



This year's presidential theme, Avenues of Access, is bound by the multivalence of the term *access*:

Student access to higher education. What role, if any, should scholarly associations play in making higher education more accessible for students?

Access to tenure-track jobs for PhDs. What can we do to make higher education more accessible for new PhDs?

Access and disability studies in the humanities. Does disability change what we know about narrative, textuality, and aesthetics? How can our classroom practices accommodate students with intellectual disabilities?

Open access and scholarly communication. How can the MLA continue to rethink the dissertation and encourage questions about the future of peer review, publication, and intellectual property?

I hope that you will take a moment to read about the 2013 convention sessions related to Avenues of Access, and I look forward to meeting you in Boston.

—Michael Bérubé
2012 MLA President



Avenues of Access
is the theme of the
Presidential Forum at
the 2013 MLA Annual

Convention. The following are the programs for
the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Presidential Forum

Thursday, 3 January

112. The Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access: Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members and American Higher Education

5:15–7:00 p.m., Constitution Ballroom, Sheraton

Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ.,
University Park

1. “Free-Market Faculty Members: The Adjunct Project and the Disposable Professor,” Joshua Boldt, Univ. of Georgia
2. “Human Resources: Employment Practices and the Future University,” Elizabeth Landers, Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis
3. “Addressing the Scarlet A: Adjuncts and the Academy,” Maria Maisto, New Faculty Majority
4. “Reinventing Access: Free Public Higher Education, Quality Instruction, and Job Security for All Faculty Members,” Robert Samuels, Univ. of California, Los Angeles

Friday, 4 January

353. Avenues of Access: Digital Humanities and the Future of Scholarly Communication

3:30–4:45 p.m., Republic Ballroom, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The
Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access

Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ.,
University Park

1. “The Mirror and the LAMP,” Matthew Kirschenbaum, Univ. of Maryland, College Park

2. "Access Demands a Paradigm Shift," Cathy N. Davidson, Duke Univ.
3. "Resistance in the Materials," Bethany Nowviskie, Univ. of Virginia

Saturday, 5 January

570. Avenues of Access: The State of Disability Studies

1:45–3:00 p.m., Republic Ballroom, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access

Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park

1. "Unequal Access: Disability and the University," Rachel Adams, Columbia Univ.
2. "Just Getting In/It: The MLA, Disability Studies, and Access," Brenda Jo Brueggemann, Ohio State Univ., Columbus
3. "Converting Crippled Saints," Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, Emory Univ.
4. "Disability Studies on Fire," Tobin Siebers, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Presidential Forum Participants



Rachel Adams

Professor of English and
Comparative Literature
Columbia University



Michael Bérubé

Edwin Erle Sparks Professor
of Literature
Penn State University,
University Park



Joshua Boldt

Instructor of English
University of Georgia



Brenda Jo Brueggemann

Professor of English and
Disability Studies
Ohio State University, Columbus



Cathy N. Davidson

Ruth F. DeVarney Professor
of English
John Hope Franklin Humanities
Institute Professor of
Interdisciplinary Studies
Duke University



Rosemarie Garland-Thomson

Professor of Women's Studies
and English
Emory University



Matthew Kirschenbaum

Associate Professor of English
Associate Director of MITH
University of Maryland,
College Park



Elizabeth Landers

Director of Language Programs

Assistant Teaching Professor
in French

University of Missouri, St. Louis



Maria Maisto

President of the New
Faculty Majority

Executive Director of the
NFM Foundation



Bethany Nowviskie

Director of Digital Research
and Scholarship

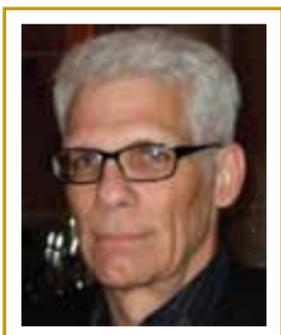
University of Virginia



Robert Samuels

Lecturer in the Writing Programs

University of California,
Los Angeles



Tobin Siebers

V. L. Parrington Collegiate
Professor of English Language
and Literature

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2013 Presidential Theme Sessions

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

Thursday, 3 January

21. Avenues of Access for Recent PhDs

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

A special session

22. Expanding Access: Building Bridges within Digital Humanities

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 205, Hynes

A special session

71. A More Capacious Conception: Digital Scholarship and Tenure

1:45–3:00 p.m., Public Garden, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition

86. Owing: On Student (and Other) Debt

3:30–4:45 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Delegate Assembly

88. Age, Obsolescence, and New Media

3:30–4:45 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Age Studies

129. Teaching in the Shallows: Reading, Writing, and Teaching in the Digital Age

5:15–6:30 p.m., Berkeley, Sheraton

A special session

139. On Cognitive Approaches to Literature, Disability Studies, and Being Wrong

5:15–6:30 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton

A special session

163. Tweeting the Revolution: Networked Media, the Rhetorics of Activism, and Practices of the Everyday

7:00–8:15 p.m., Gardner, Sheraton

A special session

165. Beyond the PDF: Experiments in Open-Access Scholarly Publishing

7:00–8:15 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

Friday, 4 January

198. Convergent Histories of the Book: From Manuscript to Digital

8:30–9:45 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

210. Disability Studies in the Italian Context

8:30–9:45 a.m., 205, Hynes

Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century Italian Literature

236. Representations of Cultural Resistance: Deafness and Power

10:15–11:30 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

237. Access to What? A Roundtable on Public Scholarship, Community Engagement, and Diversity

10:15–11:30 a.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton

A special session

268. Disability Discourses: Bodily Selves and the Embodiment of Deviance

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

A special session

270. How Did I Get Here? Our “Altac” Jobs

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

A special session

306. Disability Studies, the MLA, and the AAUP Report “Accommodating Faculty Members Who Have Disabilities”

1:45–3:00 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

319. The Future of the PhD in Postsecondary Teaching

1:45–3:00 p.m., 203, Hynes

Program arranged by the Division on Teaching as a Profession and the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition

332. The Experience of Class in the Academy

1:45–3:00 p.m., 201, Hynes

Program arranged by the Division on Sociological Approaches to Literature

354. Gender and Contingent Labor

3:30–4:45 p.m., The Fens, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages and the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession

368. Debt Theory

3:30–4:45 p.m., Fairfax B, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Society for Critical Exchange

382. Enabling Access: Gower and Premodern Disability Studies

5:15–6:30 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

401. Digital Archives and Their Margins

5:15–6:30 p.m., Berkeley, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Bibliography and Textual Studies

Saturday, 5 January

438. Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members in the Modern Languages: Issues and Directions

8:30–9:45 a.m., Liberty A, Sheraton

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

440. How I Got Started in Digital Humanities:
New Digital Projects from DHCommons

8:30–9:45 a.m., Commonwealth, Sheraton

A special session

441. Disability in *Jane Eyre*: The Madwoman and
the Blindman

8:30–9:45 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton

A special session

472. LGBTQI Graduate Students and Academia

10:15–11:30 a.m., Beacon D, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus

485. Inventing New Journals: The Pressures for
and against New Scholarly Publications

10:15–11:30 a.m., Riverway, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Council of Editors of
Learned Journals

507. New Archives, Renewed Access: Research
Methodologies in Latin American Collections

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 301, Hynes

A special session

510. Disabled Bodies and African American
Literature, 1859–1946

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

A special session

524. Thinking Success outside the Classroom:
The PhD as Preparation for Diverse Career
Opportunities

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 209, Hynes

Program arranged by the Association of Departments
of Foreign Languages and the Association of
Departments of English

545. Experimental Theory: From *The Arcades
Project* to *The Telephone Book* and Beyond

1:45–3:00 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Literature and
Other Arts

562. Digital Dictionaries

1:45–3:00 p.m., Public Garden, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on
Lexicography

581. Getting an Education at Occupy Boston: A Roundtable on Intellectual Activism

3:30–4:45 p.m., Back Bay D, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Radical Caucus in English
and the Modern Languages

583. Intellectual and Cognitive Disability Studies

3:30–4:45 p.m., Beacon F, Sheraton

A special session

599. L'apprentissage du français comme voie d'accès au 21e siècle

3:30–4:45 p.m., 203, Hynes

Program arranged by the Conseil International
d'Études Francophones

619. Program Discontinuance on the Rise?

5:15–6:30 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton

Program arranged by the American Association of
University Professors

631. Literary Theory and American Sign Language Literature

5:15–6:30 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on
Disability Issues in the Profession

637. Open Access? ECCO, EEBO, and Digital Resources

5:15–6:30 p.m., Commonwealth, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Division on Restoration
and Early-Eighteenth-Century English Literature

644. Pedagogy of the Precariat: From Conference to Classroom to Community

5:15–6:30 p.m., Liberty C, Sheraton

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Part-
Time Faculty Members

Sunday, 6 January

669. Social Media and Scholarship: The State of Middle-State Publishing

8:30–9:45 a.m., Beacon A, Sheraton

A special session

694. “This Is Not the Ivy Tower”: Scholarship at Community Colleges

8:30–9:45 a.m., Liberty B, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges

696. Disability and the Coloniality of Power

10:15–11:30 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton

Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession

702. South Asian-izing the Digital Humanities

10:15–11:30 a.m., 209, Hynes

A special session

749. Rebooting Graduate Training: Collaboration, Computing, and the New Thesis

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

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Computer Studies in Language and Literature

754. Negotiating Feminist Issues in Pedagogy, Activism, and Administration at Community Colleges

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

Program arranged by the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages

767. Rewards and Challenges of Serial Scholarship

1:45–3:00 p.m., Liberty A, Sheraton

A special session

795. Literature and Digital Pedagogies

1:45–3:00 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton

A special session

