



The Program Book is Ready!

Dear MMLA Community,

We write to share with you the official MMLA 2026 Convention and Symposium schedule as well as a range of additional Convention- and JMMLA-related announcements and reminders.

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Convention Announcements

Email Us Your Program Book Corrections

We are excited to announce that a draft of the Convention and Symposium schedule is completed and now accessible as a PDF on the MMLA's member portal.

We kindly ask all participants to look over this draft carefully to ensure their name, institution, and paper or workshop title(s) are listed correctly. If errors to this information are found, you may request a correction by emailing the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu. Please include "MMLA 2026: Program Book Corrections" in the subject line and the following details in the body of the email:

- a. The page number where the correction is needed

- b. The erroneous text
- c. The correct text

All relevant updates to panels and workshops must be submitted to the MMLA **no later than Friday, September 18.**

[Click Here for the MMLA 2026 Program Book](#)

Call for Panel Moderators

The MMLA is looking for volunteers to serve as a panel moderator for a range of Convention and Symposium sessions.

Moderator Responsibilities

Prior to the start of the Convention, moderators are expected to communicate with the presenters on their respective panel(s) by **(a)** relaying relevant information such as presentation expectations, **(b)** fielding questions that may arise from panelists, and **(c)** collecting a bio from each of the presenters.

During the Convention, moderators are responsible for **(a)** presiding over their panel(s) by introducing each panelist, **(b)** managing each presenter's speaking time to remain on schedule, and **(c)** guiding discussion among the attendees during the Q&A portion.

Post-Convention, moderators must report relevant details about their panel(s) to the MMLA.

Convention Panels in Need

- Thursday, November 12:
 - Backwards and Forwards: Temporality and the Archive (8:15 am – 9:30 am)
 - Ecopedagogy (8:15 am – 9:30 am)
 - Video Games and Science Fiction (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
 - Ecopoetics (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
 - Considerations on the Act of Creative Writing (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
 - Affect and the Postcolonial Subject (11:05 am – 12:35 pm)
 - Gothic Archives (11:05 am – 12:35 pm)
 - Against Black Erasure in the Archive (11:05 am – 12:35 pm)
 - Feminist Considerations (1:40 pm – 3:10 pm)
 - Punk, Queer, Taboo (1:40 pm – 3:10 pm)
 - Victorian Readings (1:40 pm – 3:10 pm)
 - Trans Archives (3:20 pm – 4:35 pm)
 - Dealing with the Digital (3:20 pm – 4:35 pm)
 - After the Archive: Recovering Memory Against Erasure (4:45 pm – 6:00 pm)
 - Georgian Readings (4:45 pm – 6:00 pm)
- Friday, November 13:
 - Literature of the Twenty-First Century (1:40 pm – 3:10 pm)
 - Anti-Intellectualism, Comedy, and Contemporary American Politics (3:20 pm – 4:35 pm)
- Saturday, November 14:

- Archives of Print Culture (8:15 am – 9:30 am)
- How to Create an Archive (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
- Intertexts and Archives (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
- Negotiating Identity Under Patriarchy and the Color Line (11:05 am – 12:35 pm)
- Silence and Trauma in the Archive (11:05 am – 12:35 pm)
- Archives of Diaspora and Exile (1:40 pm – 3:10 pm)
- Power and Perception (4:45 pm – 6:00 pm)

Undergraduate Symposium Panels in Need

- Thursday, November 12:
 - Kept and Forgotten: The Politics of Archival Silence (8:15 am – 9:30 am)
 - The Unreliable Narrator and the Limits of Truth (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
 - The Normal and the Aberrant: Desire and the Politics of Visibility (3:20 pm – 4:35 pm)
- Friday, November 13:
 - Contained and Confined: Women's Resistance in Victorian Lit I (8:15 am – 9:30 am)
 - Contained and Confined: Women's Resistance in Victorian Lit II (9:40 am – 10:55 am)
 - From Grand Narratives to Scattered Leaves: Literature After Belief (3:20 pm – 4:35 pm)
- Saturday, November 14:
 - Othered Bodies: Medicine, Horror, and the Human Boundary (9:40 am – 10:55 am)

To Nominate Yourself

If moderating one of these panels seems like a good fit for your interests, expertise, and schedule, please nominate yourself by sending the following to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu, with the subject line "MMLA 2026: Moderator Nomination":

- Your Current CV
- Name of the Panel
- A Statement of Interest (demonstrating your knowledge of the panel's topics)

*The program book includes a list of all paper topics assigned to each of the above panels.
Nominations are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.*

MMLA 2026's Keynote Address



"From the Ruins of the Archive to Counter-Archival Poiesis"

Prof. Nevine El Nossery, University of Wisconsin–Madison

What remains when the archive itself becomes ruin? We inhabit a historical moment in which war, genocide, settler colonialism, authoritarianism, ecological collapse, and algorithmic governance converge to reshape memory and political life. In this context, the archive can no longer be understood as a stable repository of history but as a contested terrain, vulnerable to erasure, manipulation, and destruction. Libraries, museums, universities, and cultural repositories have become sites of struggle over historical legitimacy and political power, increasingly transformed into ruins.

This keynote explores what I call the ruins of the archive: fractured material and epistemic spaces in which official regimes of preservation have been damaged, displaced, or rendered incapable of sustaining historical continuity, yet memory persists through alternative forms of transmission. My interest lies precisely in this movement from rupture to other forms of remembrance. I examine how artistic practices, community initiatives, and pedagogy respond to archival destruction by reworking what remains.

To name this process, I propose the concept of *counter-archival poiesis*: the creative, ethical, and relational practice of making new forms of historical relation from the remains of archival violence. Counter-archival poiesis does not seek to reconstruct an intact archive, recover every muted voice, or transform absence into historical certainty. Instead, it makes archival gaps perceptible and places the past in renewed relation to the present and to possible futures.

Focusing on examples from the Global South, I consider contexts in which the destruction of human lives is accompanied by the devastation of educational, cultural, and epistemic infrastructures, exposing the intimate relation between cultural erasure and systems of domination. Within these landscapes of devastation, however, writers, filmmakers, artists, educators, and communities generate counter-archival practices that sustain collective memory, resist epistemic violence, and unsettle dominant regimes of knowledge. Rather than asking simply what remains *after* the archive, this talk asks how memory survives, migrates, and is reconstituted through its ruins. I argue that counter-archival poiesis gives rise to transformative archival forms whose force lies less in the recovery of a lost totality than in the relations they activate across communities and temporalities, opening possibilities for new forms of knowledge, solidarity, ethical responsibility, and decolonial futurity.

MMLA 2026's Keynote Address will be delivered with A/V equipment, including two projectors and screens as well as a podium with a microphone.

Projection Equipment at voco Chicago

Since installing and maintaining projectors and screens in the presentation rooms at voco Chicago is cost-prohibitive, the MMLA will not be supplying A/V equipment or technicians at the 2026 Convention (except for the Keynote Address).

Our contract with the Convention site, however, does specify that **individual's "may bring in their own projector and plug into wall power with no fees."** The caveat, however, is that there will be no A/V technician or voco-site staff made available to help with such equipment or any troubleshooting that may be needed.

All Convention attendees who wish to bring a personal projector will be responsible for the transportation, setup, operation, and breakdown of their own equipment.

Forthcoming Convention Deadlines

Early Bird Registration Pricing

- Final Day: **Tuesday, September 15th**. After that time, [regular member registration](#) increases from \$130 to \$185 and [special member registration](#) from \$50 to \$85. You may use the links provided here to secure your Convention registration.

Graduate Student Paper Prize

- Due: **Thursday, October 15**. Graduate students presenting an accepted paper at the 2026 Convention are encouraged to apply. To be considered, a current CV and the accepted paper (3,000-word limit, excluding the Works Cited) must be emailed to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu.

Member Discount at voco Chicago Downtown

- Final Day: **Thursday, October 22nd**. The nightly rate for meeting participants is **\$217 (plus taxes)**. [Reserve a room now](#) to secure the MMLA-members-only pricing, and consider [joining the MMLA's Discord server](#) to connect with another roommate to share the cost of sleeping accommodations.
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Convention Policies and Restrictions

No-Show Policy

Every November, the MMLA compiles a list of no-shows from the Convention and Symposium, which is then sent to the Program Committee, who is charged with reviewing proposals for the following meeting. ***Unannounced no-shows will not be allowed to participate in the next two MMLA Conventions.***

Presenting in Absentia

Authors unable to attend the November Convention and Symposium in person *are not allowed to have other individuals present or read aloud their papers* at the meeting.

JMMLA Calls for Submissions

Call for Article Submissions

The *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* is currently looking for [submissions of scholarly articles](#) that are between 7,000 and 10,000 words (including notes) and follow MLA style guidelines.

Questions may be sent to the MMLA directly (mmla@cod.edu) or to the editor(s) of the given issue.

- **Fall 2026: "The Humanities is Where Hope Lives"**
 - Editor: Joe Keener (keenerj@iu.edu)
 - Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2026
- **Spring 2027: "Computation, Interdisciplinarity, and the Humanities"**
 - Guest Editor: Shu Wan (shuwan@buffalo.edu)
 - Submission Deadline: January 15th, 2027

[Click Here for Submission Eligibility and Guidelines](#)

Call for Guest Editor(s) of the Spring 2028 Issue

Each spring edition of the *JMMLA* has a guest editor, whose interest and expertise in a particular topic will provide the theme for that issue. For the Spring 2028 issue, we're looking for an editor or two co-editors who will foster discussion of the selected topic across the pages of the *Journal*, encouraging vital conversation among the MMLA's scholarly community.

To be considered, please submit the following to the MMLA at mmla@cod.edu by October 1st:

- Editor(s) Recent CV
- A Cover Letter (describing your expertise on the proposed topic)
- A Topic Description (i.e., the Call for Papers)

Call for Book Reviewers

Any scholar, especially an early career scholar, is encouraged to write a book review, which (if accepted) will be published in the *JMMLA*.

Eligibility

The *JMMLA* does not consider for publication book reviews that are submitted by undergraduates. Contributors to the *Journal* must be pursuing or hold a graduate degree and are required to hold an active MMLA membership at the time of publication (not of submission). Lastly, only one book review from a single scholar may be under consideration at a time. Scholars who have published a

book review with the *JMMLA* previously are invited to submit another at a later date if they are interested in doing so.

General Requirements

themes, potential audience, strengths, and weaknesses. Reviewers can choose any appropriate scholarly book published in the last 10 years, or optional titles that are eligible for review, but



- Current CV
- The Selected Book (including a link to it on the publisher's website)

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Contact Us

Midwest Modern Language Association
C/O Liberal Arts Division

College of DuPage

425 Fawell Boulevard

Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

mmla@cod.edu

Sincerely,
The MMLA Team