



Happy February from the Midwest Modern Language Association!

February is coming to a close, which means it's time for an update from the Midwest Modern Language Association!

CONVENTION NEWS

The 67th Annual MMLA Convention, "After the Archive," will take place November 12-14 at voco Chicago Downtown!

[Learn More](#)

Keynote Speaker

We are excited to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's convention will be *Nevine El Nossery!*

Dr. Nevine El Nossery is Professor of Francophone Studies and Director of The Middle East Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her work brings together Francophone studies, postcolonial and decolonial theory, gender studies, art, and politics, with a focus on North Africa and the Middle East. Her current book project, *Liberation Is Not a Metaphor: Decolonial Praxis from Classroom to Community*, develops a decolonial praxis that interrogates the institutionalization of critique and reframes pedagogy, transnational cultural production, and community engagement as epistemic spaces for reimagining memory beyond official archival repositories, foregrounding transformative, relational, and future oriented forms of knowledge making.

Upcoming Convention Deadlines

March 10	- Deadline to apply to be a Permanent Section Chair.
March 15	- All organizers of a Permanent Section MUST submit their official Calls for Papers to the MMLA to be posted on the member portal. - Those interested in proposing a Pre-Organized Panel and asking the MMLA to post a Calls for Papers on their behalf should also submit their official CFP.
April 25	- Individual-paper proposals to a Permanent Section or Pre-Organized Panel due.
May 1	- All Pre-Organized Panel, Workshop, and Individual Paper proposals for the annual Convention or Undergraduate Research Symposium MUST be submitted to the MMLA. - Permanent Section organizers MUST submit their panel details to the MMLA.

Call for Permanent Section Chairs

The MMLA is seeking academics with pertinent expertise to organize and chair Permanent Sections at our 2026 convention! Please view the list of vacant Permanent Sections below to see if any of them would fit well with your research or area of scholarship. For more information regarding the responsibilities of chairs and organizers, [please visit our website](#).

- African American Literature
- Creative Writing II: Poetry
- English III: Literature after 1900
- French I: Advent of the Ancien Régime
- French II: Post Ancien Régime
- Indigenous Literature and Culture
- Luso-Brazilian Studies
- Mutlimodality
- Peace, Literature, and Pedagogy
- Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies
- Spanish Cultural Studies
- Spanish I: Peninsular Literature before 1700
- Spanish II: Peninsular Literature after 1700
- Spanish III: Latin American Literature and Culture
- Women in Literature
- Writing Across the Curriculum

If you are interested in organizing one of the above Permanent Sections, please reach out to mmla@luc.edu with a current CV and a brief statement of your qualifications. In addition, if you would like to co-organize and co-chair one of these sections with a colleague, you can send both CVs and statements together to the above email.

Important Notice: The 2026 Convention will NOT support slide projection

Since installing and maintaining projectors and screens in the convention venue's presentation rooms is cost-prohibitive, **the MMLA will not be supplying the AV equipment needed to support PowerPoint, Keynote, etc., slide projection at its 2026 convention.** Presenters interested in supplementing their spoken remarks with visual aids are encouraged to bring printed handouts to distribute to audience members attending their sessions. Alternatively, presenters may wish to distribute QR codes enabling audience members to view a remote slide presentation on their mobile devices, as described in the YouTube video linked [here](#). Please direct all technical questions about such alternatives to the information technology support staff at your institution.

JOURNAL NEWS



JMMLA Fall 2026 Call for Submissions on the theme "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives"

The *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* is accepting submissions for a Fall 2026 issue on the theme of "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives." We invite submissions that contribute new insights into the value of the Humanities in relation to a more hopeful future. To this end, we seek submissions that address digital humanities, library studies, the intrinsic or extrinsic value of any branch of the Humanities, pedagogy in the time of the politics of chaos, and beyond. Please read the full Call for Papers [here](#) for more information on submission topics.

Articles should be between 7,000 and 10,000 words (including notes). Prior to submission please review the JMMLA's [Style Guide](#) and [Manuscript Manager Instructions](#). All submissions are due by **September 15th, 2026**.

Please direct any questions or concerns to mmla@luc.edu or to this issue's editor, Joe Keener, at keenerj@iu.edu.

MMLA NEWS

MMLA Election Results

The MMLA Executive Committee has just elected one of its current members, Dr. Esther Teixeira of Texas Christian University, to the office of MMLA Vice President. After spending 2026 as MMLA Vice President, Dr. Teixeira will ascend to the MMLA Presidency in 2027 and will serve as MMLA Treasurer in 2028. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Teixeira on her new leadership role as an MMLA officer!

Elections for the MMLA's Executive Committee were held a few weeks ago, and we are proud to announce that two new members were elected to the committee. Please give a warm welcome and congratulations to:

- Dr. Alejandra Ortega of College of DuPage
- Dr. Daniel Colson of McPherson College

MMLA Executive Committee members act as stewards for the development of our professional and academic community by working on the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* and establishing programming for our annual convention. Thank you to all of our Executive Committee members for their service, and we cannot wait to see all the amazing accomplishments of our committee's newest additions!

2026 Modern Language Association Reports

The MMLA's Executive Director, Jack Kerkerling, is an *ex-officio* member of the MLA Delegate Assembly, and Delegate Assembly members are charged with sharing MLA information with members. Accordingly, we here announce that the MLA has issued fifteen 2026 reports, which we have placed in an [accessible Dropbox folder](#). Please navigate to that folder and read any and all reports that interest you.

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Thank you all so much for reading the MMLA's February Newsletter! We want to express the utmost gratitude to all of the members who make our work possible. Your scholarly contributions cultivate conversations and enrich the perspectives of our readers. We wish you all the best from Chicago!

Sincerely,
The MMLA Team



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