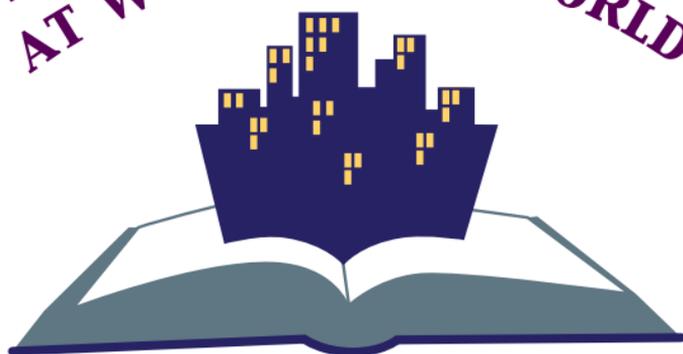


THE HUMANITIES AT WORK IN THE WORLD



MLA CHICAGO 2007

The Humanities at Work in the World is the theme for this year's Presidential Forum at the MLA Annual Convention. The theme will serve as the topic for the forum and two conversations growing directly out of it and as the subject of several other meetings. Two dozen or so related programs, sponsored by a broad spectrum of divisions, discussion groups, and allied and affiliated organizations, will participate. Each of these sessions will explore the ineluctability of techniques and approaches derived from the humanities as they inspire and enable work across a vast horizon of unexpected disciplines. Some of the most creative minds in our field—and in other professions as well—will reveal often unperceived connections between the work of the world and the work of the humanities. I think it will be an exciting as well as useful program and hope you will be able to join the dialogue in Chicago.

—Michael Holquist

The following is a list of forums, workshops, and sessions on The Humanities at Work in the World.

FORUMS

Thursday, 27 December

87. The Humanities at Work in the World

7:00–8:45 p.m., Sheraton V, Sheraton Chicago

The Presidential Forum. *Presiding:* Michael Holquist, Yale Univ.

1. “The Humanities as an Export Commodity,”
Peter Brooks, Yale Univ.
2. “Deep Memory and National History Textbooks,”
James V. Wertsch, Washington Univ.
3. “Stepping Out: On Making the Loathly Lady,”
Wendy Steiner, Univ. of Pennsylvania
4. “The Humanities in the Twenty-First Century,”
Richard J. Franke, Chicago Humanities Festival
5. “Good to Think With,” Marjorie Garber, Harvard Univ.

For coordinated workshops, see meetings 168 and 189.

WORKSHOPS

Friday, 28 December

168. A Conversation with Peter Brooks, Richard J. Franke, Marjorie Garber, Wendy Steiner, and James V. Wertsch

8:30–9:45 a.m., Sheraton V, Sheraton Chicago

A workshop arranged in conjunction with the Presidential Forum *The Humanities at Work in the World* (87).

Presiding: Michael Holquist, Yale Univ. *Speakers:* Peter Brooks, Yale Univ.; Richard J. Franke, Chicago Humanities Festival; Marjorie Garber, Harvard Univ.; Wendy Steiner, Univ. of Pennsylvania; James V. Wertsch, Washington Univ.

189. A Conversation with Robert Barsky, Alex Beam, David B. Marshall, Carlos Monsiváis, and Bruce W. Robbins

10:15–11:30 a.m., Sheraton V, Sheraton Chicago

A workshop arranged in conjunction with the Presidential Forum *The Humanities at Work in the World* (87).

Presiding: Michael Holquist, Yale Univ. *Speakers:* Robert Barsky, Vanderbilt Univ.; Alex Beam, *Boston Globe*; David B. Marshall, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; Carlos Monsiváis, Mexico City, Mexico; Bruce W. Robbins, Columbia Univ.

SESSIONS

Thursday, 27 December

29. Narrative and the Human Rights Paradigm

3:30–4:45 p.m., Gold Coast, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature.

75. Revisiting Stereotyping and Immigration in the United States

5:15–6:30 p.m., Columbian, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on Language and Society.

86. Rhetoric of Civic Engagement

5:15–6:30 p.m., DuSable, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition.

Friday, 28 December

237. Counterpoint: Humanities in the Work of the World
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Grand Ballroom A, Hyatt Regency
Program arranged by the MLA Executive Council.

248. Women's Studies at Work in the World: Social and Environmental Justice
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Mississippi, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Division on Women's Studies in Language and Literature.

257. From Walls to Signs: Borders in Transnational Perspective
1:45–3:00 p.m., Truffles, Hyatt Regency
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Culture and Society.

266. Translation and Translators: Humanists at Work in the World
1:45–3:00 p.m., Superior A, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the MLA Executive Council.

318. Migrations across Planetarities: Transbordering Citizenships and the Public Intellectual from South, North, and Beyond
3:30–4:45 p.m., Sheraton I, Sheraton Chicago
A special session.

371. Translation and the Humanities
7:15–8:30 p.m., Erie, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Translation.

394. The Presidential Address
8:40 p.m., Sheraton V, Sheraton Chicago

Saturday, 29 December

395. Rescuing Literature: Developing Lifelong Readers at the Two-Year College
8:30–9:45 a.m., Plaza Ballroom B, Hyatt Regency
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges.

448. The Arab
10:15–11:30 a.m., Sheraton I, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Arabic Literature and Culture.

460. African Creative Nonfiction
10:15–11:30 a.m., Columbus A and B, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Division on African Literatures.

487. Lengua e inmigración en España
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Missouri, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century Spanish Literature.

499. Stolen Childhoods: Narratives at Work in the World
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Superior A, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the Division on Comparative Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature.

502. The New Chicago Renaissance Studies

1:45–3:00 p.m., Columbian, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture.

505. Can We Still Do This? The (Changing) Social Mission of the Two-Year College

1:45–3:00 p.m., Addams, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College.

566. Service Learning Models at Community Colleges

3:30–4:45 p.m., Missouri, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges.

569. Rhetoric in a Time of Global Conflict

3:30–4:45 p.m., Grand Suite 2, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition.

599. Quantifying Higher Education: Making Arguments for the Humanities in Response to the Spellings Commission

7:15–8:30 p.m., Erie, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the ADFL Executive Committee.

614. Decolonizing Native American Languages

7:15–8:30 p.m., Columbus Hall G, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on American Indian Literatures.

627. Bound to Respect: Surviving Dred Scott

9:00–10:15 p.m., DuSable, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on Black American Literature and Culture.

Sunday, 30 December

675. German Culture and Political Violence: Philosophy and/of Violence

8:30–9:45 a.m., Huron, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century German Literature.

704. Literary Criticism for the Twenty-First Century: Topology, Politics, Mind

10:15–11:30 a.m., Columbus Hall G, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Division on Literary Criticism.

727. The Humanities Indicators Project and the MLA

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbus Hall G, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Office of the Executive Director.

754. International Humanities in the Age of Terror: Women's Activism and Scholarship

1:45–3:00 p.m., Grand Suite 5, Hyatt Regency

Program arranged by the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages.

774. The Role of the Intellectual in Contemporary Italy

1:45–3:00 p.m., Parlor E, Sheraton Chicago

Program arranged by the American Association for Italian Studies.

PARTICIPANTS

The Presidential Forum

Presiding: Michael Holquist, Yale Univ.



Robert Barsky is the author or editor of numerous books on narrative and refugee law (*Constructing a Productive Other: Discourse Theory and the Convention Refugee Hearing* and *Arguing and Justifying: Assessing the*

Convention Refugees' Choice of Moment, Motive, and Host Country), on radical theory and practice (*The Chomsky Effect; Noam Chomsky: A Life of Dissent*; and an edition of Anton Pannekoek's *Workers Councils*), on discourse and literary theory (*Introduction à la théorie littéraire*; an edited volume with Michael Holquist entitled *Bakhtin and Otherness*; and edited collections on French criticism and on Marc Angenot), and on translation theory and practice (including the translation of Michel Meyer's *Philosophy and the Passions*). Barsky has been involved with a range of journals and is the founder of *AmeriQuests* (www.ameriquests.org), *415 South Street*, and *Discours social / Social Discourse*. He is professor of comparative literature, English, and French at Vanderbilt University.



Alex Beam has worked for the House Select Committee on Intelligence and also as an interpreter for the United States Information Agency in Russia. He began his career in journalism as a researcher at *Newsweek*, and from there he moved to

Business Week as a correspondent in Los Angeles and then as bureau chief in Moscow and Boston. Since 1989, Beam has been a columnist for the *Boston Globe*; his column has won several awards, including the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Financial Journalism. In 1996–97, he was a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. He is the author of two novels about Russia, *Fellow Travelers* and *The Americans Are Coming!*, and his nonfiction book about McLean Hospital, *Gracefully Insane*, won a Massachusetts Book Award and was named a *New York Times* Notable Book for 2002.



Peter Brooks is Sterling Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale University, where he has served as chair of the Departments of Comparative Literature and French and was the founding director of the Whitney

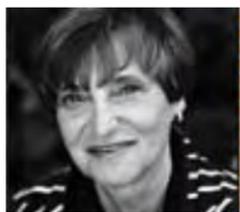
Humanities Center. He has also been university professor and director of the Program in Law and Humanities at the University of Virginia and visiting professor at Harvard University, the University of Bologna, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of Oxford. His books have been devoted to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century novel, mainly French and English; to narrative and narrative theory; to the uses of psychoanalysis; and to the interrelations of law and literature: recent titles include *Henry James Goes to Paris*, *Realist Vision*, and *Troubling Confessions: Speaking Guilt in Law and Literature*.



Richard Franke retired in 1996 as the chair and CEO of the Chicago firm John Nuveen and Company, where he established himself as a friend of higher education and a champion for the humanities. In 1989, while serving on several

cultural boards (including the Lyric Opera, Shakespeare Theatre,

and Chicago Symphony), he created the Chicago Humanities Festival, which has grown into the world's largest celebration of the humanities. In recognition of his efforts in raising awareness of the ways the humanities enrich daily life, Franke was honored in 1997 by President Clinton as a recipient of the nation's first National Humanities Medal. In 2005, he published *Cut from Whole Cloth: An Immigrant Experience*. Franke earned his bachelor's degree at Yale University and his MBA at Harvard Business School.



Marjorie Garber is William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and American Literature and Language and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, where she is chair of the Department of Visual and Environmental

Studies and the director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. She is the author of twelve books, including *Vested Interests*, *Vice Versa*, *Symptoms of Culture*, *Quotation Marks*, *Sex and Real Estate*, and *Dog Love*. Her four books on Shakespeare include, most recently, *Shakespeare After All*, chosen by *Newsweek* as one of the five best nonfiction books of 2004 and awarded the 2005 Christian Gauss Book Award from the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



Michael Holquist graduated from the Yale Graduate School in 1968, after an undergraduate career interrupted by three and a half years in Army Intelligence. He was a member of Yale's Slavic Department until 1975, when he became chair of the

Slavic Department at the University of Texas, Austin, and then chair of the Slavic Department at Indiana University. In 1986 he returned to Yale with a joint appointment in comparative literature and Slavic. Holquist has published on a wide variety of topics (utopian fiction, detective stories, Lewis Carroll's nonsense, and several Russian writers); after his first book, *Dostoevsky and the Novel*, he devoted himself to translating and editing the work of Mikhail Bakhtin (including *The Dialogic Imagination* and *The Philosophy of Language*) and wrote *Dialogism: Bakhtin and His World*, in addition to a biography of Bakhtin (with Katerina Clark). He is at work on a book devoted to modern German and Russian philology, and as president of the MLA in 2007, he is also interested in fostering closer relations between comparative literature and international studies.



David B. Marshall is professor of English and comparative literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is dean of Humanities and Fine Arts and executive dean of the College of Letters

and Science. He was a professor at Yale University from 1979 to 1997, serving as chair of the English Department and director of the Whitney Humanities Center, among other appointments. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Marshall is the author of numerous essays and three books: *The Figure of Theater: Shaftesbury, Defoe, Adam Smith, and George Eliot*; *The Surprising Effects of Sympathy: Marivaux, Diderot, Rousseau, and Mary Shelley*; and *The Frame of Art: Fictions of Aesthetic Experience, 1750–1815* (awarded the 2005–06 Louis Gottschalk Prize by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies). Marshall is chair of the University of California President's Advisory Committee on Research in the Humanities and a member of the AAU/ACLS Humanities Steering Committee. He currently serves on the Advisory Committee of *PMLA*.



Carlos Monsiváis is one of Mexico's most popular and prolific writers, known for his chronicles of life in Mexico and Mexico City. For the past forty years, he has documented the changes in the educational, cultural,

and political landscape of his country in a number of newspapers and journals in Mexico, Latin America, and the United States, including the *Los Angeles Times*. His many awards include the National Prize in Arts and Letters, the National Journalism Award, the Jorge Cuesta Award, the Premio Mazatlán Literary Award, the National Journalism Prize of the Mexican Journalists Club, the Xavier Villaurrutia National Literary Award, Spain's Anagrama Essay Award, and the Premio de la Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara. He lives in Mexico City.



Bruce W. Robbins, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, has taught at the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne and at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and has held visiting

positions at Harvard, Cornell, and NYU. His most recent book is *Upward Mobility and the Common Good*. He is also the author of *Feeling Global: Internationalism in Distress*, *The Servant's Hand: English Fiction from Below*, and *Secular Vocations: Intellectuals, Professionalism, Culture* and is a coauthor of the *Longman Anthology of World Literature*. He has edited *Intellectuals: Aesthetics, Politics, Academics* and *The Phantom Public Sphere* and coedited (with Pheng Cheah) *Cosmopolitics: Thinking and Feeling beyond the Nation*.



Wendy Steiner is Richard L. Fisher Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and the founding director of the Penn Humanities Forum. Her fields are twentieth-century literature and visual art, contemporary

fiction, and ethical issues in the arts. Among her recent books are *Literature as Meaning: A Thematic Anthology*, *Venus in Exile: The Rejection of Beauty in Twentieth-Century Art*, and *The Scandal of Pleasure: Art in an Age of Fundamentalism* (named one of the one hundred best books of 1996 by the *New York Times*). Steiner's cultural criticism has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Nation*, *London Independent*, *London Review of Books*, and *Times Literary Supplement*. She is at work on a full-length animated opera, "The Loathly Lady," with composer Paul Richards and artist John Kindness, as well as on a travel memoir of Eastern Europe.



James V. Wertsch is Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts and Sciences at Washington University in Saint Louis, where he is a professor of anthropology as well as the director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. Among

Wertsch's publications are *Vygotsky and the Social Formation of Mind*, *Voices of the Mind: A Sociocultural Approach to Mediated Action*, *Voices of Collective Remembering*, and *Enough! The Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia* (coedited with Zurab Karumidze). His research is concerned with language, thought, and culture, with a special focus on text, collective memory, and identity. Wertsch holds honorary doctorates from Linköping University and the University of Oslo. He is an honorary member of the Russian Academy of Education and a guest professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing.



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