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## It's a busy fall at the MMLA. The September newsletter is here to bring you up to speed.

The [Fall 2023 Convention](#) is coming up. Register, reserve a room, apply for travel awards, and submit work for the graduate student paper prize. We've **extended the submission deadline** for the [Spring 2024 JMMLA](#). Read about the theme and learn more about how to submit. Applications are open now for several [opportunities](#) [and grants](#) that will interest MMLA members. Review deadlines and find important details.

Important upcoming deadlines:

- **October 1:** apply for a convention travel award
- **October 11:** reserve a room at the convention hotel at the discounted member rate
- **October 15:** enter to win the graduate student paper prize
- **October 18:** apply for NEH "Spotlight on Humanities" grant
- **October 20:** nominate yourself as *JMMLA* Guest Editor
- **November 15 (*new extended deadline*)** : submit an essay to the *JMMLA*'s Spring 2025 issue
- **December 15:** apply for the MMLA's Newberry Library Fellowship
- **January 15:** nominate yourself to the MMLA's Executive Committee

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

# FALL 2023 CONVENTION

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## Registration

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If you are a **current or previous member** of the MMLA, you have received an invitation from our new membership portal, MemberClicks, which will prompt you to log in and set up your password. Once completed, you will be prompted to renew your membership (if necessary).

If you did not receive an invitation from our membership portal, MemberClicks, you can **become a member** of the MMLA by creating an account on [our new website](#). In doing so, you will be prompted to complete a member profile and pay for a one-year membership online.

Once you've registered for the convention you can explore the Member Discussion Forums for roommates and rideshares for the convention hotel.

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## Accommodations

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[Hotel reservations](#) for the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati can be made at the member rate (\$189/night) until October 11th and can be canceled without penalty three business days prior to arrival.

Why stay at the convention hotel?

- Receive guaranteed member rates on Hyatt rooms

- Network with convention attendees beyond scheduled sessions
- Enact the convention's democratic theme of engagement, exchange, community, and comradery

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## Travel Awards

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The MMLA offers a limited number of travel awards for the following: part-time faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, independent scholars, and graduate students who will be presenting at the upcoming conference.

**Applications for these \$250 awards are due by October 1.**

Please submit the following to [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu):

- A brief cover letter asking to be considered. Please indicate other institutional source of support, if any
- An abstract of the paper to be presented at the conference
- Your most recent CV

Grad students please note that the MMLA will give preference to students who demonstrate need.

Visit our [website](#) for more information and to view previous winners.

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## Graduate Student Paper Prize

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The MMLA Graduate Student Paper Prize contest is open to all graduate student members of the MMLA who will be presenting papers during our annual convention.

Submissions will be reviewed by the MMLA Program Committee. The winning paper will be announced during the convention and published in *The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*. The prize also comes with a cash

prize of \$100 and registration to the following MMLA convention.

By **October 15**, interested students must send the following to [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu) with “Graduate Student Paper Prize” in the subject line of the submission email.

- Your most recent CV
- Your paper accepted to the upcoming convention

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## Take a Look

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Current members will now find some newly updated convention resources both on the MMLA website and through their member portals.

### Convention Program Book

The most recent draft of the program book is posted to our site now. Take a minute to peruse the full updated list of panels, including speaker names and paper titles. View the pdf [here](#).

### Member Forums

Two of our member forums are now up and running. These are intended for ride share and roommate arrangements. These are great resources to coordinate travel plans securely with other MMLA members. Visit the [forum page](#) and connect today.

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## Stay Tuned...

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### Virtual Thursday

Thursday, November 2 will be an all-virtual day for the convention. Information on how to attend will be available soon. Keep an eye on your inbox for links and instructions on how to participate, both as an attendee and as a speaker.

### Upcoming Moderator Forum

All members attending the convention are eligible to moderate panels currently lacking a designated moderator. We encourage members to browse the

themselves as moderators for panels where they feel they have relevant interest or expertise.

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## THE JMMLA

### SPRING 2024 ISSUE

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# Intelligence

This special issue responds to the opportunity presented by massive, messy cultural discourses to rethink the very notion of intelligence. We welcome contributions that explore what intelligence is, what it has been, and what it might be, particularly from a humanities perspective.

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## Paper Submissions

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### Extended Deadline: November 15

For a list of topics and questions regarding the Spring 2024 issue, preview our [Current Calls for Submission](#) page. Submission procedures and formatting guidelines are described on the [journal page](#) of the website for the Midwest Modern Language Association.

Please direct all queries to the special issue co-editors, Naomi Michalowicz ([najung@wisc.edu](mailto:najung@wisc.edu)) and Nathan Jung ([nm2925@columbia.edu](mailto:nm2925@columbia.edu))

As always, general questions can be answered by the MMLA at [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu)

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## Book Reviews

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The MMLA accepts book reviews year round on a wide range of titles. The following books are recommended for review specifically in relation to the theme of the spring 2024 *JMMLA* issue, "Intelligence." For more information, see our "[Book Reviews](#)" [page](#) on the member portal or email the MMLA at [mmla.luc@edu](mailto:mmla.luc@edu).

- [\*Literary Theory for Robots: How Computers Learned to Write \(A Norton Short\)\*](#) by Dennis Yi Tenen
- [\*Artificial Intelligence and Its Discontents: Critiques from the Social Sciences and Humanities\*](#) edited by Ariane Hanemaayer
- [\*Wild Intelligence: Poets' Libraries and the Politics of Knowledge in Postwar America\*](#) by Mary Catherine Kinniburgh
- [\*Ways of Being: Animals, Plants, Machines: The Search for a Planetary Intelligence\*](#) by James Bridle

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## MORE OPPORTUNITIES

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### Humanities Grant Application

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is offering a grant to small projects of exploration and development at small 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education.

This "Spotlight on Humanities" grant is intended to fund projects that will benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of humanities at small and medium-sized colleges.

For more information on the grant itself and the application process, visit [the NEH website](#). Applications are due **October 18**.

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### Newberry Library Fellowship

Newberry Library Fellowships provide support to researchers who wish to use

research with staff curators, an array of both scholarly and public programs, and more.

Applicants must be members of the MMLA at the time of application and, if awarded, through the period of their fellowship. For more information, including a comprehensive list of opportunities at the Newberry, please visit [their website](#).

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## ***Get Involved with the MMLA***

### **Nominate Yourself for the MMLA Executive Committee**

The MMLA is led by passionate scholars who are invested in challenging and shaping the academic discourses happening today. Members of the Executive Committee oversee the annual convention program and the publication of *JMMLA*.

Please write to a current Executive Committee member ([LINK HERE](#)) or to our office at [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu) to learn more about what you can do with and for the MMLA.

To put yourself forward as a candidate for election, please send a CV and a letter of self-nomination to [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu) by **January 15, 2024**.

### **Volunteer to Edit the Spring 2025 JMMLA**

Each spring edition of the *JMMLA* has a guest editor. We're looking for an editor with interest and expertise in a particular topic that will become the theme for that issue. The editor will foster discussion of the selected topic in the pages of the journal, cultivating a conversation among scholars.

Applicants will send their proposed topic to the MMLA. Topic descriptions may be in the form of a call for submissions. [Examples of current calls](#) can be found on the MMLA website.

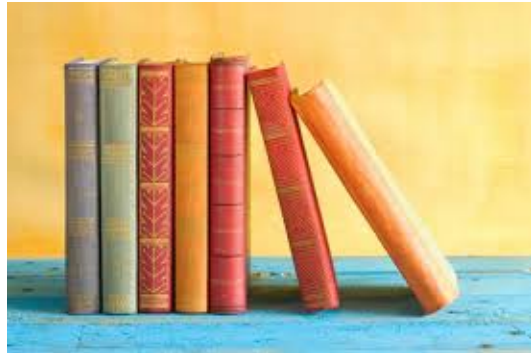
To be considered, submit the following to the MMLA at [mmla@luc.edu](mailto:mmla@luc.edu) by **October 19**:

- Your most recent CV
- A cover letter describing your expertise on your proposed topic

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## What does the MMLA owe democracy?

This year's convention theme is complex and inspiring. We look forward to exploring this question deeply with many of you this November.



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**Our mailing address is:**

mmla@luc.edu

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