



September News!

Dear MMLA Community,

We hope you've had a great end to your summer! This newsletter announces several exciting updates and upcoming deadlines regarding this year's MMLA Convention at Marquette University (November 14-16) and the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* (JMMLA).

Convention Deadlines & Reminders

Program Book Corrections

Corrections to the Convention Program Book must be made no later than September 15th.

Attendees may search the convention program book draft to learn the day and time that panels and workshops have been scheduled.

*If you are participating in the convention, please look over this draft carefully to ensure your name, institution, and paper title(s) are listed correctly. If errors to this information are found, please request a correction by emailing the MMLA at mmla@luc.edu as soon as possible with the subject line "Program Book Correction." Please include the following information:

- The page number where the correction is needed
- The erroneous text
- The correct text

[Click Here to Review Draft](#)

Graduate Student Paper Prize

The Graduate Student Paper Prize submission deadline is October 15th, 2025.

This \$100 prize is open to all graduate students who have been chosen to present a paper at the convention. The winning paper will be published in the Fall 2026 issue of the *Journal of the Midwest*

Modern Language Association (JMLA). The winning author will also receive a complimentary membership and registration to the next MMLA convention.

- To apply, send your CV and the accepted paper (3,000 word limit) to mmla@luc.edu.

Early Bird Registration Deadline and Membership Dues

The Early Bird Registration deadline for the 2025 convention is **Monday, September 15th**.

Registration fees cover costs associated with running the convention, such as A/V equipment, technicians, and Wi-Fi, as well as food and beverage services. To register, you may select either Regular or Special Membership.

- Regular members include full-time faculty and staff, administrators, school teachers, and librarians.
- Special members include graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, part-time faculty and staff, as well as independent, unemployed, or retired members.

Specific fees can be found on our website. *Please note that fees will increase after the September 15th deadline.*

Additionally, we offer a general reminder to pay membership dues for new and existing members.

[Click Here for More Registration Information](#)

Sleeping Accommodations

MMLA 2025 will be hosted by Marquette University. Because the "university model" for this year's Convention does not require the Association to use a specific hotel's facilities and services, we are unable to offer attendees on-site lodging. Nevertheless, the MMLA is committed to assisting its members in locating a range of nearby accommodations that fit within their budget.

- If a **hotel reservation** interests you, you may use the link below to search for hotel availability in Milwaukee, WI via our trusted partner aRes Travel, a third-party travel planner.

[Hotel Availability](#)

- **Alternative housing options** like [Vrbo](#) and [Airbnb](#) can be more cost effective, but nightly rates largely depend on demand, location, availability, amenities, and seasonality.
- **Interested in locating another attendee to share the cost of accommodations?** Consider joining the MMLA's Discord server which may be helpful in connecting with potential roommates and rideshares for the annual November meeting. Click the link below to access the MMLA's Convention 2025 Discord invite link. In this server, you may also receive information including general announcements and reminders pertaining to the convention.

[2025 Convention Server](#)

Purchasing Non-Member Guest Passes

Guest passes are reserved for *non-MMLA family and friends*. MMLA members may not purchase a guest pass to attend the Convention themselves.

- **Pricing:** Passes are \$10 per person, per day, and all proceeds are put towards Convention programming.
- **Hours:** Admission covers the hours of 8:00AM-5:30PM (CST) on Friday, Saturday, OR Sunday.

Please follow the link below to purchase one-day passes for guests to attend your session at this year's MMLA Convention and Undergraduate Symposium.

[Purchase Guest Pass](#)

MMLA's Convention Policies and Restrictions

No-Show Policy:

Every November, the MMLA compiles a list of no-shows at the convention, which is then sent to the Program Committee, who is charged with reviewing proposals for the following convention. Barring extenuating circumstances, *unannounced no-shows will not be allowed to participate in the next two MMLA conventions*.

Presenting in Absentia:

Authors are *not* allowed to have other individuals present their papers at the convention in their absence.

[Click Here for More Convention Policies and Restrictions](#)

Keynote Speaker, 2025

Timothy Melley, "Humanities Futures"

"For all their novelty, recent attacks on the humanities are strikingly similar to older critiques. For more than a century, liberal arts education has weathered such challenges by adapting to emerging social needs. Our own crisis demands that we examine our professional attachments and thoughtfully rearticulate our deepest commitments. Using examples from a variety of universities, I offer a three-pronged institutional strategy and sketch a 'new map of the humanities' to prompt reflection on how to make our work visible to a skeptical public."

The Midwest MLA's 2025 Convention welcomes its keynote speaker, Timothy Melley. Melley is Professor of English and Director of the Miami University Humanities Center. He is the author

of *The Covert Sphere: Secrecy, Fiction, and the National Security State* (Cornell 2012), *Empire of Conspiracy: The Culture of Paranoia in Postwar America* (Cornell 2000), and numerous essays and stories. His new book, "Imagining Leviathan: Fictions of Democratic Security Society," is forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

Get Involved with the MMLA Convention!

Interested in Being a Panel Moderator?

You're in luck! The MMLA still needs **moderators for 18 panels in the convention** (which can be identified in the [program book draft](#) in each section containing "Moderator: TBD") **and 5 for the Undergraduate Symposium**. The available panels include the following:

Convention

Evaluating Personal Archives
Hope after Armed Conflict
Performances and Performativity of Gender in the Early Modern Period
Contemplative Modalities in Literature
Rethinking Pedagogical Strategies
Posthumanist Hope: Robots and Animals
Writing Pedagogy
La esperanza argentina: Social and Environmental Thought through Argentinian Literature
Spatiality in the Lived Experience of Black Americans
Hope... in this Economy?: Finances and Love in the Postwar and Neoliberal Ages
Virtual Potpourri
The Hope in Religion: Global Responses to Religious Philosophy
Black Empowerment in the Twenty-First Century
Borders and Frontiers in the Eighteenth-Century Experience
Postcolonial Hope in Africa
Francophone Papers, Letters, Apocalypses
Centering Migrant and Immigrant Workers' Experience: Then and Now
Hope in the Queer Archive

Undergraduate Symposium

Language Matters: Language and Identity in Marginalized Communities
Care and Composition: Black Feminist Artistry and Action
Film as a Limiting or Galvanizing Force of Cultural Knowledge
The Riddle and the Epistolary: Experimentations with Formal Genres
Reckoning with Dark National Histories: Spain, Argentina, Germany, United States

Being a panel moderator is a great way to get even more out of your convention experience beyond presenting your work and attending sessions. The moderator performs the important tasks of introducing the speakers, keeping each speaker to time, and facilitating the Q&A portion of the panel. We appreciate everyone who volunteers to take on this imperative role!

If moderating one or more of the convention panels seems like a good fit for your interests, expertise, and schedule, then, please nominate yourself by sending your CV, the name of the panel, and a short statement of interest to the MMLA office at mmla@luc.edu. If you are interested in moderating one or more of the undergraduate symposium panels, please reach out to kzhorne@luc.edu directly. We will consider nominations as they are received.

[Click Here to Learn More About the Convention](#)

JMMLA News, Deadlines, & Calls for Submissions

Upcoming Issues & Article Submission Deadlines

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. Find the full list of current calls for [submissions here](#).

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

- **Fall 2025: "Health in/of the Humanities."**
 - Editor: Nathan Jung (najung@wisc.edu).
 - Submission Deadline: September 15, 2025.
- **Spring 2026: "Transnational Writing: Ethnic Ukrainian Authors in the Americas"**
 - Guest Editor: Mariya Shymchyshyn (mshymchyshyn@yahoo.com)
 - Submission Deadline: January 15, 2026

Call for Guest Editor, Spring 2027

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 spring 2027, we're looking for an editor who will foster discussion of the selected topic across the pages of the journal, encouraging vital conversation among the MMLA's scholarly community. Topic descriptions may be in the form of a call for submissions. [Examples of current submission calls](#) can be found on the MMLA website.

To be considered, submit the following to the MMLA at mmla@luc.edu by **October 19th, 2025**:

- Your most recent CV
 - A cover letter describing your expertise on your proposed topic
 - A description of your proposed topic
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Call for Book Reviewers & New Books for Review

Anyone who is interested in being published in the *JMMLA* is encouraged to write a book review! Book reviews should distill a book's arguments, themes, potential audience, strengths, and weaknesses in under 1200 words. Reviewers can choose any appropriate scholarly book published in the last 18 months to review, and our website is always being updated with new and fascinating titles that are eligible for review!

Let the MMLA know that you're interested in being a book reviewer by sending us your CV and the title of the book you would like to review at mmla@luc.edu. (P.S.: Check out the [MMLA Instagram](#) for a sample of some of our most exciting new books up for review!)

[Learn More About Book Reviews](#)

General Announcements

Twitter/X Account Retiring

The @MidwestMLA Twitter/X account has retired and is available only as an archive. For MMLA social media posts, follow us on Instagram or Facebook @MidwestMLA.

We hope the information in this newsletter is helpful to all members who are planning on being a part of this year's convention. As the date gets closer and the program book is nearly complete, all of us at the MMLA office are excited, too!

Sincerely,
The MMLA team



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