



## Happy 2025 from the Midwest Modern Language Association!

Happy New Year! The MMLA sends warm regards to all of our members and their families for the start of 2025. Our January newsletter is here with plenty of exciting developments for both the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association (JMMLA)* and our annual convention.

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### CONVENTION NEWS

#### 2024 Convention Recap

To start off 2025, it is important to recount the successes of 2024. One of the most notable was our "Health in/of the Humanities" convention, which took place in Chicago in November of 2024.

At the convention, we revealed the winner of our annual Book Award. Two winners split this year's prize: Jennifer Chukwu for her book *The Unfortunates*, and Amina Gautier for her book *The Best That You Can Do*. In addition, we awarded our Graduate Student Paper Prize to Anika Jensen for her paper "The War is the World': Theories of Feeling in Women's Great War Nursing Narratives."

Beyond the awards, we had the honor of hosting Dr. Andrea Charise, an Associate Professor and faculty member in the Departments of Health & Society, Psychiatry, and English at the University of Toronto Scarborough, for the keynote address. Her excellent talk, "On Burning Ground: The Futures of Health in/of the Humanities," perfectly encapsulated the message of our convention. Dr. Charise is an interdisciplinary scientist, researcher, writer, and community leader in the field of Health Humanities.

Finally, we are excited to announce new MMLA leadership. In officer roles, Joe Keener has ascended from MMLA Vice President to President, Eric Wistrom was elected to be the new MMLA

Vice President, and Nate Jung is the new MMLA Treasurer. The following four people have been elected as new members of the MMLA's Executive Committee: Adrienne Angelo, Heejoung Shin, Judah-Micah Lamar, and Jonathan Gross. Thank you to all of our members who have worked so hard to make the MMLA convention, journal, and community amazing!

## 2024 Undergraduate Paper Prize Winner: Congratulations Yiyao Sun!



*All Nights in the World* by Chi Zijian  
via Amazon

Sun's paper, "Challenging Polyphony's Role in Addressing Trauma and Mental Stress in Contemporary East Asian Women's Literature," centers on Mikhail Bakhtin's concept of polyphony—the coexistence of multiple, equal voices in a narrative. Exploring this idea, she employs a critical view of Chi Zijian's novella *All Nights in the World* for its attempt but ultimate failure to achieve polyphony, noting how this failure exacerbates the marginalization of rural women. The dominant narrative voice restricts, rather than empowers, the marginalized voices it seeks to elevate, perpetuating systems of suppression. The analysis underscores how well-meaning literary works in contemporary China can falter when the author's social stances and focus on collective trauma dilute the representation of individual women's domestic and mental struggles.

Yiyao Sun is a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Chicago majoring in Comparative Literature. Her research focuses on 20th- and 21st-century East Asian literature and film, integrating theories of feminist history, modernism, and the avant-garde.

## Announcing the 66th Annual MMLA Convention

November 14-16, 2025

[Learn More](#)

## "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives"

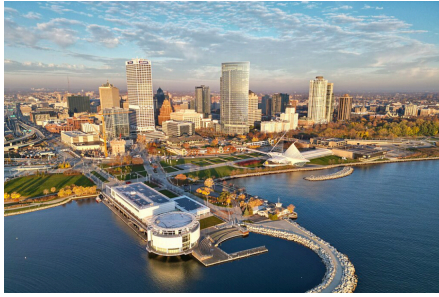


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We are so excited to announce that the theme for our 2025 convention will be, "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives." The convention will be hosted at Marquette University on November 14-16th, 2025! For more information regarding the convention location and committee, please [visit our website](#).



Image by macrovector on Freepik

### JMMLA 2025 Call for Papers

The Call for Papers for our 2025 convention theme "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives" is now live on the MMLA website. We are excited to invite all of you to discuss the value of the Humanities in relation to a more hopeful future, a topic that remains pertinent as we feel pressure to quantify the "usefulness" of studies in the Humanities.

Please read the full Call for Papers [HERE](#) for more details regarding the theme and ideal submissions.

### 2025 Convention Deadlines

<b>March 15</b>	<p>-All organizers of a Permanent Section <b>MUST</b> submit their official Calls for Papers to the MMLA to be posted on the member portal.</p> <p>-Those interested in proposing a Pre-Organized Panel and asking the MMLA to post a Call for Papers on their behalf should also submit their official CFP.</p>
<b>April 15</b>	<p>-Individual-paper proposals to a Permanent Section or Pre-Organized Panel due.</p>
<b>May 1</b>	<p>-All Pre-Organized Panel, Workshop, and Individual Paper proposals to the annual Convention or Undergraduate Research Symposium <b>MUST</b> be submitted to the MMLA.</p> <p>-Permanent Section organizers <b>MUST</b> submit their panel details to the MMLA.</p>
<b>July 1</b>	<p>-Applications for a Lodging Award and the annual Book Award due.</p>

	-Registration opens for the MMLA Convention and Undergraduate Research Symposium.
<b>September 15</b>	-Membership and Registration fees due for Convention and Symposium participants (After <b>SEPTEMBER 15</b> , regular registration will be \$180 and special registration \$80)
<b>October 15</b>	-Applications for Graduate Student Paper Prize due.
<b>November 14-16</b>	-The 66th Annual MMLA Convention and Undergraduate Research Symposium to be held at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.
<b>November 24</b>	-Applications for the Undergraduate Student Paper Prize due. -Chairs and session Moderators must report relevant panel details to the MMLA.

## JOURNAL NEWS



### *JMMLA* Fall 2023 Issue Update

We are thrilled to share that the *JMMLA*'s Fall 2023 issue, "Post-Now," will be published in February 2025! We are so excited to showcase the work of so many talented academics, and we hope that our members will thoroughly enjoy the issue!

**Keep an eye out for our call for submissions to the "Heath in/of the Humanities" issue of *JMMLA* coming soon!**

Thank you all so much for reading the MMLA's first newsletter of 2025! We are so incredibly grateful for the support and talent of our community of members, and we are looking forward to continuing our work. Best wishes from the MMLA, and we hope you all have had a great start to the new year.

Sincerely,  
The MMLA Team



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