

Negotiating Sites of Memory is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2015 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Friday, 9 January

219. The Presidential Forum: Negotiating Sites of Memory

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, 301, VCC West

Presiding: Margaret W. Ferguson, Univ. of California, Davis

1. “Bush Sites / Bush Stories: Politics of Place and Memory in Indigenous Northern Canada,” Peter Kulchyski, Univ. of Manitoba
2. “Mediation: Historical Memory against Incarceration and Punitive Actions,” Wai Chee Dimock, Yale Univ.
3. “The Politics of Competing Memories: Performing Palestinian and Israeli ‘We’ in the Aftermath,” Ihab Saloul, Univ. of Amsterdam
4. “Literary Archaeology at the Temple Mount: Recovering the Comic Version of the Sacrifice of Isaac,” Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem
5. “The Northern Phase of a Southern Problem: The Slave Girl Arrives in the Slum,” Saidiya Hartman, Columbia Univ.

316. Modes of Memory, Modes of Production:

Across Indigenous Americas

1:45–3:00 p.m., 109, VCC West

Presiding: Margaret W. Ferguson, Univ. of California, Davis; Peter Kulchyski, Univ. of Manitoba

1. “‘See Talk Be Here There and Everywhere at One Time’: Vancouver and the Memory of Skwachàys,” Dylan Robinson, Queen’s Univ.
2. “Subcomandante Marcos Is Dead: Long Live the Subcomandante!” Diana Taylor, New York Univ.
3. “Indigeneities Resurgent: New Epistemological Knowledges in Mesoamerican Indigenous Narratives,” Arturo Arias, Univ. of Texas, Austin
4. “Future Tense: Indigenous Film, Pedagogy, Promise,” Michelle Hermann Raheja, Univ. of California, Riverside

continued on back »

Saturday, 10 January

571. Remembering the “Not Modern” in Our Time

3:30–4:45 p.m., 220, VCC West

Presiding: Valerie J. Traub, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

1. “Composting Memory,” Frances E. Dolan, Univ. of California, Davis
2. “Poetic Remembering and Misremembering,” Stephen Guy-Bray, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver
3. “Feeling Backwards: Anglo-Saxon Poetics of Recall,” Patricia Dailey, Columbia Univ.
4. “Technology of Memory: Woodblock Printing and Popular Knowledge of the Global World in Ming China,” Yuming He, Univ. of California, Davis



MLA Commons

Visit the 2015 MLA Annual Convention blog at commons.mla.org for details on these and other sessions.

Online Program

A searchable program for the 2015 MLA Annual Convention is available at www.mla.org/program.



Negotiating Sites of Memory

The 2015 MLA Annual Convention presidential theme is Negotiating Sites of Memory.

The phrase *sites of memory* has many possible meanings. Like individual and collective memories expressed in verbal and other semiotic forms, the phrase is not fully translatable: it does, however, represent and misrepresent something from the past with implications for various presents and imagined futures. As a feminist scholar who has spent most of her career studying and teaching artifacts that were initially produced in times retrospectively (and still debatably) named medieval, Renaissance, and early modern, I hope that the theme Negotiating Sites of Memory will foster conversations among those who define and value that which is not modern according to various chronological schemes and theoretical paradigms.

Margaret W. Ferguson
2014–15 MLA President

Negotiating Sites of Memory Presidential Forum Participants



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University of California, Davis



Peter Kulchyski

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University of Manitoba



Patricia Dailey

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature
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Wai Chee Dimock

William Lampson Professor of English and American Studies
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Saidiya Hartman

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