: 7 January: 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; 8 January: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

2018 Presidential Theme: #States of Insecurity

Diana Taylor, the 2017–18 president of the MLA, has chosen #States of Insecurity as the presidential theme for the 2018 MLA Annual Convention in New York City. Human beings have long lived, told stories, danced, cried, written, made art, learned, taught, debated, and theorized in moments of insecurity caused by events as varied as war, plague, famine, conquest,

and enslavement. States of insecurity, in fact, have animated some of our most enduring cultural productions and values. This theme invites reflection on how our intellectual, artistic, and pedagogical work helps us think through the crises of our time. What strategies do the humanities offer for navigating our current crises: political volatility, fluctuating financial markets, fear-mongering media, and increasingly hateful acts and rhetoric that contribute to a general sense of malaise? #States of Insecurity asks those in the academy to draw from their experiences to identify and denaturalize the elements that contribute to states of insecurity. Visit the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/cfp_main) to post a call for papers for the 2018 convention.

2018 Convention in New York City

4–7 January 2018

Calls for Papers

To post or review calls for papers for the 2018 MLA convention in New York City, visit www.mla.org/callsforpapers.

Organizing Sessions

Forms and instructions for organizing sessions at the 2018 convention will be available on the MLA Web site in March.

Exhibit Hall

Remember to wear your badge!

PCC, Ballroom AB, Ballroom level

7 January: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

8 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.

Saturday, 7 January

9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Cambridge University Press (booth 107): Visit the Cambridge booth for a chance to win one of three £100/\$125 vouchers to be redeemed on our fantastic range of books!

9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Oxford University Press (booths 305 and 307): Stop by the Oxford booth for a chance to win a year's subscription to *Electronic Enlightenment*, an online resource that digitizes letters from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries.

12:00 noon. *Inside Higher Ed* (booth 515): Graduate students are invited to stop by the booth and enter their names in a gift card giveaway. The winner will be drawn at noon.

12:45 p.m. Routledge (booths 200 and 202): The winner of Routledge's word-search competition will be announced. Find out if you topped the leaderboard and won a prize!

2:00 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Press (booth 211): Christopher Newfield will be signing copies of *The Great Mistake: How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them*.

4:00 p.m. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group (booths 520 and 522): Actor, teacher, and playwright Anna Deavere Smith will be signing copies of her books, including *Talk to Me* and *Letters to a Young Artist*.

5:15 p.m. Cambria Press (booth 509): Meet Victor Mair, general editor of the Cambria Sinophone World Series, which features interdisciplinary works on the Sinophone world. He will be joined by the director of Cambria Press, Toni Tan, to discuss the series and answer questions.

5:30 p.m. World of Reading (booth 404): Will you receive a free World of Reading reader in the language of your choice? Visit the booth during the day, and come back at 5:30 p.m. to find out!

2017 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 stop by the headquarters office in the Philadelphia Marriott (Conference Suite III, level 3) or write to updates2017@mla.org with any changes.

Saturday, 7 January

438. Conrad's Animals

8:30–9:45 a.m., 202B, PCC

Presiding: Andrew Ferguson, Univ. of Virginia

446. Low-Wage Work: The Boundary Condition of University Labor

8:30–9:45 a.m., 103A, PCC

Additional speaker: Becky Cave, 15 Now

455. Translating the Seventeenth Century for and in the Twenty-First Century

8:30–9:45 a.m., Franklin 6, Philadelphia Marriott

Additional speaker: Arianne Margolin, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder

483. The Politics of Mark Twain's America

10:15–11:30 a.m., 104B, PCC

"Writing Wronged Bodies: Mark Twain and the American Gothic," Ann M. Ryan, LeMoyne Coll.

489. Useful and Beautiful: William Morris and the Art of the Book

10:15–11:30 a.m., 112A, PCC

Presiding: Jason Martinek, New Jersey City Univ.

506. What Do We Teach When We Teach Writing?

10:15–11:30 a.m., 401-403, Philadelphia Marriott

"Sound Writing Practices: Sonic Rhetorics in the Composition (or Any Other) Classroom," Jonathan Stone, Univ. of Utah.

528. Testimonies of War in Svetlana Alexievich's Prose

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 405, Philadelphia Marriott

"*Tsinkovyte Mal'chiki: A Novel of Voices in Theaters and Courtrooms*," Holly Myers, Columbia Univ.

552. Walter Benjamin in Palestine [new time and location]

8:30–9:45 a.m., Grand Ballroom Salon I, Philadelphia Marriott

Philadelphia
594. Narratives of Childhood

3:30–4:45 p.m., Franklin 12, Philadelphia Marriott

“A infância fragmentada em *Dois Irmãos*, de Milton Hatoum: Searching for an Answer to the Question ‘Se Deus é brasileiro, todos somos brasileiros?’” Mónica Ayala-Martínez, Denison Univ.

617. Forms of Puerto Rican Debt: Critique and Conditions

3:30–4:45 p.m., 310, Philadelphia Marriott

“Aesthetic Response to Indebtedness in Pablo Delano and Guillermo Rebollo Gil,” Guillermo B. Irizarry, Univ. of Connecticut, West Hartford

625. George Sand and the Art of Blurring Boundaries

3:30–4:45 p.m., 305-306, Philadelphia Marriott

Presiding: Alexandra Wettlaufer, Univ. of Texas, Austin

632. Respect, Responsibility, Coalition, and Relation

5:15–6:30 p.m., 110B, PCC

“Narrative Care: Relating and Responsibility in Canadian Fiction,” Pushpa Acharya, Univ. of Toronto

669. Reception Arranged by the Forum LLC Italian American

7:00–8:15 p.m., Franklin 7, Philadelphia Marriott

This event has been canceled.

673. Cash Bar Arranged by the Forum LLC Jewish American

7:00–8:15 p.m., Franklin 12, Philadelphia Marriott

This event has been canceled.

Sunday, 8 January
690. Critique and Its Limits

8:30–9:45 a.m., 110B, PCC

“‘Mere Literature’: Between Deliberative and Agonistic Democracy,” Peter Mallios, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

709. Thing Theory 2017

10:15–11:30 a.m., 203B, PCC

Respondent: Bill Brown, Univ. of Chicago

715. Scenes of Subjection at Twenty

10:15–11:30 a.m., 102A, PCC

“Theorizing in the Void,” Zakiyyah Jackson, George Mason Univ.

735. Writing Migrant Selves in Transnational Arab Contexts

10:15–11:30 a.m., Franklin 6, Philadelphia Marriott

“(Non)Citizenship and Narration: Anton Shamma’s *Arabesques*,” Carolyn Ownbey, McGill Univ.

756. Constructing Realities: Fiction and Metafiction

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Franklin 3, Philadelphia Marriott

Additional speakers: Jean-Vincent Blanchard, Swarthmore Coll.; Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi, Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis

795. The Planet in Ruins: The Anthropocene from Below

1:45–3:00 p.m., 106B, PCC

Presiding: Alfred J. López, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette



PETER MILLER