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 **University at Buffalo**  
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#NeMLA19

# NeMLA News

## Northeast Modern Language Association

## President's Letter: Welcome to DC!

Dear NeMLA Members and Conference Participants,



In a few weeks, I will have the honor to welcome you to the NeMLA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention in Washington, D.C. The NeMLA board and executive board, the Executive Director, Carine Mardorossian, and I are looking forward to this special anniversary and are pleased to have selected for its celebration our capital city. A monumental metropole, the political heart of the nation, Washington is also a dynamic and vibrant cultural center, with iconic monuments, important museums and exhibits, and a variety of theater and musical productions.

Thanks to its geopolitical centrality, the capital is also a particularly fitting location for the convention's theme, "Transnational Spaces: Intersections of Cultures, Languages, and Peoples," which urges us to focus with renewed intensity on our complex realities, how transnational and transcultural processes impact our history, identities, and worldviews. With the selection of Washington, D.C., NeMLA reminds us of the important role we have, as intellectuals and academics, in shaping the political, economic, and cultural discourse in the global community.

In Washington, D.C., we have received a warm welcome from Georgetown University, our convention's host institution, and the strong support of the Dean of Georgetown College, Dr. Christopher Celenza, who has supported all our initiatives. We are grateful to Georgetown for the productive collaboration with our faculty liaison, Dr. Francesco Ciabattoni, the Italian Department, and its graduate student representatives, Alexandra Lindner and Gabrielle Mirasola. Their assistance has been instrumental in promoting the conference nationally and internationally. I am also particularly grateful for the steadfast support of the University of Buffalo, NeMLA's generous administrative host since 2014.

The convention will take place at the Gaylord National Resort Center, which enjoys stunning views of the National Harbor and its Capital Wheel. The hotel has a variety of services, from an indoor pool and spa, to restaurants, and cafés. I invite all participants to take advantage of the NeMLA discounted hotel rate by making a timely reservation.

The 2019 convention will offer a substantial array of sessions, roundtables, seminars, workshops, and special events. Our Area Directors have worked tirelessly to shape this year's offerings, providing support for both established as well as emerging areas of interest, and actively collaborating to invite special event guest speakers. Special events are not only limited to the language sections but are also organized by CAITY, the Graduate Student Caucus, and the Women's and Gender Studies Caucus.

A new exciting initiative promoted by NeMLA in 2019 is the Undergraduate Student Forum, created to provide a space for undergraduates who are developing a serious interest in academic research and graduate studies. Slated for Thursday afternoon, the Forum will give undergraduates an opportunity to discuss notions of transnationality, transculturality, and identity.

We are also pleased to continue to offer professional workshops and a Job Clinic, where experienced members meet with junior scholars to discuss their C.V. and hone their interview skills. Please pre-register online.

Among the many popular NeMLA initiatives is “NeMLA Reads Together.” This year, Cameroonian-American author Imbolo Mbue has accepted our invitation to discuss her novel, *Behold the Dreamers*, and I encourage all members to read this engaging book of fiction and prepare questions to submit at the opening address.

One of the highlights of this year’s convention is Professor Homi Bhabha’s keynote address. The Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English at Harvard University, Homi Bhabha is, along with Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak, one of the members of the Holy Trinity of postcolonial theory. Professor Bhabha’s keynote address, “The Burdened Life: On Migration and the Humanities,” will examine the phenomenon of migration from a humanist’s perspective. Departing from the notion of an emerging new barbarism, the talk analyzes historical situations in which the struggle for an “actual life” places humans at a precarious point of survival, a “bare life” dominated by fear, vulnerability, and loss.

*Modern Language Studies*, our peer reviewed journal representing the wide-ranging critical and creative interests of NeMLA members, and *NeMLA Italian Studies* are both busily preparing their special issues for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention. In addition to contributions from the Executive Director, myself, and board members regarding this exciting occasion, *MLS* will feature a cluster on “Language of the Unheard: Riot on the American Cultural Stage,” edited by Susan Gilmore, the next installment of Mara Rutherford’s “Minotaur” for the *MLS* Serial, as well as other creative work that will speak to the spirit of the convention. Also in line with this year’s transnational theme, *NIS* will offer a selection of poetry written by authors living in Italy but writing in English or in the language of the destination country, Italian. Each selection will be introduced by an analytical essay. Laurence Roth, editor of *MLS*, and I are excited about the opportunity to send a packet containing both our journals to all members in celebration of NeMLA’s anniversary.

Lastly, at our anniversary celebration’s Sunday brunch we will announce the call for session proposals for the 2020 convention in Boston. The deadline is April 29, 2019. Come to the brunch, and please pre-register for it online!

Finally, as NeMLA President, I would like to extend my gratitude for this exciting year and for the successful organization of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention to Carine Mardorossian, Executive Director extraordinaire, to all the members of the Executive Board, Vice-President Carol Salmon, Second Vice-President Brandi So, Past

President Maria DiFrancesco, and to the committed members of the board, who have been exemplary in their generous dedication. My heartfelt thanks goes finally to the administrative staff at the University at Buffalo for their patience and support.

Together with this remarkable group of intellectuals and professionals, I welcome you to Washington, D.C. We look forward to a historical convention!

Sincerely,

**Simona Wright**  
NeMLA President

#### NeMLA News Editors

Solon Morse  
Derek McGrath

#### Georgetown University Liaisons

Francesco Ciabattini  
Alexandra Lindner  
Gabrielle Mirasola

#### NeMLA Graduate Fellows

Sarah Goldbort, University at Buffalo  
Ashley Byczkowski, University at Buffalo  
Callie Ingram, University at Buffalo  
Jiwon Ohm, University at Buffalo  
Cassandra Scherr, University at Buffalo  
Kinga Winnicka, University at Buffalo

#### 2018 Pittsburgh Convention Photographer

Melissa Yang, University of Pittsburgh

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## 2019 FEATURED SPEAKERS



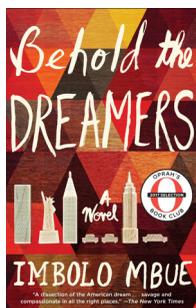
Credit: Kiriko Sano

## Opening Event: An Evening with Imbolo Mbue

March 21, 7:00PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom

Reception and book signing to follow

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of NeMLA will open with an interactive and dynamic live interview of Imbolo Mbue. The interview will be conducted by Christina Milletti, professor of creative writing at the University at Buffalo. It will include a discussion of Mbue's novel *Behold the Dreamers*, the focus of our initiative, "NeMLA Reads Together."



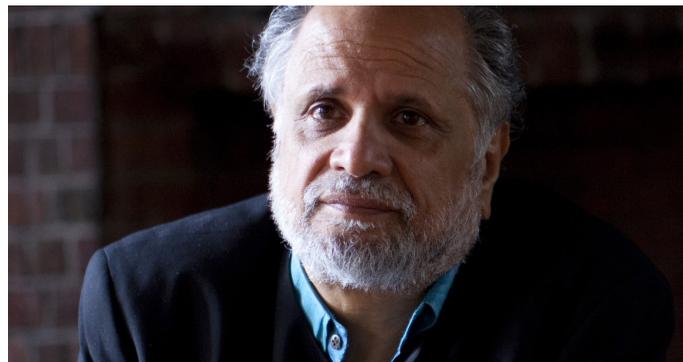
A *New York Times* bestseller, *Behold the Dreamers* was the winner of the 2017 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, recipient of the 2017 Blue Metropolis Words to Change Award, and an Oprah's Book Club selection. Named a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and a Best Book of the Year by close to a dozen publications, the novel has been translated into ten languages, adapted into an opera, and optioned for a movie.

Imbolo Mbue is a native of the seaside town of Limbe, Cameroon, and a graduate of Rutgers and Columbia Universities. She currently lives in New York City.

## NEMLA READS TOGETHER

"NeMLA Reads Together" promotes a novel written by our opening night speaker. This year, NeMLA members are encouraged to read *Behold the Dreamers* in preparation for writer Imbolo Mbue's opening address. Members may submit questions they would like Professor Christina Milletti, the interviewer, to ask the author on opening night. There will be a Q&A following her live interview.

The novel details the experiences of two New York City families during the 2008 financial crisis: an immigrant family from Cameroon, the Jonga family, and their wealthy employers, the Edwards family. Cristina Henríquez, writing for *The New York Times*, called it "a capacious, big-hearted novel" and praised Mbue's writing as suffused "with great confidence and warmth." For more information on this speaker please visit <http://www.prhspeakers.com>.



## Keynote Event: Homi Bhabha, "The Burdened Life: On Migration and the Humanities"

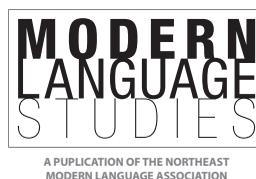
March 22, 7:00PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom

Reception and book signing to follow

Professor Homi Bhabha's question challenges us to revisit the notion of global progress in the light of the new barbarism that pervades political discourses and nationalist agendas. Following a figurative pattern of thought that engages with the work of Levinas, Arendt, and Benjamin, and applying the lens of humanism, he examines the philology and phenomenology of migration, and with it the corollary of emergencies that travail our present history, climate change, racial crimes, targeted terror, and the demonizing of migrants and minorities.

NeMLA is proud to have as its keynote speaker Homi Bhabha, the Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English, the Director of the Humanities Center, and the Senior Advisor on the Humanities to the President and Provost at Harvard University. He is the author of numerous works exploring postcolonial theory, cultural change and power, contemporary art, and cosmopolitanism, including *Nation and Narration*, and *The Location of Culture*, which was reprinted as a Routledge Classic in 2004. His next book will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

## MLS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEAST  
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

*Modern Language Studies* is a peer-reviewed journal representing the wide-ranging critical and creative interests of NeMLA 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](http://modernlanguagestudies.org).

NeMLA members 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](mailto:support@nemla.org).

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON DC!



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention

March 21–24, 2019, Washington, D.C.

LOCAL HOST: GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

NeMLA’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention will be held at the luxurious Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center.

Gaylord hotel rate: \$189/night (plus applicable taxes/fees). Reserve hotel rooms at [buffalo.edu/nemla/hotel](http://buffalo.edu/nemla/hotel). Free wireless Internet is provided in guest rooms to all Marriott Rewards guests (free membership at [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)). On-site parking is \$14–\$30.

For more information, email [support@nemla.org](mailto:support@nemla.org).

## Travel Information

### AIRLINE

United Airlines is the official airline for NeMLA’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention! Book travel at [buffalo.edu/nemla/airline](http://buffalo.edu/nemla/airline) to take advantage of discounted rates up to 10% for travel between March 17–28, 2019.

### GROUND TRANSPORTATION

The Gaylord National has secured hotel guests a discount for transportation to and from the Gaylord and all local DC airports with SuperShuttle, Express Eco, and ExecuCar. Use the discount code **GNR50** when reserving (prepaid reservations only or on the SuperShuttle app). Reserve at 1-800-660-8000, at [supershuttle.com](http://supershuttle.com), via email at [nhtsgaylord@execucar.com](mailto:nhtsgaylord@execucar.com), or at the Front Lobby’s Transportation Desk at the Gaylord National. Ticket prices subject to change. Please call ahead to verify current prices.

### 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. Post a thread at [nemlagraduatecaucus.wordpress.com/2019/01/](http://nemlagraduatecaucus.wordpress.com/2019/01/).

### My First NeMLA | March 24, 8:30–10:00AM, Baltimore 4

In honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this roundtable will reflect upon NeMLA’s history, and explain how the convention has shaped academic careers.

## AREA SPECIAL EVENTS

### American/Cultural & Media Studies/Spanish & Portuguese Special Event

**Aviva Chomsky, “The Immigration Debate: From Settler Colonialism to Donald Trump” | March 23, 6:30–8:30PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom**

Settler colonial ideologies have infused debates about citizenship, expansion, and immigration ever since colonizers founded a “country of (white) immigrants” in a land populated by indigenous and black, as well as white, people. This special event will reveal how a settler colonial perspective best illuminates the ways that immigration stands at the crux of foreign and domestic policy today. It will show that President Trump’s policies, far from representing an aberration, are deeply rooted in U.S. history and national mythology.



**AVIVA CHOMSKY** is Professor of History and Coordinator of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies at Salem State University in Massachusetts. Her books include *Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal* (2014), *A History of the Cuban Revolution* (2011), *Linked Labor Histories: New England, Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class* (2008), *They Take Our Jobs! And Twenty Other Myths about Immigration* (2007), and *West Indian Workers and the United Fruit Company in Costa Rica, 1870–1940* (1996). She has been active in Latin America solidarity and immigrants’ rights movements for several decades.

### Anglophone/Diversity Special Event

**Gayle Wald, “It’s Awfully Important to Listen’: Ella Jenkins and Musical Multiculturalism” | March 23, 11:45AM–2:00PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom**

This special event will focus on Ella Jenkins, who, although she was lauded as the “First Lady of Children’s Music,” remains an understudied figure within American culture. The talk will situate Jenkins’ work historically and map out her cultural labor as a pioneer of “multicultural” children’s music. The emergence of multiculturalism in the 1990s made it possible for Jenkins’s pluralist methodology to be framed and appropriated, and newly appreciated, and her work has since been tethered to a black feminist democratic imagination of cultural production, understood as a form of listening.



**GAYLE WALD** is Professor of English and American Studies and Chair of American Studies at George Washington University. She is author of *It’s Been Beautiful: Soul! and Black Power TV* (2015); *Shout, Sister, Shout! The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe* (2007); and *Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in U.S. Literature and Culture* (2000). Her Rosetta Tharpe biography has been the basis of a documentary film and a musical.

## Comparative Literature/Women's and Gender Studies Special Event

**Ricardo L. Ortiz, "Sex and Gender After 'Latinx'" | March 22, 11:45AM–2:00PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom**

This talk begins with the proposition that the "x" in Latinx upends the traditional political authority of patriarchy's binary logic of gender and pulls what was Latina/o Studies more fully into an anglophone space by rejecting the grammatical conventions of gendering in Spanish. It explores the variety of repercussions of this strategically explosive graphematic gesture: for feminist of color work on the gender politics of authorship, characterization, and sexual/textual dynamics more generally; for queer of color work on the gendered play of bodies, desires, and pleasures in textual practice; for critical trans work on gender, as either an in-itself ontological proposition or as a disappearing horizon of embodiment and thought.



**RICARDO L. ORTIZ** is Chair and Associate Professor of Latinx Literature and Culture in the English Department at Georgetown University. His first book, *Cultural Erotics in Cuban America*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2007; his second book, *Latinx Literature Now: Between Evanescence and Event*, will be published by Palgrave Press in 2019.

## Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing Special Event

**A Reading by Shelley Jackson | March 23, 6:30–8:30PM, Eastern Shore 1**

Annual Creative Writers and Editors' Reception sponsored by *Modern Language Studies*



**SHELLEY JACKSON** was extracted from the bum leg of a water buffalo in 1963 in the Philippines and grew up complaining in Berkeley, California. Bravely overcoming a chronic pain in her phantom limb, she extracted an AB in art from Stanford and an MFA in creative writing from Brown. She is most widely recognized for an electronic text,

*Patchwork Girl*, a hypertext reworking of the Frankenstein myth, and for *SKIN*, a story published in tattoos on the skin of volunteers. Her books include *The Melancholy of Anatomy* (2002) and the novels *Half Life* (2006) and *Riddance; or, The Sybil Joines Vocational School for Ghost Speakers & Hearing-Mouth Children* (2018).

The **Annual Creative Writers and Editors' Reception** will precede Shelley Jackson's presentation. Have a drink, something to eat, and engage in discussion with editors and writers from universities across the region. Discuss what you have seen so far at this year's conference, have a friendly chat, and think about editing and creative writing session ideas and readings for upcoming conventions. And of course, it is a great place to make connections and to share experiences as editing and creative writing professionals working in a rapidly-changing academy and publishing marketplace! The sponsor of this reception, *Modern Language Studies*, is the peer-reviewed journal representing the wide-ranging critical and creative interests of NeMLA members.

## French & Francophone/Italian Special Event

**Roberto Dainotto, "Ernesto de Martino and Frantz Fanon: 'Forms of Fanonism' in the Mediterranean" | March 23, 6:30–8:30PM, Woodrow Wilson Ballroom A**

Taking a cue from Reiland Rabaka's "Forms of Fanonism," this talk will explore a lesser-known treasure trove in the archives of decolonization: the encounter of European Marxism with Frantz Fanon through the work of Ernesto de Martino. In the context of the Algerian War—prior to Lewis Gordon's "first stage" of Fanon Studies in the 1960s and 1970s—de Martino undertook a study of the European South through the conceptual toolbox of decolonial theory: his goal was to claim—along with the necessity to rethink what the same Gordon calls "the ontologizing or reification" of scientific disciplines—the universalism of decolonization against "the universally human...theorized in traditional forms of cultural life [as] only the male, the adult, the European, the colonizer, the healthy, the representative of the hegemonic social classes."



**ROBERTO DAINOTTO** is Professor of Italian and Literature at Duke University, where he teaches courses on modern and contemporary European culture. He has been Professeur invité at the Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre La Defense, and Fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies in South Africa. His publications include *Place in Literature:*

*Regions, Cultures, Communities* (2000); *Europe (in Theory)* (2007), winner of the 2010 Shannon Prize in Contemporary European Studies; and *Mafia: A Cultural History* (2015). He has also edited *Racconti Americani del '900* (1999), a monographic issue of *Italian Culture on Giambattista Vico* (2017), and co-edited with Fredric Jameson *Gramsci in the World* (Duke UP, forthcoming). Roberto Dainotto is currently working on a monograph on Antonio Labriola.

## German Special Event

**Peter Wortsman, "The 'Lingovert' Writer: Mining the Left Hand of Consciousness in a Second Tongue" | March 23, 6:30–8:30PM, Annapolis 1**

Writer-translator Peter Wortsman, the American-born son of Austrian-Jewish refugees, will reflect on the notion of "lingoverts," a term he coined for these "honeybees of culture," who gather conceptual pollen on one side of a linguistic divide and fertilize exotic flowers on another. A formidable literary "foreign legion" comprising uprooted aristocrats, seafarers, adventurers, itinerant intellectuals, and refugees of every ilk—think Samuel Beckett, Adelbert von Chamisso, Joseph Conrad, Isaak Dinesen, and Vladimir Nabokov—have hip hopped across linguistic and geopolitical borders, and in the process, created a parallel tradition to the literature of place—call it the literature of displacement! He will also present some of his own translanguaging experiments written in German and French, thereafter adapted into English, tapping what he calls "the left hand of consciousness."



**PETER WORTSMAN** is the author of two books of short fiction, *A Modern Way to Die* and *Footprints in Wet Cement*, and *Cold Earth Wanderers*, named by Foreword Reviews “one of the best fantasy/scifi books of the year”; two produced stage plays, *Burning Words* and *The Tattooed Man Tells All*; a travel memoir, *Ghost Dance in Berlin*, for which he won an

Independent Publishers Book Award; and a forthcoming work of nonfiction, *The Caring Heirs of Dr. Samuel Bard*. He currently teaches literary translation in the Department of Germanic, Russian and Eastern European Languages at Rutgers University.

**Special Events Reception and Networking**

**March 23, 8:30–10:00PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom**

**MEET THE AUTHORS**

**FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE**

**Mame-Fatou Niang and Julien Suaudeau | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Annapolis 1**

The aim of this session is to initiate a discussion of diversity, race, and postcolonial dynamics in French-speaking countries, both in literature and in film.

Film director Mame-Fatou Niang will screen excerpts from her co-directed film *Mariannes Noires* (2016), a documentary on Afro-French womanhood, and novelist Julien Suaudeau will read from his latest novel, *Le sang noir des hommes*. Professor Suaudeau’s book will be hot off the press, and there will be copies available at the session. The presentations will be followed by Q&A.



**MAME-FATOU NIANG** is Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Carnegie Mellon University. She conducts research on Blackness in France, transcolonial studies, media and urban planning. She is also a poet, photographer, and the co-author of a photo series on Black French Islam.



**JULIEN SUAUDEAU** teaches at Bryn Mawr College. He is the author of four novels. His fiction work focuses on contemporary France seen through the lenses of colonial and postcolonial history, immigration, *laïcité*, terrorism, and socioeconomic inequalities. He is also an op-ed writer, a filmmaker, and a film critic.

**Martine Sonnet: *Ecrire Paris, habiter Paris* | March 22, 3:00–4:30PM, Mezzanine 1**



**MARTINE SONNET** is a French historian and writer. As an historian at the Institute for Early Modern and Modern History in Paris, her main interests are 18<sup>th</sup>-century history and women’s history. Among a lot of works about education, culture, and private female writings, she has published *L’éducation des filles au temps des Lumières* (1987 and 2011) and has

contributed to *A History of Women in the West: Renaissance and Enlightenment Paradoxes* (1993). As a writer, she is mostly known for *Atelier 62* (2008), a  *récit de filiation* blending personal memory and archives to restore her father’s working life of blacksmith. She also wrote *Montparnasse monde* (2011), a poetic divagation in a Parisian railway station that nobody loves except her, and short radio fictions. She is now writing *Habiter Paris* based on her recent move from the suburbs into the heart of the city. Since 2008 she runs a literary and photographic blog, *L’employée aux écritures*.

**ITALIAN STUDIES**

**Transnational Italian Poetry | March 22, 11:45–1:00PM, Baltimore 5**

What does it mean to write poetry in a language other than one’s own? This question and many others will be discussed by Italian and Italophone poets during this session. Poetry readings by **Ilaria Boffa**, **Monica Guerra**, and **Sandro Pecchiari** will precede the conversation, and we invite everyone to bring their experiences, knowledges, and perspectives. English has become for these authors a creative space where crossing language borders produces original crosspollinations and, hopefully, new forms of poetic expression.

**SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE**

**Academics and Artists Amidst Violence | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Annapolis 2**

Writers and filmmakers such as Carmina Narro, Sabina Berman, Roberto Bolaños, Carlos Carrera, Bárbara Colio, and Víctor Hugo Rascón Banda among others, have produced films, novels, plays, and critical studies, on the troubling topic of violence directed specifically at women. At various moments in history, mass graves attributed to wars have been unearthed in different places around the world, however, the discovery of hundreds of buried bodies in Ciudad Juárez in 1997 brought to light the prevalence of targeted violence against women. Writer and actress **Carmina Narro** will be in attendance.

**WORKSHOPS**

Space is limited, so pre-register for these interactive workshops at [cfplist.com/nemla](http://cfplist.com/nemla) and click “Registration and Membership.” Workshops that do not appear on the registration page are sold out.

**How the Song of the Summer Can Become the Learning Tool of the School Year | Christopher Jacobs, Temple University | March 21, 12:00–2:00PM, Mezzanine 3**

**Lessons from Practice: Creating and Implementing a Successful Learning Community | Terry Novak, Johnson and Wales University | March 21, 12:00–2:00PM, Eastern Shore 3**

**Powerfrauen: Integrating Women in German Language and Culture Curriculum | Christopher Gwin, University of Pennsylvania and Margaret Goglewski, George Washington University | March 21, 12:00–2:00PM, Mezzanine 1**

**Teaching the Humanities Online | Richard Schumaker, University of Maryland University College, & Susan Ko, Lehman College, CUNY | March 21, 12:00–2:00PM, Eastern Shore 1**

**Academia, Alt-Ac, and the Application: Converting Your C.V. to a Resumé** | Claire Sommers, Graduate Center, CUNY | March 22, 8:30–9:45AM, Annapolis 3

**The Foreign Language Enrollment Solution Room: From Data to Aspiration** | Tania Convertini, Dartmouth College, & Dennis Looney, Modern Language Association | March 23, 8:30–10:00AM, Baltimore 1

**Don't Take Grants for Granted: How to Pitch Research and Apply for Funding** | Trey Calvin, Joint National Committee for Languages | March 23, 10:15–11:30AM, Baltimore 1

**Introduction to Literature: Teaching a First-year Course** | Sylvia Hunt, Université Laurentienne | March 23, 10:15–11:30AM, Eastern Shore 3

**Mindfulness in the Writing and Literature Classroom** | Matthew Loporati, College of Mt. St. Vincent, & Donetta Hines, McGill University | March 23, 10:15–11:30AM, Mezzanine 1

**Skip the Textbook!: Open Resource Texts and Readings** | Melanie Banfield & Alexandra Lough, co-owners, LectureSource | March 23, 11:45AM–1:15PM, Eastern Shore 3

**The Community and the Algorithm: A Digital Interactive Poetics** | Andrew Klobucar, New Jersey Institute of Technology | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Magnolia 1

**Feminist Filmmaking: A Workshop** | Bernadette Wegenstein, Johns Hopkins University | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Camellia 2

**Literature Across Languages: Teaching Translated Texts in the Monolingual Classroom** | Annelise Finegan Wasmoen, New York University | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Magnolia 3

**Making 'Smart' Choices About Alt-Ac Experience in the Age of Precarity** | Meghan K. Riley, University of Waterloo | March 24, 8:30–10:30AM, Baltimore 5

**Creative Writing Strategies in World Language Classroom** | Julien Suaudeau, Bryn Mawr College | March 24, 10:45AM–12:15PM, Annapolis 1

## Undergraduate Research Workshop

**Applying to Graduate School** | Jennifer Mdurvwa, SUNY University at Buffalo, & Claire Sommers, Graduate Center, CUNY | March 21, 2:45–4:15PM, Bella Vista A

## PROFESSIONALIZATION EVENTS

**Undergraduate Forum** | March 21, 1:00–2:30PM & 4:30–6:00PM, Bella Vista A

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention will feature NeMLA's first ever Undergraduate Research Forum! Students will give 3- to 5-minute presentations on their work during the Forum.

**Poster Presentations** | March 22, 3:00–4:30PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom

Come and enjoy the posters our Summer Fellowship winners made about their NeMLA-sponsored research projects. NeMLA recognizes the significant contribution of visual presentations to the academic study of literature and other linguistic constructions. This session is an opportunity for NeMLA scholars to share visual representations of their research in a casual setting and to engage in informal conversations regarding their work at a designated place and time. The undergraduate students' posters will also be displayed alongside those of senior faculty and graduate students.

**CAITY Annual Business Meeting** | March 21, 6:00–7:00PM, Azalea 1

Join NeMLA members who advocate for contingent, adjunct, or 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 including pedagogy, unionizing, and nontraditional career paths.

**Graduate Student Caucus Annual Business Meeting** | March 21, 6:00–7:00PM, Azalea 2

The Graduate Student Caucus 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 experience 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 agenda additions via email ([gsc@nemla.org](mailto:gsc@nemla.org))! Nominations for the two-year committee position Vice President are due February 22, 2019.

**Women's & Gender Studies Mentorship Program Breakfast & Business Meeting** | March 23, 8:30–11:30AM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom

Now in its eighth 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 over breakfast. The WSGC Business Meeting will follow the mentoring breakfast and is open to 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.

**Membership Business Meeting and Brunch** | March 24, 11:45AM–1:30PM, Cherry Blossom Ballroom

The membership meeting will 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 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention in Boston. The brunch will also offer NeMLA attendees an opportunity to converse and network.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Photo Contests

Prize: Free 2020 NeMLA Convention Registration!

### GET-TOGETHERS

Attention session chairs! We encourage you to organize get-togethers with your presenters outside of your session. Whether you 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. At our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Washington, D.C., organize get-togethers with your presenters, take a photograph of your gathering, and email it to [photos@nemla.org](mailto:photos@nemla.org) with the names of all attendees. Session chair(s) in the winning photo will receive free convention registration for our 2020 meeting in Boston. (Don't forget to propose a session for NeMLA 2020, starting March 2019!)

## Free Social Media Coaching & Free Professional Headshots |

Friday and Saturday, Cherry Blossom Ballroom Lobby

Attend 10–15 minute educational social coaching sessions. Sign up for free professional headshots and instantly retrieve your picture!

## Job Clinic & Mentoring Circle | Thurs–Sat, Exhibit Hall & Cherry Blossom Lobby

In these 30-minute advising sessions, faculty will meet emerging scholars and students one-on-one to advise them on C.V.s, Cover Letters, and practice Mock Interviews. Prospective Mentors and Mentees can register at [cfplist.com/nemla](http://cfplist.com/nemla). For more information, please email [jobclinic@nemla.org](mailto:jobclinic@nemla.org).

As part of this initiative, we have scheduled a session entitled **NeMLA's Publishing Mentorship Program: A Look Back on our First Year** in the same space. The NeMLA C.V. Clinic began in 2014 with the hopes that graduate students and early career faculty members might make meaningful connections with seasoned scholars in their disciplines. Renamed "The Job Clinic" last year, this initiative has expanded and now offers valuable guidance on Cover Letters and Mock Interviews in addition to C.V.s. 2018 saw the establishment of a "Publishing Mentorship Program" through which early career academics were paired with established scholars in a similar field, with the goal of seeing their work come to its full fruition in print. Come and share your experiences and help us improve this program! Cherry Blossom Ballroom Saturday 3:15–4:30PM.

## Sign Up for the Publishing Mentorship Program by Feb. 15th!

Prospective Mentors: Please email [jobclinic@nemla.org](mailto:jobclinic@nemla.org) and provide your affiliation and areas of specialty so we can pair you up.

Prospective Mentees: Please complete the application on our website and email it to [jobclinic@nemla.org](mailto:jobclinic@nemla.org).

## Promote Your Book | Daily, 2:00 and 3:00 PM, Exhibit Hall

Did you publish a book in either 2018 or 2019? Are you attending our D.C. convention? Bring your book and author flyer, and we will display them in our Exhibit Hall. Please add a note with the time and place of your session so attendees can meet you in person! Email us at [support@nemla.org](mailto:support@nemla.org) to advertise your work on our website. The best conversations happen around books, and we hope this will help you network with similarly minded scholars. NeMLA cannot be responsible for lost or forgotten books, so don't leave without yours!

## Networking Opportunities | Daily, 8:30AM–5:00PM, Exhibit Hall and in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom during receptions

Get to know your fellow scholars and engage with the NeMLA community! Our Exhibit Hall and evening receptions will have designated areas for networking. Meet NeMLA's board members, administration, and staff and share your NeMLA experiences with the people who put this conference together. We hope to see you there!

## OLDEST NEMLA BAG

Do you keep your NeMLA tote bags and re-use them? We hope so! It is an environmentally friendly practice that NeMLA wants to reward. Send us a picture of your oldest NeMLA bag to [photos@nemla.org](mailto:photos@nemla.org). If you are the winner of the oldest NeMLA tote bag, you win free registration for our 2020 Convention. We hope to be able to congratulate you and show your bag at the membership brunch, so please bring it along with you to D.C.!

## Graduate Student Caucus Meet and Greet

Join our caucus members to socialize and network with fellow graduate students while enjoying drinks and snacks! March 22, 9:00–11:00PM, Granite City Food & Brewery National Harbor, 200 American Way (a 5-minute walk from the Gaylord National Resort).

## NeMLA Draws: Children's Art Contest

We encourage our youngest attendees to draw pictures inspired by our yearly convention. Whether depicting convention participants, keynote events, reception events, the Gaylord National Resort, or sites around Washington, D.C., children under the age of twelve can submit their drawings at the Registration Area 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.

## MUSEUMS

Museums in Washington, D.C. are free. In order to facilitate our membership's access to the must-see monuments, memorials, and museums on the National Mall, NeMLA will have a continuous shuttle run the route from the Gaylord Convention Center on both Friday and Saturday. In addition, the Gaylord can make available (at cost) tickets for the Old Town Trolley Tour that departs from the Convention Center at 8:30AM and returns at 5:30PM, seven days per week. Here is a list of some of the museums we recommend:

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



The National Gallery of Art, the nation's museum, and its attached Sculpture Garden, includes roughly 141,000 paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, medals, and decorative arts that trace the development of Western Art from the Middle Ages to the present, including the only painting by Leonardo da Vinci in the Americas and the largest mobile created by Alexander Calder. Ongoing exhibitions during NeMLA's 50<sup>th</sup> convention will include *In the Library: The Evans-Tibbs Archive of African American Art*, *Drawing in Tintoretto's Venice*, and *Tintoretto: Artist of Renaissance Venice*. Open 10:00AM–5:00PM Monday–Saturday and 11:00AM–6:00PM on Sunday.

### FREER GALLERY OF ART & ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY



Credit: Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Located on the national mall, this Smithsonian Art Gallery seeks to strengthen the general understanding and appreciation for art across cultures and therefore complement Asian art masterpieces with works from the American Aesthetic movement. Its March interactive exhibit, *Encountering the Buddha: Art and Practice Across Asia*, brings together more than 200 pieces of artwork spanning 2000 years. Visitors will learn about the principles and images of Buddhism as they encounter grand shrines, intimate alters, and royal palaces. Open daily from 10:00AM–5:30PM.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY



Credit: Dirk Ingo Franke

This Smithsonian museum explores the complexity of American history with more than 1.8 million holdings, including Lincoln’s top hat, the first artificial heart, and Dorothy’s ruby slippers. Its March exhibit, *The American Revolution: A World War*, highlights the Franco-American partnership and its contribution to the 1781 victory of Yorktown, with paintings like Louis-Nicolas van Blarenbergh’s *The Siege of Yorktown* and *The Surrender of Yorktown*, as well as Charles Wilson Peale’s portrait of George Washington. Open daily from 10:00AM–5:30PM.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Credit: Fritz Geller-Grimm

Opened in 1910, this Smithsonian Institute has as its mission to inspire discovery and learn about the natural world. Its March exhibit, *Outbreak*, questions the cause of widespread disease outbreaks and how we can possibly stop them. With the world becoming ever-more connected, diseases are transferring national borders like never before and responding to these breakouts require detective work from people with a variety of professions.

### NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM



Credit: Matthew G. Biazny

In collaboration with the United States Postal Service, this Smithsonian Institute opened in 1993 to preserve, study and present US postal history with exhibits, educational public programs, and research to scholars, collectors, and visitors. In March the exhibit *Beautiful Blooms* will focus on the diverse flowering plants commemorated on US postage stamps and how they represented artistic themes from their time period. The exhibit presents at least 30 pieces of developmental and final artwork and explains the process behind creating the artwork on stamps. Open daily from 10:00AM–5:30PM.

### NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



Credit: Daiderot

Housed in a beautiful historic federal building, this Smithsonian art museum features portraits of presidents, activists, and celebrated individuals throughout American history. The “Eye to I” special exhibit combines artists’ self-portraits with current “selfies” as a means of exploring questions of identity, featuring works from Alice Neel, Diego Rivera, and Martin Wong. Open daily from 11:30AM–7:00PM.

### SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE



This beautifully designed museum features a variety of exhibits that take visitors on a visceral and emotional chronological journey through the treatment of African Americans throughout US history—from the first settlements in North America to contemporary periods. The March special exhibit “Watching Oprah” discusses Oprah’s background, her rise to fame, and the ways in which her show has impacted the United States today. Open daily from 10:00AM–5:30PM but may require timed-entry passes for certain peak times.

### UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Credit: Pete Souza

This museum contains a variety of exhibits, including historical exhibits that take visitors through the rise of Nazism in Germany, the Holocaust, and the aftermath of World War II, and interactive multimedia stations that provide information on American interactions with and responses to news of the Holocaust throughout World War II. This museum also features artistic displays commemorating those who lost their lives during the Holocaust as well as large memorial spaces that allow visitors to mourn and meditate. Open daily from 10:00AM–5:20PM.

## LIVE THEATER IN DC

Several impressive theatre productions coincide with the dates of our convention.

### WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA: *FAUST* BASED ON GOETHE’S *FAUST: PART ONE, AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS*



A deal with the devil goes awry. The aging Faust makes a pact with Méphistophélès to exchange his soul for Earth’s mortal pleasures. But along the seductive path to riches and power, Faust will realize his salvation is devastatingly bound to others. **WHEN:** March 22, 7:30PM; March 24, 2:00PM. **PRICE:** \$45.00–\$300.00. **VENUE:** Opera House, The Kennedy Center. **RUN TIME:** Approx. 3-1/4 hours. ([www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/event/OTOSD](http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/event/OTOSD)).

**INTO THE WOODS: A MUSICAL FAIRY TALE WITH A TWIST**



Credit: Scott Suchman

Peter Flynn returns to direct this musical fairy tale, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. This creatively dark and comical mix of fairy tales, shares the story of a baker and his wife as they set out to reverse a witch's curse, and the lengths they'll go to make their wish come true. Recommended for 12 and older. **WHEN:** March 21,

7:30PM; March 22, 12:00PM and 7:30PM; March 23, 2:00PM and 7:30PM.

**PRICE:** \$28.00–\$81.00. **VENUE:** Ford's Theater, Historic Site. ([www.fords.org/performances/current-and-upcoming/into-the-woods](http://www.fords.org/performances/current-and-upcoming/into-the-woods))

**VANITY FAIR, SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY**



Credit: Tony Powell

Based on the novel by William Makepeace Thackeray, acclaimed playwright Kate Hamill's stage adaptation focuses on the friendship of the two protagonists, Becky and Amelia, and the ways that these two women face different forms of systemic oppression. This is one of the few stage adaptations that's ever been done of *Vanity Fair* because it's a grand and gorgeous novel on an epic scale, about 1600 pages. **WHEN:** March

22, 8:00PM; March 23, 2:00PM and 8:00PM, Sunday, March 24, 2:00PM and 7:00PM. **PRICE:** \$59.00–\$118.00 for Standard. **VENUE:** Lansburgh Theater ([www.shakespearetheatre.org/events/vanity-fair-18-19/#](http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/events/vanity-fair-18-19/#))

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention Exhibitors**

Exhibitors Registration is open!

Interested publishing houses and journals can register at [buffalo.edu/nemla/exhibitors](http://buffalo.edu/nemla/exhibitors) before February 20, 2019.

**Sponsoring Exhibitors**

- LectureSource
- Modern Language Association

**Exhibitors and Advertisers**

- Clemson University Press
- Georgetown University Press
- Joint National Committee for Languages
- Kramerbooks
- Lexington Books
- Liverpool University Press
- McFarland & Company
- Pennsylvania State University Press
- Red Scarf Travel
- The Scholar's Choice
- Universitas Press

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**NeMLA-University at Buffalo Special Collections Fellowship**

The University at Buffalo Library and the Northeast Modern Language Association sponsor a short-term visiting fellowship for research supported by the University's Poetry Collection and Rare and Special Books Collection. Founded in 1937 by Charles Abbott, the Poetry Collection holds one of the world's largest collections of poetry first editions and other titles, little literary magazines, broadsides and anthologies, and more than 150 archives and manuscript collections from a wide range of poets, presses, magazines, and organizations. It holds the archives of the Jargon Society as well as large manuscript collections by authors like James Joyce, William Carlos Williams, Dylan Thomas, Wyndham Lewis, Robert Duncan, Theodore Enslin, Helen Adam, and many more.

Founded on the Collection of Thomas B. Lockwood, the Rare and Special Books Collection features literary first editions and finely printed books from 1600 to the present.

**STIPEND AND LENGTH OF TERM:** \$1,850, one month

**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS:** [ublibraryfellow@nemla.org](mailto:ublibraryfellow@nemla.org)

**DEADLINE:** April 15, 2019

**NeMLA Summer Research Fellowships**

The NeMLA Summer Fellowship Program supports primarily untenured junior faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars, while not precluding senior faculty from applying.

The Program awards fellowships up to \$1,500 to defray the cost of traveling incurred by researchers in pursuing their work-in-progress over the summer. Recipients will be notified before the Annual Convention in Washington, DC. Fellows will receive a check upon submission of receipts and of a poster (digital or hard copy) detailing their findings by **December 31, 2019**.

**Poster Session:** As part of their funding, NeMLA Summer Research Fellows submit posters to this session. Posters will be displayed in the Exhibit Room for the duration of the Annual Convention following the summer research trip. Fellowship recipients do not have to attend the convention at which their poster will be displayed but have the option of requesting a poster session to give them the opportunity to present their findings in person.

**APPLY:** [buffalo.edu/nemla/summerfellow](http://buffalo.edu/nemla/summerfellow)

**DEADLINE:** February 15, 2019

**MORE INFORMATION:** [support@nemla.org](mailto:support@nemla.org)

**2019 BOARD ELECTIONS**

**Candidates for 2019–2022**

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

**Bernadette Wegenstein** | Johns Hopkins University

**CREATIVE WRITING, PUBLISHING, AND EDITING AREA DIRECTOR**

**Abby Bardi** | Prince George's Community College and University of Maryland University College

**Patrick Thomas Henry** | University of North Dakota

**FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE LANGUAGE & LITERATURE AREA DIRECTOR**

**Olivier Le Blond** | University of North Georgia

**Richard Schumaker** | University of Maryland University College  
and the CUNY School of Professional Studies

**SPANISH & PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE & LITERATURE AREA DIRECTOR**

**Alan G. Hartman** | Mercy College

**Victoria L. Ketz** | La Salle University

**DEADLINE TO VOTE:** February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**OPENINGS FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

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 2020–2023 slate are due June 15, 2019. To submit nominations, or for more information about positions and nominating, please visit [www.buffalo.edu/nemla/boardopenings](http://www.buffalo.edu/nemla/boardopenings).

Open positions following the 2019 convention will include:

**Second Vice President**

**Anglophone/British Literatures Director**

**CAITY Caucus President and Representative**

**Member-At-Large: Diversity**

**German Language and Literature Director**

**Graduate Student Caucus Representative**

**Italian 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 4 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.



# NeMLA 2020

## WELCOME TO BOSTON!

Shaping and Sharing Identities: Spaces,  
Places, Languages, and Cultures

**51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention**  
**March 5–8, 2020**  
**Boston, MA**

Please join us for NeMLA's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, conveniently located in the heart of the city. The theme of NeMLA 2020 is "Shaping and Sharing Identities: Spaces, Places, Languages, and Cultures"—a topic embracing the many facets that define each and every human being across cultures and languages, as well as the many ways in which we interact with each other in today's rapidly changing global world. We are thrilled to announce that Boston University is our local host institution and that our featured author is Andre Dubus III, whose novel *Gone So Long* will be the focus of "NeMLA Reads Together." The opening address will be given by Professor Maurice Lee, author of the award-winning *Uncertain Chances: Science, Skepticism, and Belief in 19<sup>th</sup>-century American Literature*. We look forward to seeing you in Boston!

**Session Proposals due April 29, 2019**

**Paper Abstract Proposals due September 30, 2019**

For guidelines and more information, please visit [buffalo.edu/nemla](http://buffalo.edu/nemla) or email [support@nemla.org](mailto:support@nemla.org).



Northeast Modern Language Association  
 University at Buffalo  
 English Department  
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 Buffalo, NY 14260-4610

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**ADMINISTRATIVE INSTITUTION**



**2019 LOCAL HOST INSTITUTION**



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

[buffalo.edu/nemla](http://buffalo.edu/nemla)



**Thanks to Our 2019 Sponsors**

**ADMINISTRATIVE HOST INSTITUTION**

University at Buffalo

**2019 CONFERENCE LOCAL HOST INSTITUTION**

Georgetown University

**MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES SPONSOR**

Susquehanna University

**Key Dates for 2019**

- Feb 15** Deadline for Summer Fellowship Program
- Feb 20** Deadline for 2019 Board Elections
- Feb 20** Deadline for 2019 Exhibitor and Advertiser Registration
- Apr 15** Deadline for University at Buffalo Special Collections Fellowship
- Apr 29** Deadline for Panel Proposals for 2020 Convention
- Jun 15** Call for Papers available
- Jun 15** Deadline for Nominations for 2020 Board Members
- Sep 30** Deadline for Abstracts for 2020 Convention
- Oct 15** Deadline for Finalizing 2020 Sessions

**Upcoming Convention Dates**

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