

# MLA Newsletter

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## Los Angeles to Host the 126th Convention

The MLA returns to the temperate climate and coastal location of Los Angeles for our first convention there since 1982 and the first to be held over the new January dates. Los Angeles has a rich architectural history and is also home to many cultural institutions, galleries, theaters, and music venues, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Getty Museum, the Huntington Library and Estate, and the Japanese American National Museum. In the last decade, downtown Los Angeles has experienced a renaissance. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, designed by the Spanish architect José Rafael Moneo and intended to link the secular and spiritual; attend a concert at the Frank Gehry-designed Disney Concert Hall, home to the LA Philharmonic; or view the Milky Way from the Griffith Observatory. LA restaurants offer a mix of local, regional, and national cuisines. Los Angeles International Airport is eighteen miles from the downtown area where MLA convention hotels are located, and various local mass transit options allow easy access within the city. Members can choose from a variety of hotels that offer rooms at substantial discounts.

Join friends and colleagues and experience the MLA Annual Convention in Los Angeles from 6 to 9 January 2011.

## 2010 MLA Elections

The 2010 MLA elections for second vice president, Executive Council, Delegate Assembly, and division and discussion group executive committees will be conducted both online and on paper. All 2010 MLA members who have provided an e-mail address will be notified by e-mail when balloting becomes available at the Web site in mid-October. All other 2010 members will receive a letter with instructions for obtaining a paper ballot.

Online ballots must be submitted before midnight (EST) on 10 December; paper ballots must be received at the MLA office on or before 10 December to be counted. Members who vote online do not have to complete the ballot in one session but may exit the system and return as many times as necessary to finish voting.

Online voters have easy access to candidate information within the ballot system. Members who request a paper ballot will receive a printout of the candidate information along with the ballot.

Both ballots provide a means for members to suggest candidates for the 2011 division and discussion group executive committee elections.

If you are an eligible online voter and do not receive an e-mail notification by 22 October, please check your spam folder before contacting the coordinator of governance. Requests for paper ballots must reach the coordinator of governance (Carol Zuses, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789; telephone: 646 576-5103; fax: 646 576-5107; governance@mla.org) by 10 November.



## The Conventions of Narrating Lives

The 2011 MLA convention will be groundbreaking in many ways. It is the first convention to take place in January and the first in this century in the City of Angels. It inaugurates alternative scholarly communication formats. In response to member concerns, most sessions end by 7:00 in the evening. The opening day features sessions in every time slot devoted to an issue of paramount importance to all members—the impact of the economy on the humanities. These sessions will focus on the troubling ratio of tenure-line to non-tenure-line faculty members and the difficult employment conditions faced by contingent faculty members. The convention will also be conspicuously networked, as those in attendance and those at home can stay connected and current through *Facebook*, blogs, and tweets. This is not our grandfathers' convention or our mothers', or

even our own accustomed mode. January 2011 inaugurates the “new normal” in scholarly exchange for the MLA.

If we understand the convention as a site and set of modes for performing professional identities, it is a fitting environment for exploring the Presidential Theme “Narrating Lives.” Until the late 1980s, the study of life narrative was rarely acknowledged as a legitimate field of inquiry, except in a few convention sessions on the autobiographies of “great” literati. It was deemed a marginal genre of “nonliterary” forms, such as slave narratives, women's diaries, and testimonies. My first convention paper was delivered in someone's hotel room to a handful of people during an ad hoc special session on biography and autobiography in 1979. In one decade, however, literary scholars, many of them feminist theorists and specialists in ethnic and postcolonial studies, recovered archives of texts and articulated the historical import of genres of life writing for historically invisible subjects and communities. Teaching and research opportunities now abound for understanding the (auto)biographical as discourse, generic mode, textual practice, social action, material object, commodity of exchange, and mode of reading. The enthusiastic response to the call for papers on issues of life writing, broadly understood, reflects the historical specificity, global reach, and generic diversity of modes of life narrative. More than two hundred convention sessions will touch some aspect of life narrative, whether in writing or in oral, visual, or performative mode.

But there is more to note about how the theme of “Narrating Lives” bears on the work we do and the lives we live in the academy. Some of our colleagues have helped assemble rich archives available to the general public as well as to scholars for research. Philippe Lejeune, a pioneer in studying life writing and theorizing the autobiographical pact, cofounded the Ambérieru archive in France, which now includes over 2,500 unpublished life writing texts—diaries, autobiographies, scrapbooks, letters, and e-mails—from the nineteenth century to the present. In Britain, the Mass Observation Project, housed at the University of Sussex under the auspices of the Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, has been collecting the personal stories of everyday people since 1937. In the United States, oral history archives range from the highly publicized Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale to the Transnational Feminism oral history archive housed at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan to modest, local projects undertaken by students and mounted on the Web. Such projects document the lives of people at once ordinary and extraordinary, preserve narratives of survival, constitute communities of storytellers, and prompt new research questions.

Other colleagues have contributed to the contemporary memoir boom. As Cynthia Franklin observes in *Academic Lives: Memoir, Cultural Theory, and the University Today*, academic memoirs have become an alternative mode of scholarly communication. Often hybrid in form, they join theoretical metacommentary on memory, subjectivity, identity, and cultural legacies to experientially based stories of how the scholar's formation is part of national and transnational stories of family, class, gender, classrooms, and knowledge production. Most strikingly, all of us could, and do, tell stories of our professional lives.

However narrated, the stories we tell inform our philosophies of teaching, intellectual pursuits, and activism. Of course, the conventions and discourses of narrating lives in the humanities alter over time and differ across generational divides, the effect of changes in the discipline and the challenges and crises affecting higher education. My generation was fortunate to come into the academy in the late 1960s, a moment of turmoil but also of promise and public support for higher education. We could respond to calls to pioneer the new fields of feminist, ethnic, cultural, and life writing studies; change the terms of inclusion governing the construction of academic lives; and reshape scholarly practices. At least, that's the story I now tell about my academic life. In the early twenty-first century, academic lives are playing out in a radically changing environment for teaching, publishing, and employment. The current generation of technologically adept students seems to be losing the capacity for deep reading; the faculty is increasingly casualized; the future of the book is unclear; the “feminization” of the humanities, as Lynn Hunt puts it, may herald a decline in prestige (22); and public support for higher education has eroded, threatening a secure route to life as a tenured professor.

The contemporary environment for narrating lives in the academy returns me to the theme of my earlier columns, graduate education. Our graduate programs must prepare the next generations to negotiate these daunting realities as they write new professional identities. As new scholars prepare for performing and narrating lives in the profession, how will they imagine linking the stories of

### On the MLA Web Site

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their lives to technologically proficient, “postliterate” students; digital worlds; increasingly collaborative research communities; online, filmic, or drawn scholarship; differently configured interdisciplinary contexts; and new modes of public scholarship? How will they compose the new “dissertation” and prepare for the future of the distributed, multimedia “book”? How will they plan for and imagine success in choosing among a range of professional careers that we have yet to specify and factor into our thinking about graduate education? The conventions of doctoral education are bound to change as new lives in the humanities are narrated and performed.

Sidonie Smith

#### Note

This column is dedicated to Roger Salomon, professor emeritus, Case Western Reserve University, my revered mentor.

#### Works Cited

- Franklin, Cynthia. *Academic Lives: Memoir, Cultural Theory, and the University Today*. Atlanta: U of Georgia P, 2009. Print.
- Hunt, Lynn. “Democratization and Decline? The Consequences of Demographic Change in the Humanities.” *What’s Happened to the Humanities?* Ed. Alvin Kernan. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997. Print.

Members are invited to comment on the president’s column at [www.mla.org/fromthepres](http://www.mla.org/fromthepres).

## Editor’s Column



### First Things First

The 2011 MLA convention starts on the Christian holiday known in English as the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January), and I can promise you that there will be a cornucopia of offerings intended to spark secular revelations about the hard times we are enduring in academia. As the “Report on the MLA *Job Information List, 2009–10*” shows, hiring in English and other languages dropped sharply for the second year in a row (see [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Not only that, there was a noticeable decline in the percentage of tenure-track positions listed. As I write these words, we don’t yet know what the trend for 2010–11 will be, but most people think that the recent further tightening of the decades-long scarcity of tenure-track jobs in relation to qualified candidates will plague

us for many years. In response to these and other compelling workplace issues, the Program Committee, with the Executive Council’s support, has designated 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* that will offer attendees insights on the situation and strategies for effective action.

Given the number of sessions we must schedule from 6 to 9 January (over 800), it would be impossible to devote an entire day exclusively to one topic without depriving divisions, discussion groups, and special-session leaders of their right to participate in the convention. Sessions (over two dozen) on *The Academy in Hard Times* will be held in the regular time slots that run from noon to 6:30 p.m. on the first day. Only one session, however, will occupy the final time slot (7:00–8:15 p.m.) so all can attend. Second vice president Michael Bérubé will preside, and speakers include Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress, the City University of New York’s faculty union; Reed Way Dasenbrock, vice provost at the University of Hawai‘i, with experience as a New Mexico cabinet secretary in charge of higher education; Monica Jacobe, a member of the Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession and former research fellow at the American Association of University Professors (AAUP); Christopher Newfield, author of *Unmaking the Public University*; Gary Rhoades, the general secretary of the AAUP; and Richard Alan Yarborough, a professor of English and instructor, mentor, and researcher with the Summer Humanities Institute for Students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities at the University of California, Los Angeles.

These distinguished panelists will lead a discussion on the roots of the current situation, the specific manifestations of the problems we face, and the actions we must take if we expect the academy to emerge in recognizable shape from these hard times.

Many members responded to the call to participate in *The Academy in Hard Times*, and I am impressed with the diversity of the topics. Attendees can choose from sessions on academic freedom, writing programs, improving non-tenure-track positions, protesting higher education cutbacks, labor in the digital humanities, German in the life of the university, unions in academe, issues facing British universities, program elimination, publishing, social networking, and strategies for the new normal in higher education. Those who attend the convention can use *Twitter* (as I will) to discuss *The Academy in Hard Times* sessions with others both on-site and far away.

The Feast of the Epiphany is el Día de los Reyes in Spain, a holiday when children eagerly await gifts from the Three Kings (or the Magi). On 6 January at the MLA convention the offerings will be of a different genre, and there will be nothing infantile, royal, or magical about them. The *Academy in Hard Times* will bring us together for serious reflection and a commitment to action, and I hope you will participate. If we pay attention and take heed, the first day of the convention could make wiser men and women of all of us.

Rosemary G. Feal

Comment on this column at [www.mla.org/fromtheeditor](http://www.mla.org/fromtheeditor).

## About the Job Information Center

All candidates, departmental representatives, and interviewers who wish to use the facilities of the MLA Job Information Center must be registered for the convention.

The center, designed to assist both job candidates and interviewers, will be located in the J. W. Marriott Hotel (Gold Salon 4, 1st floor). Job candidates will be able to locate their interviews at the center; there will be no telephone service for interview locations.

**1. Sign-In Desk for Departments.** Departmental administrators or representatives who plan to hold job interviews during the convention, whether in their hotel suites or in the interview area of the Job Information Center, should sign in (indicating name, institution, hotel, and room number) at the Job Information Center so that candidates with whom they have set up interviews will be able to locate them. Although an interviewer's name may appear in "Who's Where," for security reasons hotel switchboards will not give out guests' room numbers—and are extremely busy. A brief stop at the sign-in desk by a thoughtful interviewer can save much confusion and worry for candidates.

The sign-in desk will be open on 6 January from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 7 January from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., on 8 January from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on 9 January from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

**2. Counseling Service.** The Job Information Center Counseling Service affords job seekers the opportunity to discuss individual employment problems with experienced departmental administrators. While counselors cannot help candidates obtain interviews, they can offer concrete advice on such matters as the appropriate content and presentation of vitae and letters of application, the kinds of institutions to which candidates might most profitably apply, and realistic approaches to job interviews. Counselors will be on hand to speak with interested candidates during selected hours from 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on 7 and 8 January. Appointments can be arranged through the staff member on duty in the interview area. Each counselee should bring a cover letter and vita.

**3. Interview Area.** There will be a combined interview area for English and foreign languages within the Job Information Center. Administrators who wish to use the inter-

view area should schedule interviews either by writing or telephoning candidates before the convention or by leaving messages at the message center; administrators should be aware that communication during the convention can be difficult. Tables in the interview area, which will be open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 6 January, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 7 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 8 January, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 9 January, will be assigned to departmental representatives on a first-come, first-served basis. Staff members will be on duty in the area to assist interviewers and candidates.

**4. Vacancy Notices.** A list of openings received too late to be included in the December *Job Information List* will be posted on bulletin boards in the center. Departmental representatives should submit detailed descriptions of any last-minute vacancies to an MLA staff member in the center, who will see that they are posted. Such notices may also appear in the February *Job Information List*, so that candidates who do not attend the convention may have an opportunity to apply.

**5. Message Center.** Open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on 6 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on 7 January, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 8 January, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 9 January, the message center will help candidates and interviewers who have corresponded before the convention arrange specific interview times and places. The message center will not be useful to those who leave messages at random for persons with whom they have had no earlier contact and who may not even be at the convention. Such messages are rarely picked up.

While every effort will be made to assist candidates and interviewers at the Job Information Center, it should be stressed that the MLA does not have the facilities for introducing candidates and interviewers who have not corresponded before the convention. Very little open interviewing takes place at the convention. Job candidates who do not have prearranged interviews should not plan to attend for the sole purpose of seeking employment.

Meetings 1, 2, 3, 4, 22, 121, 167, 285, 371, and 562 should interest job seekers and administrators alike.

## Session Time Limits

Session presiders should remind participants that a session lasts for one hour and fifteen minutes and that at least fifteen minutes at the end of each session should be left for discussion.

When a session runs long, meeting facility staff members cannot prepare the room for the next session, and the speakers and attendees waiting to enter the room block hallways and doorways.

Time-limit reminders will be on the head tables in all meeting rooms, and an aide will ask the presider to conclude if the session has gone substantially beyond the allotted time. If you are a speaker, please respect the time limits. If you are a presider, please allow at least fifteen minutes for discussion.

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## Registration Information

You can register and make travel arrangements for the 2011 convention in Los Angeles through the MLA's Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Chairs whose departments were members of ADE or ADFL by 30 June 2010 received priority notification allowing access to convention registration in mid-August. Please note that suites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The 2011 convention Program will be accessible to both members and nonmembers through the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/convention](http://www.mla.org/convention)) beginning in November. A word search of the Program will also be available.

### Deadlines for 2011 Convention Sessions

1 Oct.	Early registration deadline for Jan. 2011 convention
7 Dec.	Registration deadline for Jan. 2011 convention
17 Dec.	Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2011 convention
6–9 Jan. 2011	2011 MLA convention held in Los Angeles
7 Jan. 2011	Postmark deadline for registration refund requests for Jan. 2011 convention

## Sessions on Academic Employment

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several sessions to help job candidates and interviewers with interview protocols and job search procedures. ADE and ADFL also provide individual job counseling in the interview area of the Job Information Center. Department chairs will offer their experience and expertise in 25-minute one-on-one counseling sessions on 7 and 8 January. Job candidates who take advantage of the counseling service should bring a copy of an application letter and CV.

*ADE-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates.* “A Pre-convention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in English” (3) will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced department chairs from different types of institutions describe how their departments approach interviewing and reaching decisions about who should receive the offer of a faculty position. “Careers in Two-Year Colleges” (562) will provide information about the needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges.

*ADFL-sponsored convention sessions for job candidates.* Led by experienced department chairs who serve on the ADFL Executive Committee, “A Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers: The Job Search in Foreign Languages” (2) will offer job candidates and interviewers opportunities to participate in a roundtable discussion of interviewing and hiring practices. In a second session, “Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers” (121), recently successful candidates will be publicly interviewed by department chairs; discussion will focus on what went right and wrong, what the interviewers were expecting or looking for, and how the interviewee might improve his or her performance.

ADE and ADFL jointly sponsor “A Preconvention Workshop for Members of Search Committees” (4), which will give members of departmental search committees an opportunity to discuss the hiring process, including writing advertisements, reading vitae and dossiers, interviewing at the MLA convention and on campus, and negotiating job offers.

The three preconvention workshops, along with “Careers for Humanists” (1), will be held in the Los Angeles Convention Center on 6 January.

## Travel Assistance

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide convention travel grants to

- advanced graduate students
- unemployed and non-tenure-track faculty members
- members residing outside the United States and Canada

To learn more about these awards and application requirements, including the required statements, visit the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/grants](http://www.mla.org/grants)).

Members may apply for assistance at the Web site or by mail. Applications must reach the MLA by 1 November 2010 and should be addressed to Travel Assistance Program, MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789 (fax: 646 835-4067). Fax transmissions may be used to meet the deadline, but they must be followed by signed applications. Applications by e-mail will not be accepted. For additional information or details on how to apply, please contact Annie Reiser (646 576-5141; [areiser@mla.org](mailto:areiser@mla.org)).



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## Services for Persons with Disabilities

The MLA is committed to making arrangements that allow all members of the association to participate in the convention. Karin Bagnall in the MLA convention office handles arrangements for persons with disabilities (kbagnall@mla.org). Meeting rooms at the convention are accessible by elevator, and the doors are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. There will be desks in the convention registration and information area at the Los Angeles Convention Center (Concourse Hall Foyer, level 1, West Hall entrance), staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. There will also be a satellite desk in the lobby of the J. W. Marriott. To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write or call Karin Bagnall by 12 November 2010. The convention housing form also includes a space for attendees to request particular equipment or accommodations.

*Program.* Members with visual impairments who would like to receive a copy of the November 2010 (Program) issue of *PMLA* in a usable format should write or call June Hicks in the executive director's office (646 576-5102; jhicks@mla.org).

## MLA Exhibit Booth Activities

All convention registrants are encouraged to visit the MLA booth (located in the 100 aisle) in the exhibit hall of the Los Angeles Convention Center. The association will offer a 25% discount on all MLA titles during the convention and free shipping to domestic addresses. Orders must be placed at the exhibit booth to be eligible for the discount and free shipping.

The exhibit booth will also feature special times to meet with members of the Program Committee for the MLA Annual Convention, staff members from the book acquisitions and *MLA International Bibliography* departments, the executive director, and the editor of *PMLA*. Please check the *Convention News and Program Update* and the MLA Annual Convention *Twitter* feed for times and dates.

## Child Care Arrangements

MLA members in need of child care during the convention should make arrangements directly through one of the convention hotels. The MLA has funds available to reimburse up to \$200 each to members who use a hotel-recommended service for child care during convention hours. If more requests are received than can be reimbursed with available funds, preference will be given to graduate students and members in lower-income categories.

Members should submit a request for reimbursement, along with a receipt for child care from one of the hotel-recommended services, no later than 20 January 2011 to Maribeth Kraus, Director of Convention Programs.

*Shuttle Bus.* A complimentary transportation service for persons with disabilities will be available throughout convention meeting hours to transport attendees with disabilities. Arrangements can be made at any of the locations listed above. Further details and phone numbers will be posted at the convention center and the headquarters hotel.

*Sessions.* Speakers are asked to bring five copies of their papers, even draft copies, for the use of members who wish to follow the written text. Speakers who use handouts should prepare some copies in a large-print format (fourteen- to sixteen-point). Speakers should indicate whether they want their papers and handouts returned. Sign language interpreters are available on request. The deadline to arrange for an interpreter is 12 November, though the convention office will make every effort to accommodate late requests. Members who require interpreters should write or call Karin Bagnall as soon as possible.

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the J. W. Marriott (Studio 3, 3rd floor) or the Los Angeles Convention Center (Meeting Room 401, level 2), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond.



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## Audio- and Videotaping Guidelines

The MLA Executive Council has approved guidelines for audio- and videotaping at the MLA Annual Convention. Audio- or videotaping of sessions is not permitted at the MLA convention without permission of all those present at a session. Only background taping is allowed, not the taping of an entire session. The session organizer must have the consent of all the speakers at a session and must request permission to tape through the headquarters office before the session begins (Studio 3, 3rd floor, J. W. Marriott; Meeting Room 401, level 2, Los Angeles Convention Center). The session organizer will then announce to the audience that audiotaping or videotaping will take place during the session. The deadline for submitting requests to film the convention as part of a creative or documentary project is 15 October.

## 2012 Convention

The 2012 MLA Annual Convention will be held in Seattle from 5 to 8 January.

### Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are submitted through the MLA Web site under the Convention heading ([www.mla.org/cfp\\_main](http://www.mla.org/cfp_main)). Calls for papers may be posted online until 1 March 2011 for the 2012 convention. Members should familiarize themselves with the guidelines for the MLA convention, which appear on the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/conv\\_procedures](http://www.mla.org/conv_procedures)), before writing to the organizers listed in the calls for papers. All participants in convention sessions must be MLA members by 7 April 2011. Organizers are responsible for responding to all inquiries. A member may participate (e.g., by organizing and chairing a meeting, reading a paper, or serving as a speaker, president, or respondent) only twice at a convention.

Calls for papers may be viewed online at [www.mla.org/conv\\_papers](http://www.mla.org/conv_papers).

### Forum Proposals

Convention forums are large public meetings on topics of broad interest; they may be organized by individual members, divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, allied organizations, or the American Literature Section. For information on organizing forums, visit [www.mla.org/conv\\_procedures](http://www.mla.org/conv_procedures). The deadline for submission of proposals is 1 April 2011. The executive director welcomes inquiries ([execdirector@mla.org](mailto:execdirector@mla.org)).



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TIM THOMPSON

## Deadlines for 2012 Convention Sessions

Except where otherwise indicated, the deadline is the close of business on the date listed. For specific information, consult the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/conv\\_procedures](http://www.mla.org/conv_procedures)). Please address all correspondence concerning division and discussion group sessions to Karin Bagnall ([kbagnall@mla.org](mailto:kbagnall@mla.org)), special sessions to Stacey Courtney ([scourtney@mla.org](mailto:scourtney@mla.org)), committee sessions to Maribeth Kraus ([mkraus@mla.org](mailto:mkraus@mla.org)), and allied sessions to Lorenz Tomassi ([ltomassi@mla.org](mailto:ltomassi@mla.org)).

1 Mar.	Final submission date for receipt of Jan. 2012 convention calls for papers. Announcement of calls for papers is only available online. <i>Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.</i>
1 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of forum proposals for Jan. 2012 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in Jan. 2012 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of program copy from divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied and affiliate organizations for Jan. 2012 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of proposals for special sessions for Jan. 2012 convention
1 Apr.	Deadline for Web submission of requests for audiovisual equipment for Jan. 2012 convention
7 Apr.	Deadline by which participants at Jan. 2012 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
15 Apr.	Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for eligible speakers at Jan. 2012 convention
early June	Notification of Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions for Jan. 2012 convention
mid June	Notification of decisions on funding requests mailed to organizers who applied for funds for speakers
early to mid July	Proofs of program copy and information on date, time, and place of Jan. 2012 convention sessions sent to organizers
late July	Deadline for receipt of corrections to proofs of program copy for the Nov. 2011 (Program) issue of <i>PMLA</i> for Jan. 2012 convention
late Aug.	Information on date, time, and place of the Jan. 2012 convention sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
late Sept.	Fall 2011 <i>MLA Newsletter</i> (Convention Issue) mailed to members and posted online
early Oct.	Early registration deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
early Dec.	Registration deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
early Dec.	Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2012 convention
5–8 Jan. 2012	2012 MLA convention held in Seattle
7 Jan. 2012	Postmark deadline for registration refund request for Jan. 2012

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Dated Material  
Please deliver by 8 October

## Proposed Amendment to the MLA Constitution

This year, the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution received a proposal for a constitutional amendment to change the threshold for membership ratification votes on resolutions. As required by the MLA constitution (art. 13.B), the text of the amendment has been published at the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org/proposed\\_amendment](http://www.mla.org/proposed_amendment)).

The committee will present the amendment to the Delegate Assembly at the assembly's meeting on 8 January 2011 in Los Angeles. If approved by the assembly, the amendment will be submitted to the members of the association in 2011 for ratification.

Members who wish to comment on the proposed amendment may do so at either the open hearing of the Delegate Assembly (7 Jan., 1:45 p.m., Diamond Salon 1, J. W. Marriott) or the assembly meeting itself (8 Jan., 1:00 p.m., Diamond Salon 4 and 5, J. W. Marriott). Written comments are also welcome, but they must be received at the MLA office by 20 December so that the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee may review them before its meeting at the convention. Comments can be addressed to the coordinator of governance at the MLA office or sent by fax (646 576-5107) or e-mail ([governance@mla.org](mailto:governance@mla.org)).

## Calls for Essays for Book Series

### Approaches to Teaching World Literature

The Publications Committee has approved development of five new titles in the series:

- *Approaches to Teaching Ariosto's Orlando furioso*, edited by Albert Russell Ascoli and Eleonora Stoppino
- *Approaches to Teaching Inca Garcilaso de la Vega's Royal Commentaries and Other Works*, edited by Christian Fernández and José A. Mazzotti
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