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NeMLA News

Northeast Modern Language Association

Winter 2018

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Contact: support@NeMLA.org

More Information at <http://www.buffalo.edu/nemla>

President's Letter: Welcome to Pittsburgh!

Dear NeMLA Members:



It is a pleasure to be able to put the spotlight on Pittsburgh: a nerve center for forward-looking innovation, urban transformation, and social and cultural revitalization. In recent years, Pittsburgh has gained national attention from top industries, from tech giants like Apple, Intel, and Google, to movers and shakers like Amazon. It is not surprising that this attention has grown in tandem with the strength of the arts and humanities, and this is one of the reasons why NeMLA is proud to be able to work with the University of Pittsburgh, our local host institution, and one that upholds NeMLA's commitment to the advancement of knowledge.

We are fortunate to have been able to work with talented partners at the University of Pittsburgh, including Kathleen Blee, current Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, as well as N. John Cooper, the School of Arts and Sciences former Dean, under whose leadership we began preparations for this year's proceedings. We also recognize the tireless work of John Patrick Walsh III, Associate Professor of French, and his generous colleagues in the Department of French and Italian, who have been helpful liaisons and partners in planning sessions and events. Lina Insana's stewardship as Department of French and Italian Chairperson has also been much appreciated. We would like to thank our local graduate representatives, Melissa Yang and Maxime Bey-Rozet, for their work organizing area activities so that convention attendees can make the most of their visit. Last but not least, this conference could not take place without the continuous and steady help of our administrative institution, the University at Buffalo.

To touch on a few innovative aspects of this year's convention, we have expanded our annual Job Clinic, and we have added a Scavenger Hunt, as well as amenities—a Zen room, a lactation room—for members attending with extended family and children. As the mother of a 7-year-old, I can say that I am familiar with both the challenges and thrills of traveling with children, and I am keenly aware that the academy we belong to today is not the academy it used to be. I want to make NeMLA accessible to everyone, and that includes extended family.

We strongly encourage conference attendees to stay at the NeMLA's official hotel, the Omni William Penn, conveniently located in the heart of the city, just blocks from Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts, the Andy Warhol Museum, and the Carnegie Museum of Art. The Omni boasts both elegance and comfort, with some of Pittsburgh's most remarkable architectural structures in a Renaissance Revival style emphasizing high interior arches and round-topped windows.

The theme of this year's convention, "Global Spaces, Local Landscapes and Imagined Worlds," seeks to examine the concept of spaces: their appropriation and occupation, the





David Reid/VitisPittsburgh

demarcation of borders, processes of inclusivity and exclusivity, as well as reproductive processes related to the creation of worlds—real, fantastic, and imagined. I trace my own interest in space and place to an early fascination with geography. As a child, I remember looking at atlases and methodically tracking with my finger the route we might travel on a car trip. I plotted possible destination points—New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles—and dreamed of what it might be like to live in one of these urban centers. As a child of immigrant Italian parents who uprooted themselves from their homeland to make a new life for themselves in the United States, I considered not only how landscapes and built environments impact the way people occupy their surroundings, but also how geography and topography might shape notions of citizen and nation. More recently, mass shootings in Florida, Nevada, and Texas, convinced me of the necessity to critically examine not only what it means to try to create a safe place, but also how issues of inclusivity and exclusivity remain at the center of such conversations.

To kick off our conference, we will begin with a live audience interview with Pittsburgh author Stewart O’Nan to discuss his fabulous novel, *West of Sunset* (2015). This biofictional work, which takes F. Scott Fitzgerald’s point of view, imaginatively follows the *Lost Generation* author from his arrival in Hollywood in 1937 to his premature demise at age 44. O’Nan’s captivating book leads readers to consider the incongruous nature of Fitzgerald’s wretched death, taking place so far away from the East Coast literary and intellectual milieu that had inspired him early in his career. We encourage our expansive NeMLA community to read and send us questions about *West of Sunset*, and we will have a NeMLA member conduct the live interview with O’Nan on Thursday, April 12, at 7:00PM (Bob and Dolores Hope Room, Omni Hotel).

On Friday night, Rob Nixon, the Currie C. and Thomas A. Barron Family Professor in the Humanities and the Environment at Princeton University, joins us to present his keynote address, “Environmental Martyrdom and the Defenders of the Forest.” Nixon’s work speaks to this year’s convention theme, as he foregrounds not only the catastrophic environmental effects of post-industrial society but how these impacts reverberate at every level of society, from the political and economic realm to social and cultural. Growing up in Western New York, less than 30 minutes away from Love Canal, I could not escape stories

of people whose homes had been invaded by toxic vapors and strange liquid residues, and stories of rare cancers and birth defects found among residents. At the time I did not know of William T. Love’s entrepreneurial desire to create a utopian metropolis that would serve as a model center of industry and modern family living, nor did I have any idea of how that plan, having failed, initiated a chain of events culminating in the 1970s crises. When I consider Rob Nixon’s work, I consider it within this context: within the framework of an insidiously slow violence that takes place where we eat, drink, and sleep; it is a slow violence that occurs not “over there,” somewhere across the globe, but where we live and work.

We are fortunate this year to have our NeMLA Area Directors host nationally and internationally recognized scholars and creative writers as featured speakers in our disciplinary areas. I also want to thank NeMLA’s Caucuses, specifically their push to underscore the professionalization of members. As a graduate student at the University of Buffalo in the late 1990s, I remember attending my first NeMLA convention, and looking back, I realize how extremely accommodating and sympathetic my graduate professors and early mentors were in helping me to craft my CV, help me with cover letters, and see me through mock interviews. While this is not the experience of every graduate student, I’m glad to see CAITY and the Women’s and Gender Studies Mentorship Program working towards this end.

We also encourage all members to RSVP for the free Membership Brunch, which takes place at noon on the last day of the conference. Come enjoy the company of your fellow attendees, meet the Board, and learn about how to get involved on the Board. You should also take this opportunity to find out more about submitting session proposals for NeMLA’s 50th annual convention, which will be held in Washington, DC in late March 2018. At a time when political, cultural, and social borders are in flux, and notions of citizenship are constantly contested, it is apropos to have NeMLA meet in DC.

This conference would not take place without the dedication of NeMLA’s staff. Brandi So, our outgoing Associate Executive Director, deserves more than a cursory note of thanks since, over the years, she has provided the executive board, area directors, staff and members with much guidance. Moreover, NeMLA’s Executive Board, Simona Wright, First Vice President, Carol Salmon, Second Vice President, and Hilda Chacón, Past President, have been constant sources of inspiration, and perhaps more importantly, relentless in their moral support and willingness to collaborate. I am also incredibly grateful to Area Directors who work to make sure that our collective vision for NeMLA as an organization and our annual conference comes to fruition. Finally, I wish to thank Carine Mardorossian, Executive Director, for her direction and management expertise. NeMLA is an organization with countless moving parts, and Carine’s masterful ingenuity in making sure these parts all continue to work is simply miraculous.

With kindest regards,

Maria DiFrancesco
Ithaca College
NeMLA President

2018 FEATURED SPEAKERS



Beth Navarro

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 7:00PM | BOB AND DOLORES HOPE ROOM
RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW**

Opening Event: NeMLA Reads Together A Conversation with Stewart O’Nan

The 49th annual meeting of NeMLA will open with a dynamic live interview of Pittsburgh’s own Stewart O’Nan, named one of America’s Best Young Novelists by *Granta* literary magazine. The interview will include a discussion of O’Nan’s biofiction *West of Sunset* (2015), the focus of our new initiative, “NeMLA Reads Together.” Meticulously researched, *West of Sunset* is a sensitive, moving portrayal of the last three years of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s life when he worked on his ambitious novel *The Last Tycoon* in Los Angeles—in poor health, struggling with alcoholism, and increasingly despondent over his declining literary reputation. According to *The New Yorker*, “O’Nan’s adroitness with atmosphere and period detail makes Fitzgerald’s dreams of creating worthy work, even with his best days behind him, absorbing and poignant.”

Stewart O’Nan is the author of *The Odds*; *Emily, Alone*; *A Prayer for the Dying*; and *Snow Angels*, as well as several works of nonfiction, including, with Stephen King, the bestselling *Faithful*. His novel *Last Night at the Lobster* was a national bestseller and finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. His latest novel is *City of Secrets*, a moral thriller of the Jewish underground resistance in Jerusalem after World War II.

NeMLA members are encouraged to read O’Nan’s *West of Sunset* in preparation for the opening address. Bring your questions for the author to the convention!

NeMLA News Editors

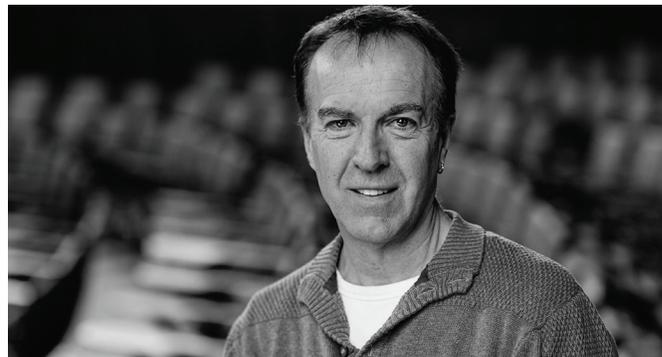
Solon Morse, University at Buffalo
Derek McGrath, University at Buffalo

University of Pittsburgh Liaisons

John Patrick Walsh III
Maxime Bey-Rozet
Melissa Yang

NeMLA Graduate Fellows

Sarah Goldbort, University at Buffalo
Ashley Byczkowski, University at Buffalo
Callie Ingram, University at Buffalo
Naila Sahar, University at Buffalo
Amy Greer, University at Buffalo
Claire Sommers, Graduate Center, CUNY



**FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 7:00PM | GRAND BALLROOM
RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW**

Keynote Event: Rob Nixon, “Environmental Martyrdom and the Defenders of the Forest”

NeMLA is proud to have as its keynote speaker Rob Nixon, the Currie C. and Thomas A. Barron Family Professor in the Humanities and the Environment. He is the author of four books, most recently *Dreambirds: The Natural History of a Fantasy* and *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*, which won numerous awards, including the 2012 Sprout prize from the International Studies Association for the best book in environmental studies. Nixon writes frequently for the *New York Times*. His writing has also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The London Review of Books*, and *Critical Inquiry*.

This talk will address the current surge in environmental martyrdom across the global South against the backdrop of the neoliberal resource wars and the compound threats of climate change. Martyrdom is direct action in extremis. Martyrs put their bodies on the line, risking, for the sake of principle, not just a weekend in jail, but burial in the dead of night in a shallow grave. Some environmental martyrs remain anonymous, their vanishing unnoticed beyond their villages. But others gather posthumous fame and purpose, achieving in their earthly afterlife a rallying power and an enduring force.

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NeMLA 49th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Pittsburgh PA, April 12–15, 2018



NeMLA's 2018 Convention will be held at the **Omni William Penn** (530 William Penn Place), with workshops at the Heinz History Center (1212 Smallman Street), a short walk from the Omni.

Omni hotel rate: \$159/night (plus applicable taxes/fees). Reserve hotel rooms by March 21, at www.omnihotels.com/hotels/pittsburgh-william-penn/meetings/northeast-modern-language-association. Free wireless internet is provided in guest rooms to all Omni Select Guests (free membership at omnihotels.com) and will be available in all session breakouts during the convention. A gender neutral restroom and a lactation room are available for attendees. On-site parking is \$6–\$36.

For more information, contact support@nemla.org.

Travel Information

AIRLINE

United Airlines is the official airline for NeMLA 2018! Book travel at www.buffalo.edu/nemla/convention/travel to take advantage of our 10% discounted rates for travel between April 9–18, 2018.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Our friends at VisitPittsburgh have secured a discount with the Pittsburgh Transportation Group for transportation to and from Pittsburgh International Airport, courtesy of SuperShuttle and ExecuCar. Enter the discount code 6GPLV when booking at www.supershuttle.com for \$4 off a roundtrip SuperShuttle or \$6 off a roundtrip ExecuCar Private Sedan. Discount valid between April 9–18, 2018. Gratuity not included. A \$3.00 booking fee applies to phone reservations. Shuttle service is available 24 hours, but reservations must be made 6–12 hours in advance. An appointment is needed after 6:00PM.

ROOM & RIDE FORUM

The CAITY Caucus and Graduate Student Caucus are again hosting the Room and Ride Forum for Caucus members who want to share the costs of traveling or lodging at the 2018 Convention. Post a thread at nemlaroomandride.freeforums.net.

SPECIAL EVENTS BY AREA

Friday, April 13

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

David R. Castillo, "Truth, Reality in the Age of Inflationary Media: Why the Humanities are More Important than Ever" | *Comparative Literature and Pedagogy and Professionalism Special Event* | Grand Ballroom

How are we to understand the apparent growing disregard for reality, the ubiquitous presence in politics of an attitude or practice denoted so memorably by Stephen Colbert as truthiness, in Webster's definition "the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true"? The Humanities and the Arts can offer a much needed corrective to the allure of fundamentalism; a way out of the empire of solitude that's impoverishing our lives, dividing our communities, eroding our democracy, and threatening our planet.



David R. Castillo is the University at Buffalo Director of the Humanities Institute and Professor of Spanish in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, where he served as Chair between 2009 and 2015. He is the author of *Awry Views: Anamorphosis, Cervantes, and the Early Picaresque* (2001) and *Baroque Horrors: Roots of the Fantastic in the Age of Curiosities* (2010) and co-author of *Zombie Talk: Culture, History, Politics* (2016) and *Medialogies: Reading Reality in the Age of Inflationary Media* (2017). Castillo has also co-edited *Reason and Its Others: Italy, Spain, and the New World* (2006) and *Spectacle and Topophilia: Reading Early and Postmodern Hispanic Cultures* (2012). He is currently coediting a volume tentatively titled *Writing in the End Times*. He is a habitual University at Buffalo "Scholar on the Road," and has made media appearances in the *New York Times*, Voice of America, NPR, and other outlets.

Saturday, April 14

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Helon Habila, "Art and Activism" | *Anglophone Literature and Diversity Special Event* | Grand Ballroom

Literature and its writers have influenced and shaped public perception and policy all over Africa, from the fight against colonialism to pro-democracy movements. Artistic engagement is important in public debate and activism, not just in Africa but globally. Now more than ever, the writer's voice is needed to speak in support of the marginalized and disenfranchised. In his talk, Helon Habila will discuss the circumstances around the writing of his pro-environmental novel, *Oil on Water* (2010), situating it within the larger discourse of oil politics and corruption in the Niger Delta, and how individual artists and activists like Saro-Wiwa have contributed to such discourse.



Helon Habila is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at George Mason University. His first novel, *Waiting for an Angel* (2002), won the Caine Prize for African Writing and the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Novel (Africa Section). He edited *The Granta Book of The African Short Story* (2010). His most recent book is *The Chibok Girls* (2016), a work of investigative nonfiction on the 276 school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram Islamists in northeastern Nigeria in 2014. Professor Habila won the Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction in 2015.

Saturday, April 14

6:30–8:30 PM

Christopher Pizzino, “Touching the Comic Book” | *American & Cultural Studies and Media Special Event* | *Conference Center A*

What is at stake in the tense, complex relationship between comics and literature? Approaching this familiar question from a fresh perspective, this talk will trace connections between the physical, kinetic aspects of comics reading—so different from the often disembodied, interiorized reading of modern print—and the “low,” culturally delinquent status of the medium.



Christine M. Nicklin

Christopher Pizzino is Associate Professor of Contemporary US Literature in the Department of English at the University of Georgia, where he teaches comics, image theory, contemporary literature, film and television, theory of the novel, and science fiction. His scholarship on comics has appeared in *ImageText*, *PMLA*, and other venues. He is the author of *Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature* (2016) and is currently at work on a book entitled *The Body of the Comics Reader*.

6:30–8:30 PM

Dawn Lundy Martin, Poetry Reading | *Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing Special Event* | *Annual Creative Writers and Editors’ Reception* sponsored by *Modern Language Studies* | *Bob and Dolores Hope Room*



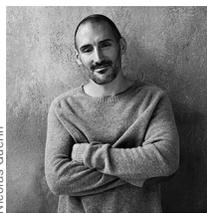
Max Freeman

Dawn Lundy Martin is a poet, essayist, and conceptual-video artist. She is the author of four books of poems: *Good Stock Strange Blood* (2017); *Life in a Box is a Pretty Life* (2015), which won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Poetry; *Discipline* (2011); *A Gathering of Matter/A Matter of Gathering* (2007); and three limited edition chapbooks. Her nonfiction can be found in *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, and elsewhere. Martin is Professor of English in the writing program at the University of Pittsburgh and Co-director of the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics.

The **Annual Creative Writers and Editors’ Reception** will precede Professor Martin’s presentation. Have a drink, something to eat, and engage in discussion with editors and writers from universities across the region. The sponsor of this reception, *Modern Language Studies*, is NeMLA’s peer-reviewed journal and represents the wide-ranging critical and creative interests of NeMLA members.

6:30–8:30 PM

Julien Suaudeau, “Why Can’t France Say ‘We’? An X-ray of Contemporary French Fractures” | *French and Francophone Special Event* | *Carnegie III*



Nicolas Guérin

Unlike the United States, France doesn’t know how to say “We, the People.” Or maybe it just doesn’t want to. When it does, the claim to a collective identity comes out wrong. What are the reasons for this malaise? How come the national symbols and the national narrative always prevail on grammar in our representation of the French identity? Why does it have to be “us” against “them”? Why is “I” stronger than “we”? This lecture will map out the fault lines of the French self, before examining the prospects for a post-republican sense of community.

Julien Suaudeau teaches at Bryn Mawr College, where he is the Coordinator of the Non-Intensive Language sequence in French. He is the author of three novels: *Dawa* (2014), *Le Français* (2015), and *Ni le feu ni la foudre* (2016). His fiction focuses on contemporary France seen through the lenses of colonial and postcolonial history, immigration, laïcité, terrorism, and socioeconomic inequalities. He is a regular contributor to the opinion pages of French dailies *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Libération* and the weekly magazine *L’Obs*. He has directed documentaries and short fiction films, and has published extensively on film history, film theory, and French cinema in *Positif*.

6:30–8:30 PM

Carmen-Francesca Banciu, Reading from “Mother’s Day” and “Berlin is My Paris” | *German Special Event* | *Oliver*



Carmen-Francesca Banciu was born in Lipova, Romania and studied Byzantine art and foreign trade in Bucharest. As a result of being awarded the International Short Story Award of the City of Arnsberg for the story “Das strahlende Ghetto” (“The Radiant Ghetto,” 1985), she was banned from publishing her work in Romania. In 1991, she accepted an invitation extended by the DAAD Berlin Artist-in-Residence program and came to Germany. Since moving to Berlin, Banciu has written almost exclusively in the German language. She was a writer in residence at Rutgers University from 2004 to 2005 and at the University of Bath in 2009. Banciu currently works as a freelance author and co-editor/deputy director of the transnational, interdisciplinary, and multilingual e-magazine *Levure Littéraire*. Her book-length works deal with the geographic, psychic, and linguistic migrations of the woman author in Europe under and following the fall of Communism.

6:30–8:30 PM

Graziella Parati, “Recuperative Narratives of Migration and Citizenship” | *Italian Special Event* | *Conference Center B*

Rejecting strong theories of what and who migrants are, Italian writers have developed alternative strategies that affirm their right to intervene in the urban space they inhabit. Their

goal is to recuperate spaces and places and turn them into malleable entities. These proximities become locations of affective citizenship. Told in a number of ways, reparative tales of citizenship redraw the political lines that define Italian cities—Rome for Amara Lakhous and Igjaba Scego and Milan for Sergio Basso and Gabriella Kuruvilla.



Graziella Parati is the Paul D. Paganucci Professor of Italian Literature and Language at Dartmouth College, where she also teaches Comparative Literature and Women’s and Gender Studies. She has written and edited the following books: *Public History, Private Stories: Italian Women’s*

Autobiography (1996), *Mediterranean Crossroads: Migration Literature in Italy* (1999), *Migration Italy: The Art of Talking back in a Destination Culture* (2006), *New Perspectives in Italian Cultural Studies* (2012), *Italy and the Cultural Politics of WWI* (2016), and *Migrant Writers and Urban Space in Italy: Proximities and Affect in Literature and Film* (forthcoming). She has co-edited with Ben Lawton *Italian Cultural Studies* (2001), with Rebecca West *Italian Feminist Theory and Practice: Equality and Sexual Difference* (2002), and with Marie Orton *Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Italy* (2007). Her articles focus primarily on migration issues. She is currently at work on a book entitled *Un-Becoming Fascists: The Use of Political Autobiographies in Nation Building*.

6:30 – 8:30 PM

John Ochoa, “Global Pressures, Local Needs, and the Future of Spanish Departments” | *Spanish and Portuguese Special Event* | Phipps



John Ochoa is Associate Professor in the Spanish and Comparative Literature Departments at Penn State. His main areas of research are Mexican intellectual and cultural history and American hemispheric studies. His first book, *The Uses of Failure in Mexican Literature and Identity*, explored the thematic

relationship between the awareness of historical failure and its impact on the formation of cultural identity by looking at several “monuments” of the Mexican canon, including Bernal Díaz del Castillo, J.J. Fernández de Lizardi, José Vasconcelos, and Carlos Fuentes. He is currently working on two books: *Fellow Travelers: Dispatches Of Empire in the Literature and Film of the Americas*, an Inter-American project that pairs works from North and Latin America; and *Bad Mexican Fathers*, a study of cultural, literary, and historical “fathers of the country” who are damaged or absent.

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Janet Lyon, “Love, Idiocy, and Modernism” | *Women’s and Gender Studies Special Event* | *Lawrence Welk Room*

This talk focuses on the representational challenges posed to modernist textuality by “idiocy,” as it was called, in an era of ubiquitous eugenic thinking. Several modernist texts present an “idiot” not as a primary character but rather as a reflected, or co-created character, via the unlikely medium of love. Evoking a broader platform within disability theory, according to which

disabled people “bring something new into the world that may otherwise go unrecognized,” this presentation shows that this “something new” (in David Mitchell and Sharon Snyder’s words) in this mode of modernism, is kinetic, deep love.



Janet Lyon is an associate professor of English and an affiliate of the Women and Gender Studies department at Penn State. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*. Her scholarship focuses mainly on modernism and its historical, sociological, and philosophical contexts in

Ireland, Great Britain, and the global reaches of the British empire. Her book *Manifestoes: Provocations of the Modern*, offers a history and a theory of the manifesto form, beginning in 1640 and focusing on its use by modernist and avant-garde groups. She is completing a book titled *The Perfect Hostess: Sociability and Modernism*, which studies the salons, at-homes, wild parties, pub crawls, and tea-house poetry groups in the modernist moment. Her work in Disability Studies centers on the emergence of “disability” as a category in the modernist period. She is at work on a book titled *‘Idiot Child on a Fire Escape’: Modernism’s Disability*. She has won several college- and university-wide teaching awards including the Penn State Alumni and Student Teaching Award (2010) and the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Faculty Advising Award (2013).

8:30 – 10:00 PM

Special Events Reception and Networking | Frick

PROFESSIONALIZATION EVENTS

Job Clinic | Friday, April 13, and Saturday, April 14, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM | *Exhibit Hall*

NeMLA is excited to launch its expanded Job Clinic for the 2018 convention. Faculty members will meet emerging scholars and students one-on-one to advise them on CVs, Cover Letters, and practice Mock Interviews. These one-on-one 30-minute advising sessions will be open throughout the Convention for anyone contemplating the job market, especially graduate students and contingent and adjunct faculty.

Prospective Mentors and Mentees, please register for “NeMLA’s Job Mentoring Circle” by January 31, 2018, at www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/login.

For more information, please email jobclinic@nemla.org.

Thursday, April 12

6:00 – 7:00 PM

CAITY Annual Business Meeting | *Shadyside*

Join NeMLA members who advocate for contingent faculty, adjunct faculty, independent scholars, and faculty at two-year institutions to discuss the business and goals of the CAITY Caucus. Topics include panels, speakers, and continuing to advocate for our members on topics ranging from pedagogy and unionizing to non-traditional career paths.

6:00–7:00 PM

Graduate Student Caucus Annual Meeting | *Oakmont*

The GSC invites you to discuss how NeMLA can better serve its graduate student members. At our business meeting, we will discuss sessions the GSC might propose, graduate student experiences at the Convention, what we can do during the rest of the year to advocate and keep you informed, and opportunities for you to get involved. We welcome additions to the meeting agenda via email (gsc@nemla.org).

Friday, April 13

8:00–10:00 PM

Graduate Student Caucus Pittsburgh Meet and Greet | *Palm Court Lobby Bar, Omni*

Join our caucus members to socialize and network with fellow graduate students while enjoying drinks and snacks.

Saturday, April 14

8:00–9:00 AM

Women's and Gender Studies Mentorship Program Breakfast | *Bob and Dolores Hope Room*

Now in its seventh year, the Women's and Gender Studies Mentor Program welcomes new participants, mentors, and mentees. This interdisciplinary mentoring program pairs senior faculty mentors with junior faculty and doctoral students. The 2018 convention will feature a breakfast for current and prospective mentors and mentees and all Caucus members. For more information or to volunteer to serve as a mentor, please email wgsnemla@gmail.com.

9:00–10:00 AM

The Women's and Gender Studies Caucus Business Meeting | *Bob and Dolores Hope Room*

The WSGC Business Meeting welcomes current as well as prospective members. The agenda includes suggestions for future speakers and topics at NeMLA conferences, as well as nominations for Caucus officer positions.

1:30–3:00 PM

Publish, Don't Perish: Advice on Writing for Publication | *Exhibit Hall*

Representatives from presses and editors will join us to talk about all aspects of the publishing process from first draft to submission to revision to print.

Sunday, April 15

11:30 AM–1:30 PM

Membership Business Meeting and Brunch | *Grand Ballroom*

The membership meeting will begin with highlights from the 2016 MLA Language Enrollment Census by Dennis Looney, director of programs and ADFL, MLA. We will then announce our Essay and Book Award winners, honor outgoing and incoming Board members, and hand out flyers and posters for the Call for Session Proposals for our 50th Anniversary Convention in Washington, D.C. The brunch will also offer NeMLA attendees an opportunity to converse and network.

NEW NeMLA 2018 INITIATIVES**Women's History Scavenger Hunt**

Organized by Women's Independent Press and co-sponsored by the NeMLA Diversity Committee and the Women's and Gender Studies Caucus, this scavenger hunt lets you explore Pittsburgh, learn about women's history—and win prizes! Before you arrive in Pittsburgh, participate in the electronic version of the Hunt online at www.buffalo.edu/nemla/convention/initiatives/ScavengerHunt.html. When you arrive in Pittsburgh, visit the addresses and when you find a location, take a selfie! The member with the most selfies at the largest number of locations wins a prize. The winner will be announced at our free Sunday membership brunch.

Classics Area of Inquiry

You asked and we listened! NeMLA is excited to introduce Classics as its newest secondary area of inquiry. As the foundation for much of Western civilization, ancient Greek and Roman texts are integral to the study of modern languages and literatures. We hope not only to yield new insights into the works of ancient Greece and Rome but to understand why the Classics have continued to resonate through the present day. We welcome proposals exploring all aspects of the Classics.

For more information about this initiative, please email Claire Sommers, Promotions and Professional Development Coordinator (csommers@gc.cuny.edu).

Networking Opportunities

The 2018 meeting of NeMLA will again offer several networking opportunities to foster greater interaction among our participants. The common area in the exhibit hall will have tables devoted to specific disciplines to allow attendees to sit together and converse with scholars who share their interests. The Saturday evening reception will also feature a designated area for networking. All are welcome, and we especially encourage early career scholars to attend. NeMLA's board members, administration, and staff will stop by all networking events, providing you with the opportunity to meet and share your NeMLA experiences with the people who put this conference together. Get to know your fellow scholars and engage with the NeMLA community. We hope to see you there!

Social Engagement Challenge and Photo Contest

We encourage all session chairs to organize get-togethers with their presenters. Whether you decide to share a meal or a drink, visiting with your presenters outside of the conference room setting allows you to talk more about your research, explore the topic of your session in greater detail, and get to know your fellow convention participants. Remember to take a photo of yourselves while doing so! Submit it to photos@nemla.org, and the one selected for publication in the newsletter wins free membership at our next convention.

Yoga | Grand Ballroom

Bring your mats and join instructor Erin Grace for a pre-convention yoga session on Friday, April 13, or Saturday, April 14, from 7:00–7:45 AM. Classes are friendly for beginners and provide a refreshing way to start your day at NeMLA!

Free Wireless Internet

Complimentary wireless will be available in all session rooms at the Omni William Penn and the Heinz History Center.

Children’s Art Contest: Draw NeMLA

We encourage our youngest attendees to draw pictures inspired by the convention. Whether depicting convention participants, keynote events, reception events, the Omni William Penn Hotel, or the city of Pittsburgh itself, children under the age of 12 can submit their drawings at the registration desk to enter the contest. Be sure to include your name and age, the name of the adult with whom you attended the convention, and the title of your picture. Winning artists will receive a prize and their picture may be included on our website and in our newsletter.

SMALL GROUP WORKSHOPS

Interactive Workshops will take place at the Heinz History Center, a short walk from the Omni William Penn. Workshops are free, but space is limited. To pre-register, visit your username account at www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/login and click “Registration and Membership” or ask to be put on the waiting list at support@nemla.org.

Thursday, April 12

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Digital Storytelling and the Humanities | *Christina Fisanick, California University of Pennsylvania, and Robert Stakeley, Heinz History Center Affiliates Program Director* | Heinz History Center, Multipurpose Room, 3rd floor

Participants will learn about how to effectively incorporate digital storytelling in a variety of humanities classrooms and will have access to the Heinz History Center collections before, during, and after the workshop. Participants will gain new insight into helping their students improve their critical thinking, writing, and reading skills.

Friday, April 13

8:30 – 9:45 AM

Creating and Implementing a Successful Learning Community | *Terry Novak and Paul Gounaris, Johnson and Wales University* | Heinz History Center, Multipurpose Room, 3rd floor

The facilitators have been teaching partners in a successful first-year learning community model for seventeen years. They will engage participants in discussion about how to best create and implement a learning community on campuses; they will cover student engagement and collaborations, faculty engagement and development, and community involvement as key to a successful learning community model. Participants will draft a learning community that fits the needs of their institutions and students.

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Extending Learning Spaces to the Virtual World: Teaching with Technology | *Theresa Schenker, Yale University* | Heinz History Center, Multipurpose Room, 3rd floor

Workshop participants will learn how to use free technology tools to enhance their students’ language learning and cultural awareness. Tools for speaking, listening, and writing practice, cultural exploration, and collaboration will be presented, and participants will be guided through creating their own activities. This workshop will also introduce tools for telecollaboration and help participants set up telecollaborative projects.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Documenting Culture through Digital Pedagogy: Primary Sources in the Classroom | *Nikolaus Wasmoen, SUNY University at Buffalo* | Heinz History Center, Multipurpose Room, 3rd floor

This workshop will consider strategies for identifying exciting collections for student research, practice encoding primary sources in print or manuscript, and create simple prototype web publications of these encoded documents as annotated digital editions or other enhanced document collections. Tools will be introduced for processing encoded texts and the data they contain including methods for mapping (GIS) and text visualization. No technical skills required. This workshop is supported by the Association for Documentary Editing and the National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

1:15 – 2:45 PM

Memoir and the Erasing of Memory | *John Hampsey, California Polytechnic State University* | Heinz History Center, Multipurpose Room, 3rd floor

This workshop focuses on the crucial decision writers of memoirs have to make about narration: whether to write childhood memoir from the perspective of the child or from that of the adult looking back. Attendees will write a short sequence from one or both perspectives. John Hampsey is the author of *Kaufman’s Hill* (2015). Set in Pittsburgh, *Kaufman’s Hill* follows Hampsey’s path through his local surroundings and how he negotiates them with the imagined worlds of human possibility. Howard Zinn has referred to *Kaufman’s Hill* as “the best book written on American boyhood in decades.”

NeMLA-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

NeMLA is happy to sponsor a series of cultural activities for members attending the Pittsburgh conference.



Willa Cather’s Pittsburgh Walking Tour | *Thursday, April 12, 2:15 PM* | Meet in the hotel foyer to embark on a 90-minute walking tour of what Willa Cather saw in downtown Pittsburgh during her period of residence from 1896 to 1906. The tour will highlight landmarks from Pittsburgh that figure in Cather’s six stories set in the Burgh. Price: Free. **Sign up via the registration link in your username account at www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/login.**

Nevsky at English Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA-3.0) via Wikimedia Commons



Tour of the Senator John Heinz History Center | Friday, April 13, 10:00AM | A Smithsonian Institution affiliate and Pennsylvania's largest history museum, the Heinz History Center includes six floors of permanent and changing exhibitions that tell the story of Western Pennsylvania. The Center includes the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum and the Detre Library and Archives. Tour tickets with NeMLA discount: \$11. heinzhistorycenter.org

By Charles (Own work) (CC-BY-SA-3.0) via Wikimedia Commons



Tour of the Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh | Friday, April 13, 1:00PM | The University of Pittsburgh's largest library, the Hillman houses 1.5 million volumes. Collections include the African-American Collection, the Alliance College Polish Collection, Archives of Scientific Philosophy, the Curtis Theater Collection, the East Asian Library, the Gertrude and Philip Hoffman Judaic Collection, the Japan Information Center, the Eduardo Lozano Latin American Collection, and the Nesbitt Collection of Children's Literature. The Hillman Library also features a rotating selection of John James Audubon prints from the University of Pittsburgh's copy of *The Birds of America*, one of only 120 complete collections in existence. The library also features other graphic and sculptural works, some on loan from the Carnegie Museum of Art. Price: Free. library.pitt.edu

More Birds (CC-BY-SA-3.0) via Wikimedia Commons



Carnegie Museum of Art Founded in 1895, this museum holds a distinguished collection of contemporary art, including film and video works. The museum presents 15 changing exhibitions and 1,800 works annually, and its permanent collection includes 35,000 works in

European and American decorative arts dating as far back as the late seventeenth century, works on paper, paintings, prints, sculptures, and installations. The museum has notably strong collections of both aluminum artifacts and chairs. The museum also features the Heinz Architectural Center and the Hillman Photography Initiative. **Free Admission on Sunday, April 15.** cmoa.org

By James St. John (CC-BY 2.0) via Wikimedia Commons



Carnegie Museum of Natural History Founded in 1896, the museum maintains an international reputation for research and is ranked among the top five natural history museums in the United States. The museum holds 22 million specimens, of which about 10,000 are on view at any given time and about 1 million are cataloged in online databases. Its dinosaur collection includes the world's largest collection of Jurassic dinosaurs and its "Dinosaurs in Their Time" exhibition offers the third largest collection of mounted, displayed dinosaurs in the United States. **Free Admission on Sunday, April 15.** carnegiemn.org

Running and Walking Tours Downtown Pittsburgh (or "dahntahn" as the locals know it) is full of history, from the French and Indian War to the Underground Railroad. Learn about Fort Pitt, the Diamond Market, and more of Pittsburgh's fascinating history on a 5k running tour or a 3k walking tour. Runs are at a casual pace, to accommodate all abilities on this guided tour. So get your run in and learn about the city! The tour is stroller-friendly. Sign up at <http://www.pittsburghrunningtours.com>; NeMLA members get 10% off with promo code NeMLA18.

SUGGESTED LOCAL ACTIVITIES

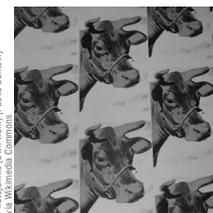


Mattress Factory/VisitPittsburgh

The Mattress Factory This museum was founded in 1977 by artists to support artists working in residence to create site-specific installations. Since then, the museum has presented and commissioned new installations and performance works by more than 750 artists. Hours: Tue-Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun 1-5PM. Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, veterans half-price, Students \$15. UPitt students free. www.mattress.org



Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov | *Rauh Theater* Professor Serebryakov and his young, second wife arrive at their country estate with news of their plan to sell it to subsidize their lifestyle. The complex inner workings of family and unrequited love serve as backdrop for the drama. *Uncle Vanya* is one of Anton Chekhov's greatest works, powerfully staged by Point Park's extraordinary Conservatory students. Thu, April 12 and Fri, April 13, 8PM; Sat, April 14, 2 and 8PM; Sun, April 15, 2PM. Price: Adults \$20, Seniors \$10, Students \$10. www.pittsburghplayhouse.com



Postgraduate (Own work) (Public domain) via Wikimedia Commons

Andy Warhol Museum The largest museum in North America dedicated to a single artist, this seven-floor museum houses an extensive collection of art and the archives of Pittsburgh-born pop art icon Andy Warhol. The museum has 17 galleries, 900 paintings, 2,000 works on paper, 1,000 published unique prints, 77 sculptures, 4,000 photographs, and 4,350 Warhol films and videotaped works. Group tours are available. Hours: Wed-Thu and Sat-Sun 10AM-5PM, Fri 10AM-10PM. Price: Adults \$20, Seniors \$10, Students and Children 3-18 \$10. Half-price on Fri 5-10PM. www.warhol.org/museum



Cozygato at English Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA-3.0) via Wikimedia Commons

The Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh are located on the first and third floors of the University's Cathedral of Learning. The rooms were designed to represent the culture of various ethnic groups that settled in Allegheny County. Tours are conducted year round. The public is invited to experience their ethnic identity and ancestral roots. Tours Mon-Sat 9AM-2:30PM, Sun 11AM-2:30PM. Price: Adults \$4, Youths (6-18 years) \$2. nationalityrooms.pitt.edu

VOTE IN 2018 BOARD ELECTIONS

Elect your next NeMLA Board Representatives and help shape the future of NeMLA's leadership, scholarly programming, and convention! To vote, visit buffalo.edu/nemla/about/governance/election.html where candidates' statements are also available.

Voting will close February 15, 2018. New Board members will be announced at the Sunday brunch meeting at the convention in Pittsburgh.

Candidates for 2018–2021

Second Vice President: Robert Morace (Daemen College), Brandi So (Stony Brook University)

Area Director, Anglophone/American Literatures: James Hoff (Borough of Manhattan Community College), Benjamin Railton (Fitchburg State University)

Area Director, Comparative Languages and Theory: Anna Rocca (Salem State University), Katherine Sugg (Central Connecticut State University)

Area Director, Cultural Studies and Media Studies: Maria Matz (University of Massachusetts Lowell), Bernadette Wegenstein (Johns Hopkins University)

Area Director, Pedagogy and Professionalism: Maria Plochocki (St. John's University), Richard Schumaker (University of Maryland University College and the CUNY School of Professional Studies)

MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES

Modern Language Studies is NeMLA's peer-reviewed journal and as such, it represents the wide-ranging critical and creative interests of our members. We publish scholarship, interviews, fiction and poetry, reviews, and commentary on the professions of teaching, research, and writing.

Modern Language Studies is available online at modernlanguagestudies.org.

Members of NeMLA are encouraged to submit essays and book reviews to *Modern Language Studies*. Members are also encouraged to have their publishers send their books to NeMLA to have them reviewed in *Modern Language Studies*. All new books by members will be announced on the NeMLA website. For more information, please email support@nemla.org.



NeMLA FELLOWSHIPS

NeMLA-UB Special Collections Fellowship

The Northeast Modern Language Association, in collaboration with the University at Buffalo Libraries, is offering an \$1,850 fellowship for a visiting scholar or graduate student to use the UB Libraries' outstanding collections including the Poetry Collection and the Rare and Special Books Collection.

To apply, please visit www.buffalo.edu/nemla/awards/fellowships/ub-library.html.

Deadline: January 15, 2018

NeMLA Summer Fellowship Program

Summer fellowships up to \$1,500 are intended to defray the costs of travel incurred by researchers while pursuing their work-in-progress over the summer. Fellowships primarily support untenured junior faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars. All applicants will be notified before the convention. Recipients of the Summer Fellowship are announced at the Open Brunch held on Sunday. Awardees will be asked to create a poster (digital or hard copy), which will be showcased at the next convention for all to enjoy.

To apply, please visit buffalo.edu/nemla/awards/fellowships/summer-fellowships.html.

Deadline: February 6, 2018

2018 Convention Exhibitors

Exhibitors Registration is open!

Interested publishing houses and journals can register at www.buffalo.edu/nemla before February 20, 2018.

Sponsoring Exhibitor

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Exhibitors and Advertisers

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Penguin Random House

Penn State University Press

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NEMLA 2019: WELCOME TO DC!

50th Annual Convention March 21–24, 2019, Washington, DC

2019 THEME: “TRANSNATIONAL SPACES: INTERSECTIONS OF CULTURES, LANGUAGES, AND PEOPLES”

Hosted by *GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY*

Hotel: *GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER*



Credit: Diliff (CC BY-SA 3.0)

The Northeast Modern Language Association will meet in Washington, DC, for its 50th anniversary convention.

As the capital of the United States, Washington, DC plays an important role in shaping both national and global history. It is vital that NeMLA bring its convention to this seat of power in order to address the ongoing challenges we face in producing a world that values diversity, honesty, scholarship, and justice.

A central dimension of NeMLA's Annual Convention is its cultural and literary resonance. Join us for what promises to be a literary extravaganza.

The theme of the convention is “Transnational Spaces: Intersections of Cultures, Languages, and Peoples,” which aims to challenge the notions of history, territory, and identity, and to recognize the complex processes of trans-culturation that have characterized modernity.

With a membership that includes established and emerging scholars, and a mission that includes mentoring and encouraging the next generation of scholars, NeMLA is a vital, successful, and tremendously valuable organization.

Deadline for Session Proposals: May 29, 2018.

Deadline for Paper Abstract Proposals: September 30, 2018.

For guidelines and more information, please visit www.buffalo.edu/nemla or email support@nemla.org.

Openings for Board Members: 2019–2022

The success of NeMLA depends on an engaged, volunteer Board. These roles provide an opportunity to shape the Convention and to contribute to the profession. Positions on the Board are staggered. Self-nominations are welcome.

Nominations for the 2019–2022 slate are due June 15, 2018. To submit nominations, or for more information about positions and nominating, please visit www.buffalo.edu/nemla/about/governance/board-openings.html.

Open positions include:

- * Second Vice President
- * Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing Director
- * French and Francophone Language and Literature Director
- * Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature Director

Board Duties

Two meetings per year, where each Board member is required to write a report on the activities related to their particular position.

Specific Responsibilities

The Second Vice President serves on the Board for four years, in progressive positions. The Second Vice President chairs the Fellowship Committee, assists the President by performing duties assigned, and when necessary assumes the duties and responsibilities of the President. The First and Second Vice Presidents share with the President and the Executive Director responsibility for the annual convention. The Vice Presidents assist the President and the Executive Director in planning the annual convention. The Second Vice President is also responsible for negotiating an agreement with a higher education hosting institution for the NeMLA conference that will take place in the year they will be the acting President. A new Second Vice President is elected every year to the NeMLA Board.

The Directors represent the interests of the membership as a whole as well as of their particular Area constituency. They oversee the convention program for their particular Area. In addition to the convention program committee, they may also be requested to serve on the Board's various other committees. Area Director nominations are staggered.



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Modern Language Studies Sponsor
SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Convention Dates

- 2018** April 12-15; Pittsburgh, PA
Host: **University of Pittsburgh**
- 2019** March 21-24; Washington, DC
Host: **Georgetown University**
- 2020** March 5-8; Boston, MA
- 2021** March 11-14; Philadelphia, PA
- 2022** March 10-13; Baltimore, MD

Key Dates for 2018

- Feb 1** Deadline for CAITY Travel Award Submissions
- Feb 6** Deadline for Summer Research Fellowship Applications
- Feb 15** Deadline to Vote Online in NeMLA Board Elections
- Feb 20** Deadline for Exhibitor and Advertiser Registration
- Mar 15** Extended deadline for CAITY Essay Award
- May 29** Deadline for Panel Proposals for 2019 Convention
- Jun 15** 2018 Call for Papers available
- Jun 15** Deadline for Nominations for Board Members
- Sep 30** Deadline for Abstracts for 2019 Convention
- Oct 15** Deadline for Finalizing 2019 Sessions
- Oct 15** Manuscript Deadline for NeMLA Book Prize