



LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, LEARNING

Language is at the heart of our profession and a constant topic of interrogation. Literature enhances the imagination, builds the capacity for creative thinking, and cultivates the quality of language. Learning takes place through language, from transmission of information to critical thinking, and the encounter with imaginative literature plays a special role in educational development.

I hope that my choosing Language, Literature, Learning as the presidential theme will provoke innovative thinking about our commitments to literature and language and the learning opportunities for students. Please browse through this brochure for information on the more than sixty sessions that will focus on this theme. The 2012 convention in Seattle will be an exciting gathering. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Russell A. Berman
2011 MLA President



Language, Literature, Learning is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2012 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Presidential Forum

Friday, 6 January

202. The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Metropolitan A, Sheraton

Presiding: Russell A. Berman, Stanford Univ.

1. “Networking the Field,” Kathleen Fitzpatrick, MLA
2. “Of Degraded Tongues and Digital Talk: Race and the Politics of Language,” Imani Perry, Princeton Univ.
3. “Learning to Unlearn,” Judith Halberstam, Univ. of Southern California
4. “Borrowing Privileges: Dreaming in Foreign Tongues,” Bala Venkat Mani, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
5. “Teaching Literature and the Bitter Truth about Starbucks,” Christopher Freeburg, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

283. What Makes Language Literary?

1:45–3:00 p.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning
Presiding: Sabine Wilke, Univ. of Washington, Seattle

Speakers: Charles Francis Altieri, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Daniel Dooghan, Univ. of Tampa; Frances Ferguson, Johns Hopkins Univ., MD; Alexander C. Y. Huang, George Washington Univ.



Saturday, 7 January

431. Language and Learning

10:15–11:30 a.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

Presiding: Barbara K. Altmann, Univ. of Oregon

Speakers: Mark Bauerlein, Emory Univ.; Anne Ruggles Gere, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Catherine Ingold, National Foreign Language Center; Claire J. Kramsch, Univ. of California, Berkeley

527. Democracy, Language, and Literature

1:45–3:00 p.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

Presiding: Gaurav G. Desai, Tulane Univ.

1. “Citizen Journalism in Iran,” Negar Mottahedeh, Duke Univ.
2. “Chronicles of States Foreclosed: Writing and the Claims of Nationhood,” Ana María Dopico, New York Univ.
3. “*Jianghu* (Rivers and Lakes) Online: A Contemporary Reincarnation of *Outlaws of the Marsh*,” Hui Faye Xiao, Univ. of Kansas



Presidential Forum Participants

Charles Francis Altieri

Professor of English
Rachel Anderson Stageberg
Endowed Chair
University of California, Berkeley



Barbara K. Altmann

Professor of French
Director of Oregon Humanities Center
University of Oregon



Mark Bauerlein

Professor of English
Emory University



Russell A. Berman

Walter A. Haas Professor
in the Humanities
Stanford University



Gaurav G. Desai

Associate Professor of English and
African and African Diaspora Studies
Tulane University



Daniel Doohan

Assistant Professor of World Literature
University of Tampa



Ana María Dopico

Associate Professor of Comparative
Literature and Spanish and Portuguese
New York University



Frances Ferguson

Professor of English
Mary Elizabeth Garrett Chair
in Arts and Sciences
Johns Hopkins University, MD



Kathleen Fitzpatrick

Director of Scholarly Communication
MLA
Professor of Media Studies
Pomona College (on leave)





Presidential Forum Participants

Christopher Freeburg

Assistant Professor of English
University of Illinois, Urbana



Anne Ruggles Gere

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Gertrude Buck Collegiate Professor
Director of Sweetland Center for Writing
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



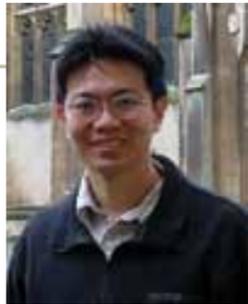
Judith Halberstam

Professor of English, Gender Studies,
and American Studies and Ethnicity
University of Southern California



Alexander C. Y. Huang

Associate Professor of English, Theatre,
and International Affairs
George Washington University



Catherine Ingold

Executive Director of the National
Foreign Language Center
University of Maryland, College Park



Claire J. Kramsch

Professor of German
University of California, Berkeley



Bala Venkat Mani

Associate Professor of German
University of Wisconsin, Madison



Negar Mottahedeh

Associate Professor of Literature
and Women's Studies
Duke University



Imani Perry

Professor of African American Studies
Princeton University



Sabine Wilke

Professor of German
Chair of Department of Germanics
University of Washington, Seattle



Hui Faye Xiao

Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese
Literature and Culture
University of Kansas





2012 Presidential Theme Sessions

The following is a list of sessions related to the presidential theme, Language, Literature, Learning, arranged by divisions, discussion groups, allied and affiliate organizations, and individual members.

Thursday, 5 January

13. An African Literary Classic in Ten World Translations

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton

A special session

20. Public Discourse, Islamism, and the Arab Revolutions: On Paul Berman's *The Flight of the Intellectuals*

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Aspen, Sheraton

A special session

28. What Is the Future of French in French Studies?

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Ravenna C, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Conseil International d'Études Francophones

43. Making a Case for the Humanities: Advocacy and Audience

1:45–3:00 p.m., 612, WSCC

Program arranged by the MLA Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee

45. Spenser, Donne, and the Work of Poetry

1:45–3:00 p.m., 619, WSCC

Program arranged by the International Spenser Society and the John Donne Society

65. After the *Heath*: Teaching US Multilingual Literature

1:45–3:00 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Literature of the United States in Languages Other Than English

68. What Works? Integrating Culture into First-Year English and Foreign Language Courses

1:45–3:00 p.m., 613, WSCC

Program arranged by the Community College Humanities Association

82. Arabic Language and Identity: Transregional Texts and Transnational Discourses

3:30–4:45 p.m., *Columbia, Sheraton*

A special session

91. Indigenous Languages and Literatures in the Americas

3:30–4:45 p.m., *619, WSCC*

Program arranged by the Division on Ethnic Studies in Language and Literature

126. Juárez Bleeds: Violence and Globalization in the United States–Mexico Borderlands

5:15–6:30 p.m., *Willow A, Sheraton*

Program arranged by the Division on Chicana and Chicano Literature

132A. The Futures of Jewish American Literature: Celebrating the New *Studies in American Jewish Literature*

5:15–6:30 p.m., *303, WSCC*

A special session

151. Language, Literature, and . . . ? New Models for Foreign Language Departments

7:00–8:15 p.m., *Issaquah, Sheraton*

Program arranged by the Division on Slavic and East European Literatures

156. Genre in the Genome Age

7:00–8:15 p.m., *303, WSCC*

A special session

161. The Webs We Weave: Online Pedagogy in Community Colleges

7:00–8:15 p.m., *615, WSCC*

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges

165. Teaching Early Literature and Why It Matters

7:00–8:15 p.m., *306, WSCC*

A special session



Friday, 6 January

166. Tone in Narrative

8:30–9:45 a.m., 617, WSCC

Program arranged by the International Society for the Study of Narrative

184. Beyond the Arabian Nights: Middle Eastern Fiction in the World Literature Course

8:30–9:45 a.m., Columbia, Sheraton

A special session

189. Transpacific Formalisms of the Mid-Twentieth Century

8:30–9:45 a.m., Issaquah, Sheraton

A special session

199. Reading Langston Hughes in the Age of Barack Obama

8:30–9:45 a.m., 614, WSCC

Program arranged by the Langston Hughes Society

201. Translating and Translation in Israeli Literature

8:30–9:45 a.m., Seneca, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Hebrew Literature

249. Building Digital Humanities in the Undergraduate Classroom

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton

A special session

263. Reading across Communities: Linguistic Approaches to the Teaching of Literature

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Linguistic Approaches to Literature

274. Intersections between American Indian and Other Literary Traditions

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 307, WSCC

Program arranged by the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures

284. Responses to a Changing World:
German Language, Literature, and Culture
in the Twenty-First Century

1:45–3:00 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton

A special session

288. Radical Learning Strategies

1:45–3:00 p.m., 606, WSCC

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

320. Reenvisioning Foreign Language Education
in the Current Economy

3:30–4:45 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton

Program arranged by the American Association of
University Supervisors and Coordinators

330. Learned Journals and Libraries: Knowledge
Economies and Economics of Knowledge

3:30–4:45 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned
Journals and the Discussion Group on Libraries and
Research in Languages and Literatures

332. Digital Narratives and Gaming for Teaching
Language and Literature

3:30–4:45 p.m., Aspen, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on
Information Technology and the American Council on
the Teaching of Foreign Languages

341. Learning to Connect the Multiple Fields
of an English Department

3:30–4:45 p.m., 614, WSCC

A special session

349. Digital Pedagogy

5:15–6:30 p.m., Grand A, Sheraton

A special session

360. Expanding the Language Mission across the
Disciplines: A Session in Honor of John Grandin

5:15–6:30 p.m., Greenwood, Sheraton

Program arranged by the ADFL Executive Committee



2012 Presidential Theme Sessions

365. Language Learning and Identity Construction

5:15–6:30 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Applied Linguistics

372. New Approaches to Civil War Poetry:

Dickinson, Whitman, Melville

5:15–6:30 p.m., 619, WSCC

Program arranged by the Melville Society and the Emily Dickinson International Society

Saturday, 7 January

396. Chinese Narrative, World Literature:

The Appeal and the Peril of Being Worldly

8:30–9:45 a.m., Aspen, Sheraton

A special session

408. What Do Graduate Students in Spanish
Need to Learn, and Why?

8:30–9:45 a.m., Issaquah, Sheraton

Program arranged by the American Association
of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

414. Teaching Creative Writing

8:30–9:45 a.m., 304, WSCC

Program arranged by the Division on Teaching
as a Profession

419. Good Practices in Hiring, Developing,
and Reviewing Contingent Faculty Members

8:30–9:45 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on
Contingent Labor in the Profession

428. Technology and Chinese Literature and
Language

10:15–11:30 a.m., Boren, Sheraton

A special session

435. Issues Facing Graduate Students of Color
in the Profession

10:15–11:30 a.m., 309, WSCC

Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus

442. New Media, New Pedagogies

10:15–11:30 a.m., 613, WSCC

Program arranged by the Division on Prose Fiction

476. New Directions in Ecocriticism: Scientific Knowledge and Literary Critique

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 608, WSCC

A special session

482. *Of Kings' Treasuries* and the E-Protean Invasion: The Evolving Nature of Scholarly Research

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 613, WSCC

Program arranged by the Division on Methods of Literary Research

484. Dissenting Voices

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Arabic Literature and Culture

499. Literary Multilingualism and Exile in Twentieth-Century Fiction

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Ravenna C, Sheraton

A special session

530. Translation and World Literature

1:45–3:00 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

A special session

532. Reading Writing Interfaces: Electronic Literature's Past and Present

1:45–3:00 p.m., 613, WSCC

A special session

538. Shuttling to Learn

1:45–3:00 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Language and Society

545. German Graduate Education 2020: Strategies for the Future

3:30–4:45 p.m., Issaquah, Sheraton

Program arranged by the American Association of Teachers of German



2012 Presidential Theme Sessions

567. Pinter in Seattle: A Creative Conversation
with Frank Corrado and Harry Burton

3:30–4:45 p.m., 608, WSCC

Program arranged by the Harold Pinter Society

571. Coding Culture: Humanities Responses
to Biological Theories of Culture

3:30–4:45 p.m., Willow A, Sheraton

A special session

572. The Philosophical Example

3:30–4:45 p.m., 615, WSCC

A special session

593. Forms and Effects: Linguistic Approaches
to the Teaching of Literature

5:15–6:30 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Linguistic
Approaches to Literature

602. Language, Literature, Learning: Ezra
Pound as Teacher, Teaching Ezra Pound

5:15–6:30 p.m., 613, WSCC

Program arranged by the Ezra Pound Society

Sunday, 8 January

632. Academically Adrift?

8:30–9:45 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton

A special session

637. Language in/as Living Organism:
The New Genre of Geno-Poetry

8:30–9:45 a.m., 615, WSCC

A special session

644. Pedagogy and Print Culture in the Sixties

8:30–9:45 a.m., 306, WSCC

A special session

652. The Role of Translation in Foreign
Language Departments

8:30–9:45 a.m., Jefferson, Sheraton

Program arranged by the American
Translators Association

664. Sound and Voice in the Creative Writing Classroom: Practice-Based Pedagogies

10:15–11:30 a.m., 614, WSCC

A special session

674. Giving It Away: Sharing and the Future of Scholarly Communication

10:15–11:30 a.m., Willow A, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals

682. Criticism and Crisis

10:15–11:30 a.m., 618, WSCC

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century American Literature

706. Dynamic Learning for Advanced Proficiency

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Columbia, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Applied Linguistics

710. Academically Adrift? Language, Literature, and Learning in the Small College English Department

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 606, WSCC

Program arranged by the MLA Office of Research

725. Poetry, Poetics, Politics in the Modern Arab World

1:45–3:00 p.m., Willow B, Sheraton

A special session

731. Common First-Year Readings and Themes: Theory, Practice, Problems, Promise

1:45–3:00 p.m., 608, WSCC

Program arranged by the Division on the Teaching of Writing

732. Northwest Poetry and Poetics

1:45–3:00 p.m., 606, WSCC

A special session

