



MLA ANNUAL CONVENTION • CHICAGO • 9–12 JANUARY 2014

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PHOTO BY MARY CYBULSKI

*John Sayles on the set of Amigo*

## Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities to Be Given to John Sayles

The fifth Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities will be presented to John Sayles, film director, screenwriter, and novelist, at the MLA Annual Convention. MLA President Marianne Hirsch will present the award during the MLA Awards Ceremony on 11 January 2014 in recognition of Sayles's advocacy of the arts and humanities.

Sayles is the writer and director of such films as *Return of the Secaucus 7*, *The Brother from Another Planet*, *Matewan*, *Eight Men Out*, *City of Hope*, *The Secret of Roan Inish*, *Lone Star*, *Limbo*, *Casa de los Babys*, and *Amigo* and the author of *Pride of the Bimbos*, *Union Dues*, *Los Gusanos*, and *A Moment in the Sun*.

During the convention there will be a screening of one of Sayles's films, and at the session "John Sayles and Maggie Renzi: A Creative Conversation" (11 Jan., 10:15–11:30 a.m., Chicago E, Chicago Marriott), Sayles and Renzi will discuss their work, including the 2013 film *Go for Sisters*.

The award was established to honor Phyllis Franklin, who served as the MLA's director of English programs and then as executive director from 1985 until 2002. Previous winners of the award are Senator Edward M. Kennedy (2003), William G. Bowen (2005), Richard J. Franke (2007), and Terry Gross (2010).

## On the MLA Web Site

- Annual Convention
- News from the MLA
- MLA Commons
- MLA Committee Meetings



## Deadlines for the 2014 Convention

- 2 Oct. Early registration deadline for Jan. 2014 convention
- 3 Dec. Registration deadline for Jan. 2014 convention
- 16 Dec. Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2014 convention
- 9–12 Jan. 2014 MLA convention held in Chicago
- 10 Jan. Postmark deadline for registration refund requests for Jan. 2014 convention



## Vulnerable Times at the Chicago Convention

A few years ago, *crisis* was the key term describing the humanities and, specifically, humanities education in the academy. The summer of 2013 was full of talk about the humanities, but the term *crisis* did not dominate. We heard about “decline” in undergraduate majors and enrollments or, worse, “decline and fall,” and we saw numerous charts and graphs that supported and contested the drop in numbers. We read various narratives explaining the charts. Some argued that the shift in women’s career choices since the 1970s caused a drastic reduction in the number of English majors, but between 1970 and 1980 rather than now. Others blamed economic motives that sent students to majors with more secure employability, but they were quickly contradicted

by business leaders who highlighted the valued skills that humanities majors bring to corporate work. Most troubling was that humanities professors were attacked for their inability to make a case for the importance of their areas of study as well as for their persistence in teaching traditional works with no current relevance and, conversely, for their teaching of “race, class, gender” and popular media rather than age-old values like “beauty and truth.”

If crisis talk has waned, it may be owing to two major reports on the state of the humanities, published by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (*Heart*) and Harvard University (“Teaching”), and their practical analyses and suggestions. It may be that crisis talk just has not been productive. Has the humanities ever been stable and well supported? Crisis presumes an immediacy that obscures the persistent vulnerability of our disciplines in a higher education system that is subject to unstable private and public funding sources. If it is true that the number of humanities majors (however defined) has held fairly steady at seventeen percent of all majors between 1970 and 2010, then we are not on the precipice of destruction right now, at least not on that front (Bérubé). But we still need to ask ourselves whether seventeen is an adequate percentage and how we might, independent of enrollment figures, envision the future of the humanities and the arts in a rapidly shifting political climate that seems to propel us from crisis to crisis, encouraging us to forget previous urgencies as we react to new ones. It is my hope that the focus on vulnerability that I have invited during the 2014 convention will spur a long-range approach and more creative and sustainable solutions than the alarmist talk of crisis.

There will be ample opportunity during the 2014 convention to discuss the questions raised in these reports and their press coverage and, indeed, to practice some of their recommendations for establishing broader coalitions among humanists inside and outside the academy. The convention will be preceded on the morning of 9 January by the Chicago Humanities Summit, cosponsored by the MLA, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and planned in response to the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences report, *The Heart of the Matter*. The summit, comprising members of the commission, local humanities leaders, and academic humanists, will discuss strategies and practices designed to help anchor the humanities in the larger public sphere. I hope that MLA members will tailor their travel plans so that they can participate in this promising event. At this

convention, the MLA will bestow its Phyllis Franklin Award for Public Advocacy of the Humanities to the filmmaker and writer John Sayles. Ambitious roundtables on MOOCs and on the Common Core standards in K–12 education are planned for the convention, as are open hearings on the revision of the MLA’s fundamental structures of knowledge, the divisions and discussion groups. In conjunction with “The Presidential Forum: Vulnerable Times,” the roundtable “Public Humanities” will probe the notion of the public, discussing institutions such as local humanities councils, museums, archives, libraries, festivals, theater, poetry jams, and prisons. Participants will also debate the role of university humanities centers and associations like the MLA in connecting students and faculty members in the academy with their communities.

As this particular roundtable suggests, the presidential theme Vulnerable Times is meant to advance both trenchant analyses of recurring vulnerabilities and susceptibilities to injury in the past and specific strategies for confronting the present and the future. The theme engages broad questions that reach well beyond the professional concerns of the humanities in our time. Distinguishing between the vulnerabilities we share as species living in bodies and in time and socially and politically produced vulnerabilities that are differentially imposed and thus subject to resistance and change, the theme invites historical analyses of how different periods and different cultures define their vulnerabilities and envision their futures. The sessions associated with Vulnerable Times promise to illuminate how the textual, historical, theoretical, and activist work we do as teachers of languages and literatures has been and can be mobilized to address social and political problems, whether urgent and immediate or persistent and recurring. They promise to engage the aesthetic as a space of vulnerability and as a practice that engages in resistance.

With this aim, the Presidential Forum will theorize vulnerability’s complex temporalities. Discussing embodiment, poverty, climate, activism, reparation, and the condition of being unequally governed, forum participants will expose key sites of vulnerability and assess possibilities for change. Two additional linked sessions will expand this dual approach to vulnerability: “The Politics of Language in Vulnerable Times” will look specifically at the effects of globalization and its promotion of English and at migration, minoritization, and troubling new language pedagogies; “Trauma, Memory, Vulnerability” will examine the new constellations brought to trauma and memory studies

by the focus on vulnerability and its orientation toward the future as well as the past.

In defining the theme, it was my expectation that the network of Vulnerable Times sessions would spawn an extended conversation that engages different historical periods as well as different literatures and disciplinary and interdisciplinary directions. Indeed, the more than 200 sessions connected to the presidential theme range across every possible field and MLA group.

Of course, none of us can attend more than a small fraction of these events, in addition to participating in job interviews, seeing friends, and enjoying the pleasures of Chicago. In the spirit of the openness and connectivity associated with vulnerability, however, I want to urge you to attend at least one session that is entirely outside your area of expertise. I encourage you to use this convention to engage both intellectual and professional questions from

as broad a vantage point as possible so that, together, we can respond to our vulnerabilities actively and creatively, without succumbing to debilitating crisis mentalities.

Marianne Hirsch

### Works Cited

Bérubé, Michael. "The Humanities, Declining? Not according to the Numbers." *Chronicle Review*. Chronicle of Higher Educ., 1 July 2013. Web. 22 Aug. 2013.

*The Heart of the Matter*. American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, Amer. Acad. of Arts and Sciences, 2013. Web. 22 Aug. 2013.

"The Teaching of the Arts and Humanities at Harvard College: Mapping the Future." *The Humanities Project*. Harvard U, 2012–13. Web. 22 Aug. 2013.

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

## Editor's Column



### Why Was the Session I Submitted Accepted for the Convention?

Now there's a question I have never gotten—you can imagine the one I do hear—yet I think it's important to let members know how we choose convention sessions. The first key thing to understand is that some of the association's entities (such as divisions, discussion groups, allied organizations, and MLA committees) are entitled to sessions that do not undergo review by the Program Committee. Sessions that the committee reviews fall into two groups: special sessions, which are organized by individual members, and nonguaranteed sessions, which are submitted by MLA entities that wish to organize additional sessions (e.g., a discussion group is guaranteed

one session and can compete for up to two more nonguaranteed sessions). The committee generally accepts around fifty percent of proposals; this percentage varies by year and depends in part on the number of guaranteed sessions and on space considerations.

Using a process analogous to what granting agencies do when they evaluate proposals, the Program Committee makes public a set of criteria, provides examples of successful proposals, and offers assistance before submission (or before resubmission, if your proposal wasn't accepted). The committee scores each proposal on a 1 to 5 scale. Few proposals receive the highest score (5), which

indicates that "the session proposal is well thought out, the rationale is convincing and properly documented, the panelists are shown to be well qualified to undertake the topic, and the session will be attractive to an audience." Most accepted proposals receive an average score of 4; this means that "one or more elements" of the proposal may not meet the qualifications of a 5: "For example, the rationale might be underdeveloped; the discussion of previous scholarship might be insufficient; or one paper might not be as stellar as the others" ("Scoring Guidelines"). The committee looks for clearly articulated proposals that promise new ways of seeing (or doing) things and for presentations (or workshops) that form a coherent whole and that promise to reward attendees with a well-integrated intellectual or pedagogical experience. Just as fellowship and grant panelists learn to evaluate submissions once they've read stacks of them, so do Program Committee members, who typically read over four hundred proposals each year.

The reason your session was accepted is not (only) because the topic is compelling or (only) because the participants have relevant experience or name recognition that might draw an audience. The committee also considers the way you explain the focus of your proposed session and how it builds on existing knowledge, why you chose  
(cont. on p. 4)

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(cont. from p. 3)

the speakers and presentations you did, and how those speakers will relate to one another in the session. (Session proposers can find plenty of guidance on the MLA Web site; especially helpful are “Proposing a Special Session,” “Convention Session FAQs,” and “Special-Session FAQs.”) The Program Committee tends to accept sessions that are supported by a strong written proposal and not those that feature solely a timely subject, a worthwhile cause, or a prestigious speaker or two. In short, proposers should not assume that the committee will “get it” and should not simply trust that a good topic, a list of interesting paper titles, and a set of fabulous panelists will a great session make.

I realize that session proposals often get written without much lead time for review and revision. Only a superproficient special-session-proposal author can turn out a 4.5–5 quality proposal in the wee hours before 1 April. For most of us, the time-consuming process of drafting, consulting (with fellow panelists and other colleagues), and rewriting produces the best results. Let us know how we can help.

Rosemary G. Feal

#### Work Cited

“Scoring Guidelines for MLA Special Sessions and Competitive Sessions.” *Modern Language Association*. MLA, 22 Mar. 2011. Web. 3 Sept. 2013.

Members are invited to comment on this column at [execdirector.commonsm्ला.org](http://execdirector.commonsm्ला.org).

## Request for Comments on Delegate Assembly Resolutions

At its meeting on 5 January 2013 in Boston, the Delegate Assembly approved two resolutions that are subject to ratification by the MLA membership. MLA members are asked to comment on the resolutions before the ratification vote is conducted.

The resolution comment process will be conducted in the members-only area of the Web site ([www.m्ला.org](http://www.m्ला.org)). The text of the resolutions will be posted at the Web site along with the background information that the Delegate Assembly received. Members in good standing for 2013 may enter signed comments from 16 September through 15 October. Members who wish to comment but who do not have Web access may forward comments to Carol Zuses for posting at the Web site. During the balloting period, from 16 October through 10 December, additional comments will not be accepted but comments already posted will remain available for review. Members who do not have Web access may request hard copies of the posted comments from Carol Zuses.

The resolutions that are subject to ratification are printed below. Members may reach Carol Zuses by mail (MLA, 26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004-1789), e-mail ([governance@m्ला.org](mailto:governance@m्ला.org)), and fax (646 576-5107).

#### Resolution 2013-1

Whereas in 2011 the CUNY Board of Trustees passed the Pathways curriculum for implementation by September 2013;

## Reading in Absentia

To encourage discussion and dialogue among panelists and attendees at convention sessions, reading in absentia (whether by *Skype*, video conferencing, audio delivery, or presentation by surrogates) is not normally permitted. Presenters who are unable to attend the convention because of unforeseen emergencies are reminded that they may post links to their papers on the Program Web site.

## MLA Exhibit Booth Activities

All convention registrants are encouraged to visit the MLA booth (located in booth 100 at the main entrance to the exhibit hall) at the Sheraton Chicago, River Exhibition Hall (level 1).

During the convention, the association will offer a 30% discount on all MLA titles; orders must be placed at the exhibit booth to be eligible for the discount.

A reception will be held in the MLA booth on Friday, 10 January, at 3:30 p.m., celebrating new titles released by the MLA in 2013. Drop by, raise a glass, and take home a free *MLA Commons* microfiber cloth.

*MLA International Bibliography* staff members will be on hand in the booth during exhibit hall hours to answer questions, provide demonstrations, and help with searches.

Please check the *Convention Daily* and the MLA Annual Convention *Twitter* feed for up-to-date information on exhibit booth activities.

Whereas the approval of Pathways bypassed elected faculty governance, and only the CUNY administration’s appointees participated in the decision making;

Whereas the American Association of University Professors states, “The faculty has primary responsibility for . . . curriculum [and] subject matter,” and CUNY governance regulations state, “The faculty shall be responsible . . . for the . . . granting of degrees”;

Whereas the CUNY administration acted despite senates’, councils’, and nearly five thousand instructional staff members’ opposition; and

Whereas violations of elected faculty governance like those at CUNY have taken place at numerous other institutions;

Be it resolved that the MLA affirm the right of CUNY’s faculty and any other college and university faculty to determine curriculum and graduation requirements and to withhold implementation of any curriculum that has not been recommended by the appropriate faculty governance body.

#### Resolution 2013-2

Whereas the MLA is concerned by the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech and Newtown, Connecticut, and wishes to join the broader academic community in calling for a far-reaching solution to gun violence;

Be it resolved that the MLA endorse the Statement on Gun Violence in America issued by the Association of American Universities on 2 January 2013.

## Travel Assistance

The Executive Council has voted to allot funds to provide convention travel grants to graduate students, unemployed and non-tenure-track faculty members, and 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 2013 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)).

## Child Care

Convention participants who would like to have child care during the convention should preregister for a possible on-site child care service through KiddieCorp. If a sufficient number of children are registered for child care by 31 October, a daytime child care center will operate in the Fairmont. If a sufficient number of children are not registered for the service by that date, the service will not be offered.

If daytime child care is not offered through KiddieCorp, the MLA will have funds available to reimburse up to \$300 each to members who use child care services provided by one of the convention hotels or another service 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.

For a preregistration form, visit [www.mla.org/childcare](http://www.mla.org/childcare).

## Chicago to Host the 129th Convention

This coming January the MLA Annual Convention returns to Chicago, a city rich in history and contemporary culture. Chicago has nearly fifty museums, including the world-famous Art Institute, the Shedd Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Adler Planetarium. The city is also known for its blues and jazz clubs, its theater and performing arts, its architectural landmarks, and its many restaurants, which offer an array of cuisines in every price range. Two major airports, O'Hare and Midway, serve Chicago, and a modern rapid-transit system, buses, and taxis make the town easy to navigate.

With more than eight hundred sessions, many addressing the presidential theme Vulnerable Times, this year's convention includes creative conversations, social events, the book exhibit, and several interesting cultural excursions. You can register, reserve hotels, and make travel plans for the 2014 convention in Chicago through the MLA Web site ([www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)). Early registration, at reduced rates, is open until 2 October; regular registration will be open from 3 October to 3 December. The 2014 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 October.

Come and join friends and colleagues from 9 to 12 January 2014 for our return to the great city of Chicago.

## 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 will be located in the Imperial Ballroom, level B2 of the Fairmont. Job candidates will be able to locate their interviews at the center; there will be no telephone service for interview locations.

**1. Sign-In Procedures 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, can sign in online before and during the convention so that candidates with whom they have set up interviews will be able to locate them. Interviewers no longer have to come to the center in person unless they are interviewing there. Simply log in with your department ID and two-letter *JIL* submission password at [www.mla.org/jil\\_dept](http://www.mla.org/jil_dept) and follow the directions to provide interview location information.

Interviewers who do not submit their information online must come to the Job Information Center to provide their interview locations. The sign-in desk will be open on 9 January from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on 10 and 11 January from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on 12 January from 8:00 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. Counselors will be on hand to speak with interested candidates during selected hours from 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. on 10 and 11 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.** Tables in the interview area, which will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on 9 January, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on 10 and 11 January, and from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on 12 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 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.

Sessions 4, 5, 6, 42, 148, 182, 236, 533, 571, 621, 643, 757, and 783 should interest job seekers and administrators alike.

## 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 areas at the Chicago Marriott (5th floor) and the Sheraton Chicago (Lobby level 3), staffed by personnel who can provide assistance to convention attendees with disabilities. There will also be a satellite desk in the Fairmont Chicago (Ballroom Lobby, level B2). To reserve hotel rooms that are specifically equipped for persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, write Karin Bagnall by 15 November 2013. 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 2013 (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).

*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 headquarters hotels.

*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 (14- to 16-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 15 November, though the convention office will make every effort to accommodate late requests. Members who require interpreters should write to Karin Bagnall as soon as possible.

Please report any problems on-site to the MLA staff members in the headquarters offices at the Chicago Marriott (Scottsdale, 5th floor) or the Sheraton Chicago (Parlor A, Lobby level 3), and they will do their best to assist you. Hotel staff members may not be able to respond.

## Sessions on Academic Employment

ADE and ADFL will sponsor several convention 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 10 and 11 January. Job candidates who take advantage of the counseling service should bring a copy of an application letter and vita.

*ADE-sponsored sessions for job candidates.* "Preconvention Workshop for Job Seekers in English" (4) will provide job candidates an opportunity to hear experienced representatives from different types of institutions describe work and career paths in their institutions and aspects of the job search. In "Myth-Busting the Job Search" (148), recently hired graduates will discuss their approaches to finding employment in English departments. ADE and ADFL sponsor "Career Opportunities in English and Foreign Languages at Two-Year Colleges" (533), which will provide information about the needs of and job opportunities at two-year colleges.

*ADFL-sponsored sessions for job candidates.* Led by experienced department chairs who serve on the ADFL Executive Committee, "Preconvention Workshop for Academic Job Seekers in Foreign Languages" (5) will describe work and career paths in AA-, BA-, MA-, and PhD-granting programs. In a second session, "Demonstration Interviews for Job Seekers in Foreign Languages" (182), 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. ADFL also sponsors "Preconvention Workshop: Strategic Planning for Defining and Securing Faculty Positions" (6), which will present strategies for recruiting, interviewing, and hiring faculty members, from defining a position with colleagues in the department and securing a line with the dean to leading a search committee to a successful conclusion.

## Recording 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 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 (Scottsdale, 5th floor, Chicago Marriott). 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 17 October.

## Deadlines for 2015 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 Allison Warheit ([awarheit@mla.org](mailto:awarheit@mla.org)).

- 21 Feb. Final submission date for receipt of Jan. 2015 convention calls for papers. Announcement of calls for papers is only available online. *Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.*
- 1 Apr. Deadline for receipt of program copy for divisions, discussion groups, MLA committees, and allied organizations and for special-session proposals and forum proposals for Jan. 2015 convention
- 1 Apr. Deadline for receipt of requests for waiver of membership requirements for participants in Jan. 2015 convention
- 1 Apr. Deadline for Web submission of requests for audiovisual equipment for Jan. 2015 convention
- 7 Apr. Deadline by which participants at Jan. 2015 convention must be listed on the MLA membership rolls
- 15 Apr. Deadline for receipt of requests for funds for eligible speakers at Jan. 2015 convention
- early June Notification of Program Committee's decisions mailed to members who submitted proposals for special sessions and competitive sessions for Jan. 2015 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. 2015 convention sessions sent to organizers
- late July Deadline for receipt of corrections to proofs of program copy for the Nov. 2014 (Program) issue of *PMLA* for Jan. 2015 convention
- early Aug. Session organizers may post calls for papers for 2016 convention. *Divisions must submit at least one call for papers per convention.*
- late Aug. Information on date, time, and place of the Jan. 2015 convention sessions to be sent by organizers to panelists
- late Sept. Fall 2014 *MLA Newsletter* (Convention Issue) mailed to members and posted online
- early Oct. Early registration deadline for Jan. 2015 convention
- early Dec. Registration deadline for Jan. 2015 convention
- mid Dec. Hotel reservation deadline for Jan. 2015 convention
- 8–11 Jan. 2015 2015 MLA convention held in Vancouver
- 9 Jan. 2015 Postmark deadline for registration refund request for Jan. 2015 convention

## 2015 Convention

The 2015 MLA Annual Convention will be held in Vancouver from 8 to 11 January.

### Calls for Papers

Calls for papers for the 2015 convention may be posted online until 21 February 2014 at [www.mla.org/cfp\\_main](http://www.mla.org/cfp_main). A call for papers is *not* a session proposal but a way to solicit paper submissions for creating a session proposal. Organizers are responsible for responding to all inquiries.

Calls for papers may be viewed online at [www.mla.org/callsforpapers](http://www.mla.org/callsforpapers) through March 2014. 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 2014. A member may participate (e.g., by organizing and chairing a meeting, reading a paper, or serving as a speaker, presider, or respondent) only twice at a convention.

### 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 online submissions is 1 April 2014. The executive director welcomes inquiries ([execdirector@mla.org](mailto:execdirector@mla.org)).



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Dated Material  
Please deliver by 8 October

## 2013 MLA Elections

The 2013 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 2013 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 2013 members will receive a letter with instructions for obtaining a paper ballot.

Online ballots must be submitted before 12:00 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 2014 division and discussion group executive committee elections.

If you are an eligible online voter and do not receive an e-mail notification by 23 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](mailto:governance@mla.org)) by 15 November.

## Call for Contributions to MLA Volumes

The volumes *Approaches to Teaching Bechdel's Fun Home*, edited by Judith Kegan Gardiner, and *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Gertrude Stein*, edited by Logan Esdale and Deborah M. Mix, are now in development in the MLA Approaches to Teaching World Literature series. If you wish to contribute to one of these volumes, please visit [www.mla.org/approaches](http://www.mla.org/approaches) and follow the links to the surveys. The volume *Teaching Modern Arabic Literature in Translation*, edited by Michelle Hartman, is in development in the MLA Options for Teaching series. The call for essay proposals for this volume can be found at [www.mla.org/options](http://www.mla.org/options).