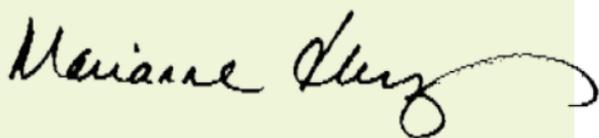


VULNERABLE TIMES

The 2014 MLA
Annual Convention
presidential theme
is Vulnerable Times.

Vulnerable Times addresses vulnerabilities of life, the planet, and our professional disciplines, in our own time and throughout history. Its aim is to illuminate acts of imagination and forms of solidarity and resistance that promote social change. The theme and my interest in vulnerability derive from my long-standing feminist work on lives that have been marginalized, forgotten, or omitted from dominant histories and narratives. They also emerge from a concern about the precarious place of education—particularly in languages, the humanities, and the arts—among the local and global priorities of the present moment. How do we mobilize the textual, historical, theoretical, and activist work we do as teachers and scholars of languages and literatures to shape conversations about broad social and political problems?



Marianne Hirsch
2013-14 MLA President



Vulnerable Times is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2014 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Friday, 10 January

230. The Presidential Forum: Vulnerable Times

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Sheraton IV–V, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Marianne Hirsch, Columbia Univ.

Speakers: Ariella Azoulay, Brown Univ.; Judith Butler, Univ. of California, Berkeley; David L. Eng, Univ. of Pennsylvania; Rob Nixon, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison; Diana Taylor, New York Univ.

Session Description: The forum will theorize dimensions of vulnerability that can be mobilized to think toward social change. Speakers will probe key sites defining vulnerable times: embodiment, poverty, climate, and the condition of being unequally governed, as well as resistance and reparation. Can vulnerability—shared or socially manufactured—be claimed as a space of interdependence, solidarity, and activism?

323. Trauma, Memory, Vulnerability

1:45–3:00 p.m., Chicago IX, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Susan Rubin Suleiman, Harvard Univ.

1. “Trauma Theory for Implicated Subjects,” Michael Rothberg, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana
2. “Cyberpoetics and Cryptopolitics: *Facebook* Pages as Memory Portals,” Ananya Jahanara Kabir, King’s Coll. London
3. “Embodying Postconflict Memories: *Teatro* Testimonial in Chile,” Maria José Contreras, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
4. “Culture of Memory and Human Rights: New Constellations,” Andreas A. Huyssen, Columbia Univ.

Responding: Susan Rubin Suleiman

Saturday, 11 January

523. The Politics of Language in Vulnerable Times

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Chicago VI, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Shu-mei Shih, Univ. of Hong Kong

Speakers: A. Suresh Canagarajah, Penn State Univ., University Park; Mary Louise Pratt, New York Univ.; Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia Univ.; Guadalupe Valdes, Stanford Univ.

607. Public Humanities

3:30–4:45 p.m., Chicago IX, Sheraton Chicago
Presiding: Laura Wexler, Yale Univ.

Speakers: Matti Bunzl, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana; James Chandler, Univ. of Chicago; Julie Ellison, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Farah Griffin, Columbia Univ.; Jean Elizabeth Howard, Columbia Univ.



MLA Commons

Visit the 2014 MLA Annual Convention blog at commons.mla.org for complete details on all presidential-theme sessions.

Online Program

A searchable program for the 2014 MLA Annual Convention will be available in October at www.mla.org/program.

Events Open to the Public during the 2014 MLA Annual Convention in Chicago

Honoring John Sayles



PHOTO BY MARY CYBULSKI

- The presentation of the 2013 Phyllis Franklin Award to John Sayles (Saturday, 11 January, 6:45 p.m., Sheraton IV–V, Sheraton Chicago)
- A Creative Conversation with Sayles and Maggie Renzi (Saturday,

11 January, 10:15–11:30 a.m., Chicago E, Chicago Marriott)

- A free screening of one of Sayles’s films (please visit www.mla.org/program in October for more information)

Chicago Humanities Summit

The MLA, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Chicago Humanities Festival are cosponsoring the Chicago Humanities Summit, to take place on Thursday, 9 January. For more information, please visit www.mla.org/convention_services#informational.

Vulnerable Times Presidential Forum Participants



Ariella Azoulay

Assistant Professor of Modern
Culture and Media and
Comparative Literature
Brown University



Matti Bunzl

Professor of Anthropology
University of Illinois, Urbana



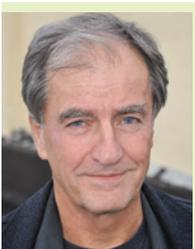
Judith Butler

Maxine Elliot Professor
University of California, Berkeley



A. Suresh Canagarajah

Edwin Erle Sparks Professor
Penn State University,
University Park



James Chandler

Barbara E. and Richard J. Franke
Distinguished Service Professor
University of Chicago

Maria José Contreras

Assistant Professor in the
School of Theatre
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Julie Ellison

Professor of American Culture
and English
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



David L. Eng

Richard L. Fisher Professor of English
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Farah Griffin

Professor of English and
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African-American Studies
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Marianne Hirsch

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Andreas A. Huysen

Villard Professor of German and
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Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

University Professor in the
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Columbia University

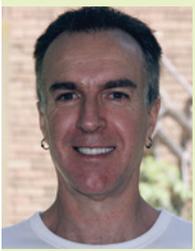
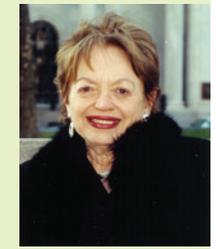


Ananya Jahanara Kabir

Professor of English Literature
King's College London

Susan Rubin Suleiman

C. Douglas Dillon Professor
of the Civilization of
France and Professor of
Comparative Literature
Harvard University



Rob Nixon

Rachel Carson and Elizabeth
Ritzmann Professor of English
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Diana Taylor

University Professor,
Performance Studies
and Spanish
New York University



Mary Louise Pratt

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Guadalupe Valdes

Bonnie Katz Tenenbaum
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Michael Rothberg

Professor and Head of the
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Sexuality Studies
Yale University



Shu-mei Shih

Professor of Comparative
Literature and Chinese
University of Hong Kong



VULNERABLE TIMES