



NeMLA 2026

NORTHEAST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

WINTER
NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear NeMLA members and colleagues,

On behalf of the Northeast Modern Language Association, I am delighted to welcome you to our 57th Annual Convention, taking place March 5–8, 2026, in the vibrant city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This year's theme, (Re)generation, invites us to reflect on renewal,

transformation, and the reimagining of our scholarly communities and disciplines — a theme especially timely in our rapidly changing world.

Pittsburgh is itself a city of (re)generation. Once the steel capital of the nation, it has been reborn as a hub of innovation, art, and sustainability. Our host hotel, the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, sits at the confluence of the city's three rivers, offering spectacular views and easy access to cultural treasures. You might stroll through Point State Park, explore the Carnegie Museums, or enjoy the greenery of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens — all within walking distance of the conference venue.

The convention program features a rich mix of panels, roundtables, seminars, and creative sessions. As always, NeMLA is a space for cross-disciplinary conversation, and this year our theme encourages new forms of scholarship: empirical, philosophical, restorative, and inclusively imagined. Highlights include our Job Clinic, the Undergraduate Research Forum, and many mentorship and networking events that foster collegiality and community.

On Thursday, as we inaugurate the convention, we will welcome Simon Han, whose opening address promises to set an energetic and thoughtful tone for our gathering. His perspective will help frame “(Re)generation” as an intellectual and communal act — the spark that kindles our work and our connections. Then, on Friday evening, we are honored to host Cherrie Moraga for our keynote event. A trailblazing writer, activist, and theorist in Chicana/Latina studies, queer theory, and feminist thought, Moraga brings profound insight into the politics of identity, creativity, and renewal. Her work embodies the spirit of our convention theme — envisioning new forms of scholarship and community rooted in justice, memory, and transformation.

NeMLA has always emphasized the generative power of fellowship and collaboration. This year is no exception. We will host social

Continued on Page 2



GANNON
UNIVERSITY

(Letter from the President Continued)

receptions and caucus gatherings where you can connect with colleagues across disciplines. The city itself offers a perfect backdrop — from walking tours and museum visits to late-night conversations in cozy cafés and music in the Cultural District.

We will also gather for a general membership brunch on Sunday, a time to celebrate our shared achievements, reflect on the convention, and look ahead together. For those joining us for the first time, I encourage participation in the Room and Ride Forum, organized by our Graduate Student Caucus — a wonderful way to reduce travel costs and make new friends before the convention begins (see bottom of page 3).

One of the most inspiring aspects of NeMLA conventions is the blending of scholarship and place. In Pittsburgh, you'll find no shortage of ways to recharge between sessions. Sample the culinary delights of Market Square, browse the eclectic shops and food stalls of the Strip District, or ride the famous wooden incline up to Mount Washington for breathtaking city views. In the evenings, Pittsburgh's music venues and vibrant bar scene provide the perfect setting to continue conversations, enjoy local culture, and build lasting connections.

As we convene in Pittsburgh, I hope each of you will not only contribute your expertise and passion but also allow yourself to be renewed by this dynamic and generative city. Let us carry forward the spirit of (Re)generation — through our panels, our conversations, and our shared commitment to the humanities.

I look forward to seeing you in March and to the many ways we will regenerate, together.

Warm regards,
Simona Wright
President, Northeast Modern Language Association



Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown



Phipps Conservancy and Botanical Gardens



Carnegie Museum of Natural History

2026

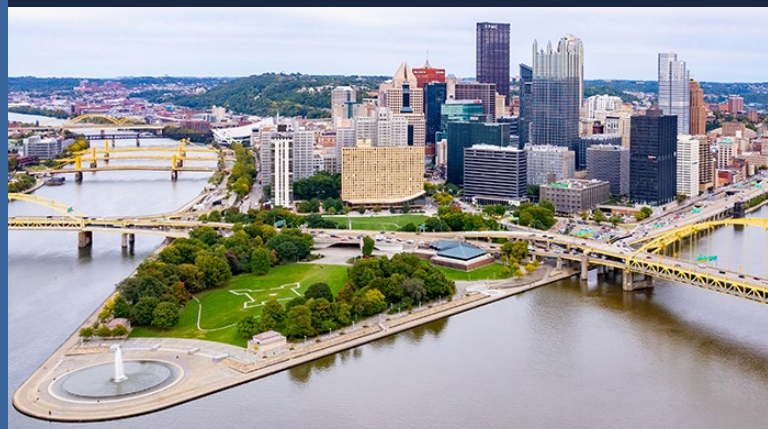
57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

March 5–8, 2026
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

600 Commonwealth Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: (412) 391-4600



OUR 57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION will meet March 5 to 8, 2026, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown hotel, which is located at Point State Park, where the city's three rivers meet. Only a few minutes' walk from Market Square and the Pittsburgh Cultural District, the area offers convention attendees a multitude of activities to enjoy, including fine dining, arts & culture, historical sites, and natural attractions.

Given the hotel's location, when not attending sessions, you can spend time exploring attractions such as the Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Museum of Art, shopping in the Strip District, riding a wooden cable car up Mt. Washington, or enjoying a night out at the Rivers Casino. A variety of activities await you and any family members who may join you.

The Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown hotel features an indoor pool with city views, a state of the art fitness center, and a business center with printers and computers. The hotel also houses an onsite restaurant, a coffee shop, and a bar/lounge. Note that the hotel has a smoke-free policy but is pet-friendly (non-refundable \$50 fee per pet, per stay). For more information, see <https://www.wyndhamgrandpittsburgh.com>

Valet parking is \$43 per night. Self-parking options are available nearby.

Reserve hotel rooms at our discounted rate of \$159 per night + taxes of 16.45% on the Passkey web site <https://book.passkey.com/go/nemla2026>. Our block of rooms will be held until Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:00pm EST. Thereafter, reservations will be taken on a space and rate availability basis.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) is 18 miles / 29km (approximately 25 minutes) by automobile from the hotel.



Delta Air Lines is pleased to offer [special discounts for Northeast MLA](#) using code NY42D. You may also call Conferences and Events® at 1.800.328.1111 Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (EST) and refer to Meeting Event Code NY42D. There is no service fee for reservations booked and ticketed via the 800 number.



United Airlines offers NeMLA members discounted flight reservations using [NeMLA's meeting code ZR9F429889](#). You may also call United Meetings Reservation Desk Monday – Friday at (800) 426-1122 for booking assistance. Booking fees are waived for Meeting reservations. International customers may contact their local United Reservation Desk.

TRAIN TRANSPORTATION



Pittsburgh Union Station (PGH) 1100 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Amtrak offers Every Day Discounts and Guest Rewards. See www.amtrak.com for more information.

BUS TRANSPORTATION



The primary [Greyhound](#) bus station in Pittsburgh is 55 11th street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION



Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) operates city buses, light rail, and inclines. They also offer ACCESS Paratransit. For downtown routes, bus stops, and schedules, visit <https://www.rideprt.org>.

ROOM AND RIDE SHARE

Open to all NeMLA convention attendees! Want to connect with others to share rooms or rides? The Graduate Student Caucus and the CAITY Caucus host the Room and Ride Forum. Convention participants who want to share the costs of traveling to or staying in the convention hotel can add to the online thread. For room and ride share opportunities, visit nemlagraduatecaucus.wordpress.com.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The majority of workshops are in-person only, although some are hybrid. The current workshop line-up is as follows. Additional workshops might be added.

STUDENT-CENTERED DISCUSSIONS USING SOCRATIC CIRCLES

Primary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Secondary Area:

Interdisciplinary Humanities

Modality: In-Person Only

Workshop Facilitator:

Derek DiMatteo, Gannon University

Description:

You will learn Socratic Circles, which are a student-centered, text-based discussion activity suitable for both literature and language classrooms; increase student participation in class discussions and help students understand texts more deeply; receive materials to implement the activity in your classes.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING FOR COMPOSITION, LITERATURE, AND LANGUAGE COURSES

Primary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Secondary Area:

Rhetoric & Composition

Modality: In-Person Only

Workshop Facilitator:

Mary Ann Tobin, Penn State University

Description:

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) helps instructors to create inclusive learning experiences by proactively addressing learner variability and reducing learning barriers. This interactive workshop is for anyone who wants to engage with students with different abilities, identities, and cultural backgrounds and wants to empower students to learn more, more deeply. We'll delve into the framework's practical strategies and present real-world UDL examples that make composition, literature, and language courses more accessible, equitable, and inclusive. Participants will be able to define UDL; explain its role in relation to accessibility; consider ways to apply it; and leave with a plan to begin implementing it in their courses.

BOOK PROPOSALS FOR EDITED COLLECTIONS

Primary Area:

Pedagogy and Professional

Secondary Area:

Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing

Modality: Hybrid

Workshop Facilitator:

Derek DiMatteo, Gannon University

Description:

This workshop will explain the process and best practices for writing a book proposal for an edited collection. The workshop will feature scholars who have successfully gone through the entire process as well as editors from publishing companies who can provide further guidance on how to put together a proposal and what happens after it gets accepted.

INCLUSIVE METHODS FOR TEACHING FEEDBACK IN CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Primary Area:

Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing

Secondary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Modality: In-Person Only

Workshop Facilitators:

Clayton Bradshaw-Mittal, Gannon University

Description:

In this workshop, we will discuss methods for teaching students how to give feedback to one another verbally and in writing without sacrificing workshop as a pedagogical tool. We will explore ways of developing model feedback letters and delivering clear expectations for how to conduct feedback of one another's work. In addition, we will explore inclusive in-workshop models that balance a permissiveness of student feedback and instructor insertions to ensure a rounded discussion around larger craft considerations and feedback particular to student work.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

AFTER THE DISSERTATION: DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR YOUR FIRST SCHOLARLY BOOK

Primary Area:

Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing

Secondary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Modality: Hybrid

Workshop Facilitators:

Patrick Thomas Henry, University of North Dakota

Description:

This workshop will provide attendees with insights into the process of writing a book proposal for a scholarly publisher, along with strategies into effective techniques for proposal writing. The workshop will also help attendees begin drafting a book proposal that caters to the scholarly book's distinctions from the genre of the dissertation—as well as some of the professional and market reasons for those generic distinctions.

PROMOTING HUMANITIES LEADERSHIP: A LITERATURE-BASED APPROACH TO BUSINESS

Primary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Secondary Area:

Interdisciplinary Humanities

Modality: In-Person Only

Workshop Facilitators:

Jared Simard and Irene Morrison-Moncure,
New York University

Description:

This workshop will demonstrate case studies as a unique way to bring a humanities-based approach to leadership studies and modern business. Workshop attendees will be provided with a list of business topics and trends and paired up to brainstorm their own connections between the ancient and modern worlds. We will conclude with a brief presentation on developing these connections into a case study for publication for those interested in creating a resource both for their classrooms and to be shared with fellow teachers.

(RE)GENERATING THE CLASSROOM THROUGH OPEN PEDAGOGY AND RENEWABLE ASSIGNMENTS

Primary Area:

Pedagogy & Professionalization

Secondary Area:

Interdisciplinary Humanities

Modality: Hybrid

Workshop Facilitators:

Bryan McGeary and Christina Riehman-Murphy,
Penn State University

Description:

This workshop will focus on ways in which faculty can employ open educational practices with students and how these practices, when grounded in culturally responsive and socially just pedagogy, can support inclusion and engagement, reinventing the relationship that students have with course content. We will present brief case studies on open projects and share the impact they have had on the teaching and learning experience. Through a guided, structured series of questions and exercises, participants will create an Open Project Roadmap customized to their unique course, technology, and partnership contexts. The workshop will be led by two faculty librarians who won the Open Education Global Award for Excellence in Open Pedagogy in 2022.



OPENING ADDRESS



SIMON HAN

Thursday
5 March 2026
7:00 PM

first from his grandparents back in China. Isn't this what they sacrificed so much for? But then little Annabel begins to sleepwalk at night, putting into motion a string of misunderstandings that not only threaten to set their community against them but force to the surface the secrets that have made them fear one another. How

SIMON HAN is a writer of short stories, essays, and novels; he is a creative writing professor at Tufts University. His debut novel is *Nights When Nothing Happened* (2021), which was named a Best Book of the Year by [TIME](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [Harper's Bazaar](#).

"A tender, spiky family saga about love in all its mysterious incarnations." —Lorrie Moore

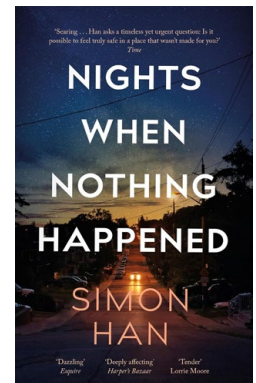
Penguin Random House describes the novel as follows: From the outside, the Chengs seem like so-called model immigrants. Once Patty landed a tech job near Dallas, she and Liang grew secure enough to have a second child, and to send for their

can a man make peace with the terrors of his past? How can a child regain trust in unconditional love? How can a family stop burying its history and forge a way through it, to a more honest intimacy? *Nights When Nothing Happened* is gripping storytelling immersed in the crosscurrents that have reshaped the American landscape.

"Han's expansive sympathy and twilight lyricism make *Nights When Nothing Happened* a poignant study of the immigrant experience. This is an author who understands on a profound level the way past trauma interacts with the pressures of assimilation to disrupt a good night's sleep, even a life." —The Washington Post

Simon Han's short stories and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Guernica*, *Electric Literature*, *Lit Hub*, and the *Texas Observer*. Many of these works can be accessed from his web site and read online at <https://www.simonhan.com/selected-writing>.

Of the interviews with Simon Han, two standouts are from [NPR](#) and from [BOMB Magazine](#). Han has received awards from MacDowell, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Tulsa Artist Fellowship, and Vanderbilt University, where he earned his MFA. He currently lives in Boston and teaches at Tufts University.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS



CHERRÍE MORAGA

Friday
6 March 2026
7:00 PM

CHERRÍE MORAGA is an internationally recognized poet, essayist and playwright whose professional life began in 1981 with her co-editorship with Gloria Anzaldúa of the groundbreaking feminist anthology, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Moraga's updated anniversary edition of *Loving in the War Years and Other Writings, 1978–1999* will be the focus of this year's NeMLA Reads Together.

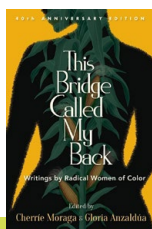
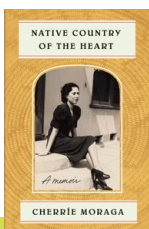
Join us on Friday evening for "An Estranged and Unrecognizable City": a

reading and conversation with Cherríe Moraga about *Loving in the War Years*. How does one speak of spirit, not as escape, but as a radical reckoning? This is what we ask of one another in low whispers. This is how we continue to love.

Moraga has several collections of her own writings, including: *Heroes and Saints and Other Plays* (1994), *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness* (2011), *Loving in the War Years* (2000), *The Last Generation: Prose and Poetry* (1993), and *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood* (2022). Her most recent memoir, *Native Country of the Heart*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2019. In 2023, Haymarket Books published an updated anniversary edition of *Loving in the War Years*.

Moraga is the recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship for Literature and the American Studies Association Lifetime Achievement Award, among numerous other honors. As a dramatist, her awards include an NEA Theatre Playwriting Fellowship Award, two Fund for New American Plays Awards, and the PEN West Award.

In 2017, Moraga's most recent play, *Mathematics of Love*, premiered at Brava Theater Center in San Francisco. In the same year, she began her tenure as a Professor in the Department of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where with her partner, visual artist Celia Herrera Rodriguez, she instituted Las Maestras Center for Xicana[x] Indigenous Thought, Art, and Social Praxis. In 2024, Moraga became a Distinguished Professor Emerita in English, UC Santa Barbara. Visit her web site at www.cherriemoraga.com.



NeMLA READS TOGETHER

The 57th Annual Convention's common-read features feminist and Chicana icon Cherrie Moraga's updated anniversary edition of *Loving in the War Years and Other Writings, 1978–1999* (2024). You are encouraged to read *Loving in the War Years* in preparation for Moraga's keynote address. Please submit the questions you would like to ask the author at support@nemla.org or ask them in person.

"It was Cherrie Moraga who brought the torch—first carried by Maxine Hong Kingston on behalf of literature by ethnic women—to Latina writers. Without Cherrie Moraga's work, many of us would not have felt the solidarity and power or had the critical vocabulary or understanding to give voice to our own stories."

— Julia Alvarez, author of *In the Time of the Butterflies*

Moraga's first solo publication, *Loving in the War Years* (South End Press, 1983), a first book of its kind in its combination of essays, poetry, journal entries and memoir, explores the intersection of identity for a woman who must choose between calling herself a Chicana lesbian or a Lesbian Chicana, since linguistically speaking one term must always be a modifier and the other the main identity. Less a simple call to war than a call to continue loving throughout the struggle, this book had an enormous influence by granting women permission to write candidly about their own sexuality, a legacy

passed down to writers as disparate as Mary Karr and Maggie Nelson, among countless others.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of its original publication, the updated edition of *Loving in the War Years* combines Moraga's classic memoir with *The Last Generation: Poetry and Prose*, resulting in a challenging, inspiring, and insightful touchstone for artists and activists—and for anyone striving to foster care and community.



Cherrie Moraga's powerful memoir remains as urgent as ever. She explores the intersections of her Chicana and lesbian identities, moving gracefully between poetry and prose, Spanish and English, personal narratives and political theory. Moraga recounts navigating the world largely as an outsider, circling the

interconnected societies around her from a distant yet observant perspective. Ultimately, however, her writing serves as a bridge between her cultures, languages, family, and herself, enabling her to look inward to forge connections from otherwise inaccessible parts of her interior world, to show how deep self-awareness and compassionate engagement with one's surroundings are key to building global solidarity among people and political movements.

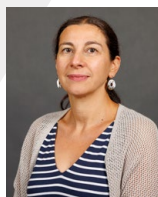
SPECIAL EVENTS

NeMLA's Areas and Caucuses are sponsoring several special events and featured speakers.



The Persistence of Art: Konrad Wolf's Last Feature, *Solo Sunny* (1980)

Screening of Konrad Wolf's *Solo Sunny* (1980) and a talk by Dr. Mariana Ivanova. From Kanopy: This smash hit, which captures the East German 70's style in its gritty-glitzy visuals and its catchy soundtrack, is ranked by film critics among the 100 most significant German films of all time. Based on a true story about an aspiring singer, this film addresses the longings and frustrations of East German youth.



Mariana Ivanova is the Academic Director of the DEFA Film Library (the East German cinema archive) and Associate Professor for German Film and Media at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her scholarship focuses on 20th and 21st century German and European cinemas and cultures, theories of transnational filmmaking and coproduction, artistic networks, and cultural mediation.

Organized by the German Area Studies group

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Unexpected Other: American Visions of Italy at the Turn of the 20th Century



This presentation explores the industrial and cultural exchanges between Italy and the US since the mid-19th century, starting with literary and artistic views and then considering the social impact of philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and financiers at the turn of the 20th century. This talk provides an external view of Italy as an “unexpected other” in the post-unification years and at the same time illuminates the early phases of the

American inculturation of the peninsula before its full-fledged Americanization in the years after 1945.

Luca Cottini is a professor, author, speaker, and content creator. He teaches Italian literature and business at Villanova University and is the host & creator of *Italian Innovators*, a YouTube show exploring Italy’s model of entrepreneurship and innovation through cultural profiles, interviews, and lessons across different disciplines.

Organized by the Italian, Comparative Literature, and World Literature Area Studies groups

Fanon (2024) film screening and Q&A with director Jean-Claude Barny



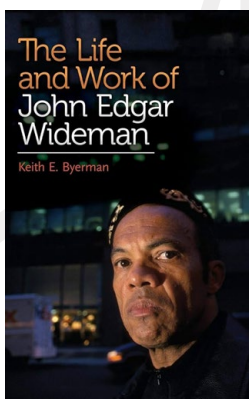
Film screening of *Fanon* (2024) followed by Q&A with director Jean-Claude Barny. Described by the director as “an art-house film for the general public,” *Fanon* dramatizes his life between 1953 and 1957—the three years leading up to his exile, which followed the publication of *Black Skin, White Masks* and informed Fanon’s famous anti-colonial thesis *The Wretched of the Earth* as well as his emphasis on the need for armed struggle.



Jean-Claude Barny, a French director of Guadeloupean and Trinidadian origin, blends European auteur cinema with American entertainment. He is best known for *Fanon* (2024), *Gang of the Caribbean* (2016) and *La haine* (1995).

Organized by the French and Francophone Area Studies group

Echoes of Wideman in Pittsburgh and Beyond



Keith E. Byerman, Mitchell S. Jackson, and Jeffery Renard Allen will speak on the John Edgar Wideman tradition of exploring the difficult lives of marginalized African Americans. The session will also feature readings of some of their work.

Keith E. Byerman is former professor of English, African American Studies, and Women's Studies at Indiana State University and associate editor of *African American Review*. Mitchell S. Jackson is the winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing and the 2021 National Magazine Award in Feature Writing. Jeffery Renard Allen is the award-winning author of six books of fiction and poetry, including the celebrated novel *Song of the Shank*.

Organized by the American and Diaspora Area Studies group



The Last Ranger film screening

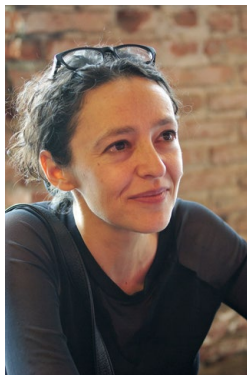


Screening of the film *The Last Ranger* (2024), directed by Cindy Lee. Teaser: “When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers. In the ensuing battle to save the rhinos, Litha discovers a terrible secret.” In 2025, it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Short Film (Live Action). This South African film is in English and Xhosa, with a runtime of 28 minutes.

Organized by the Global Anglophone Area Studies group

SPECIAL EVENTS

Change of Heart: Notes on the Frailty of Bodily Regeneration



Lina Meruane will address the recent emergence of Latin American novels centered on the heart, that is, on the very organ that keeps us alive rather than on the figurative center of emotions or the symbol of romantic love. She examines family and friends' heart disorders, examines three novelistic accounts based on true transplant experiences, and discusses the frail promise of bodily regeneration produced by Nancy's "community of

strangers"—nurses, doctors, surgeons and anonymous dead donors—that is also oneself.

Lina Meruane is an award-winning Chilean scholar and writer. She is the author of five novels plus two short-story collections and several non-fiction books on bodily issues and illness, feminism and violence. She holds the position of Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University's MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish.

Organized by Hispanophone and Lusophone Area Studies group

THE i-TALIANS



The i-Talians are a high-energy pop-rock band with a global soul. We bring together hits and hidden gems in Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and German. Our sound blends modern pop-rock with the rhythms, melodies, and cultural flavors of each tradition, creating a show that feels both

familiar and excitingly new. From sing-along choruses to irresistible dance grooves, every performance is designed to cross borders, spark connection, and keep the crowd moving, smiling, and fully immersed in the music.

The i-Talians, a band based in Washington D.C., have been playing pop, rock and folk Italian music since 2011. Current line-up: Gianpiero Antonazzo (guitar), Roberta Berzero (vocals), Francesco Ciabattini (keyboard, guitar), Gerardo Spatuzzi (bass, vocals), Fabrizio Papi (drums).

Organized by President Simona Wright and the Executive Committee

Cultural Events in Pittsburgh March 5–8, 2026

Beyond our convention sessions and special events, Pittsburgh offers many options for exploration, conversation, and inspiration. Here are some of the many cultural, artistic, and culinary delights awaiting you during the 57th Annual NeMLA Convention.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Pittsburgh Playhouse – Highmark Theatre: [Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits](#), a witty musical parody of Broadway's biggest hits.

Liberty Magic: [Jonathan Levit: Reality Reinvented](#), an evening of mind-bending magic for fans of illusion and sleight-of-hand.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Byham Theater: [Kathleen Madigan: "Day Drinking" Tour](#)

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (Heinz Hall): Classical music at its best as [Emmanuel Ax Plays Brahms](#)

Liberty Magic: [Jonathan Levit: Reality Reinvented](#)

Pittsburgh Playhouse – Highmark Theatre: [Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits](#)

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

O'Reilly Theater: [International Guitar Night](#)

[An Evening with Joe Bonamassa at the Benedum Center:](#) blues-rock mastery!

Liberty Magic: [Jonathan Levit: Reality Reinvented](#)

Pittsburgh Playhouse – Highmark Theatre: [Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits](#)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Benedum Center: Stardew Valley: [Symphony of the Seasons](#), a lush, orchestral interpretation of the beloved video game soundtrack.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (Heinz Hall): Sunday matinee performance of [Emmanuel Ax Plays Brahms](#)

Liberty Magic: [Jonathan Levit: Reality Reinvented](#)

Pittsburgh Playhouse – Highmark Theatre: [Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits](#)

MUSEUMS

[Andy Warhol Museum:](#) The Vanitas exhibition (through March 9), a meditation on beauty, mortality, and fame.

[Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History](#) collections and natural history exhibits, extended hours Thursday evening.

[The Frick Pittsburgh:](#) a Gilded Age mansion, museum, and car collection, surrounded by serene gardens perfect for reflective strolls.

CULINARY SCENE

[Strip District:](#) an array of restaurants, cafés, and casual spots

[S&D Polish Deli](#)

[Yinz Coffee at Eleven Stanwix](#)

[Iron Born Pizza](#)

[Cinderlands Warehouse](#)

[Enrico Biscotti Company](#)

[Gaucho Parrilla Argentina](#) for wood-fired steaks and empanadas

[Kaya](#) for Caribbean-inspired fusion

[The PA Market](#), a lively food hall with rooftop seating

[Eleven Contemporary Kitchen](#) (intimate)

[Luke Wholey's Wild Alaskan Grille](#) (upscale)

2025-26 AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

COMPLETE DETAILS AND UPDATES:
<https://www.nemla.org/awards.html>

Complete information for awards and fellowships, deadlines, and application forms can be found at <https://www.nemla.org/awards.html>. Applicants must be current NeMLA members in good standing (if you are not a member, you can join online at <https://cfplist.com/nemla/Home/Login>). Attendance at the convention is expected, and travel award winners must attend the convention in-person to be eligible for the award.

Application requirements vary but generally require the following information: project title, author's name, contact information, academic affiliation, and a cover letter or a copy of the project itself (e.g. essay, presentation, manuscript, etc.).

All the awards—including travel awards—are disbursed in person at the convention or after the activities have been completed (in the case of summer fellowships), never in advance.

For complete details and possible revisions to the deadlines see <https://www.nemla.org/awards.html>.

Annual Book Awards

NeMLA solicits book-length manuscripts for its two Annual Book Prizes for:

- The best unpublished book-length manuscript on any of NeMLA's focal literatures, languages, media, or cultures
- The best unpublished fiction book in English

Manuscripts cannot be under review at a press. The authors must be current members with a demonstrated commitment to NeMLA (a convention participant, or a member for at least one year in the last five years). The manuscript must be written in English and include an overview of the proposed book (2–3 single-spaced pages), as well as a roundup of competing books and a brief explanation of the uniqueness of the proposed project. NeMLA will not consider unrevised dissertations for this award. The prize includes a cash prize, and NeMLA will assist winners with contacting presses about the publication of their manuscripts (at the winner's discretion).

Deadline: October 15
Contact: book.award@nemla.org

Creative Writing Award

The award will be given for a presentation given at a Creative Session at the previous convention.

Deadline: December 15
Contact: creative.writing.award@nemla.org

Caucus Essay Awards

There are four different caucus essay awards. Submissions should be between 6,000 and 9,000 words. All essays are to be revised and expanded from original papers presented at previous NeMLA convention(s). Submissions should be written in or translated into English. Each Caucus Essay Award winner receives a \$100 prize bestowed at the membership brunch on Sunday of the convention, and essays will be considered for publication by *Modern Language Studies*. All essays are subject to *MLS's* double-blind review.

Postcolonial Studies Essay Award

NeMLA is proud to sponsor a special essay prize for a revised paper in Postcolonial Studies presented at one of the previous two NeMLA Conventions.

Deadline: December 15
Contact: postcolonial.essay.award@nemla.org

CAITY Essay Award

NeMLA awards an annual prize for the best essay developed from a paper presented by contingent faculty, adjunct instructors, independent scholars, and two-year college faculty members. The competition is limited to papers presented by CAITY caucus members at a session during the NeMLA convention earlier in the year.

Deadline: December 15
Contact: caity.caucus@nemla.org

Graduate Student Caucus Essay Award

NeMLA awards an annual prize to the best graduate student paper presented at any of the sessions of the previous three conventions.

Deadline: December 15
Contact: gsc@nemla.org

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Essay Award

The NeMLA Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Caucus invites submissions for the "Best Essay in Women's and Gender Studies Award" given for a paper presented at the previous two sessions of the NeMLA Convention using women and/or gender-centered approaches. This essay may not be submitted to another contest for the duration of the award's deliberation. Essays must be submitted in English.

Deadline: December 15
Contact: wgsc@nemla.org

2025-26 AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Travel Awards

NeMLA offers three different travel awards to members accepted to present papers in-person at the upcoming annual convention. Applicants are eligible to receive only one of these travel awards, although you may apply for more than one.

Graduate Student Travel Awards

The Graduate Student Caucus provides a number of travel awards to graduate students accepted to the upcoming Annual Convention and who attend in person. Submit the accepted abstract and a 250-word statement of the presentation's relevance to the field.

Deadline: November 30

Award: \$110–\$400 (depending on quality and number of awardees)

Contact: gsc@nemla.org

CAITY Travel Award

CAITY Travel Awards are open to current members of the CAITY Caucus (contingent faculty, adjunct instructors, independent scholars, and two-year college faculty) who have accepted to present a paper as part of a traditional panel or seminar at the upcoming annual convention and who attend in person. Caity Travel Awards are not meant for panel chairs or for participants in creative sessions or roundtables.

Deadline: December 15

Contact: caity.travel@nemla.org

Antonio Cao Travel Award

The Antonio Cao Travel Award is for a graduate student accepted to the upcoming Annual Convention and who attends in person. This award is in memory of Antonio Cao, member of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Hofstra University, a passionate scholar, and an invaluable and loyal member of NeMLA. To honor Dr. Cao's memory and his unwavering support of students, this prize will be awarded to a graduate student who is presenting on any aspect of Spanish culture or literature at this year's annual convention. Applications are evaluated on basis of the quality of the abstract; the relevance of the topic to Spanish studies; the funds available from the student's institution; and the travel distance to the Convention.

Deadline: December 15

Contact: cao.travel@nemla.org

Summer Research Fellowships

The NeMLA Summer Fellowship Program is designed to support the research of NeMLA members, especially untenured junior faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars. This does not preclude senior faculty from applying. Fellowships up to \$1,200 are intended to defray the cost of traveling incurred by researchers in pursuing their work-in-progress over the summer. This program does not provide funding for conference travel, equipment, food, or general office expenses.

In order to apply for a Summer Research Fellowship, candidates must provide the Fellowship Committee with the following documents: a one-to-two-page description of the project, a specific timeline, an itemized budget, 2 letters of recommendation, and a current Curriculum Vitae. Preference will be given to candidates who have not received the Summer Fellowship in the last three years.

Upon completion of the Summer Fellowship, awardees will have to submit their digital paper and receipt for expenses. It is expected that they will attend the following conference to present their research findings (e.g. Summer 2026 Fellows should present their findings at the 2027 convention).

This award takes the form of a reimbursement after the summer activities have been completed and is not disbursed in advance.

Deadline: December 15

Contact: fellowship@nemla.org



2026 CONVENTION EXHIBITORS

NeMLA gives a big shout out and thank you to the exhibitors who will attend the 2026 convention in Pittsburgh. Your support of NeMLA and involvement in the convention—including staffing exhibit tables, meeting with prospective authors, and participating on workshop panels—is greatly appreciated and helps make NeMLA a vibrant community. Some of this year's exhibitors include:



**CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY
PRESS**

<https://libraries.clemson.edu/press>



<https://pmpress.org>

**Amherst
College
Press**

<https://acpress.amherst.edu>



<https://yabla.com>



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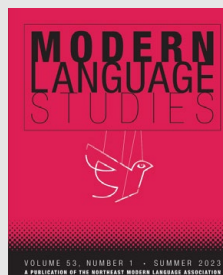
~Bringing Books to Readers Worldwide Through Exhibits~

www.scholarschoice.com

NeMLA PUBLICATIONS

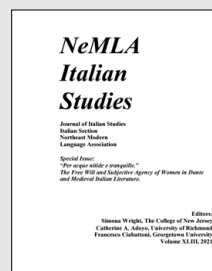
NeMLA proudly sponsors the publication of three journals dedicated to the production of award-winning scholarship.

Modern Language Studies



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 teaching, research, and writing in all areas of English, American, comparative studies, as well as the literatures of the modern languages.

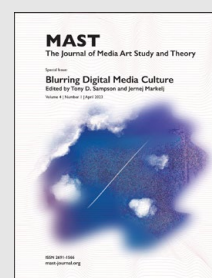
NeMLA Italian Studies



NeMLA Italian Studies promotes the study of Italian culture by publishing critical studies on Italian literature, cinema, culture, linguistics, and language pedagogy. The journal includes sections dedicated to creative writing in Italian (primarily poetry or short prose fiction),

translations of contemporary and classical works/ authors, cultural debates, and interviews. A section of the journal is dedicated to book reviews.

MAST: The Journal of Media Art, Study and Theory



MAST: The Journal of Media Art, Study and Theory is an online, open-access, and double-blind peer-reviewed journal featuring interdisciplinary scholarship in the domain of media studies with a focus on both practice and theory. MAST stands for "Media Art Study and Theory"

and welcomes original high-quality submissions from artists, practitioners, scholars, writers, theorists, curators, academic faculty, and graduate students in artistic research, theory, and practice-based/ practice-led studies in media arts.

NEWS & FEATURES

CV AND JOB CLINIC

Faculty members will meet graduate students, contingent, and adjunct faculty one-on-one to advise these emerging scholars on CVs and cover letters, and to practice mock interviews. These 30-minute advising sessions will be open throughout the convention.

— Instructions for Mentors —

Please pre-register by February 15 as a mentor in your account by selecting the “Job Clinic Mentor” option under “Registration & Membership.”

— Instructions for Mentees —

Please pre-register by January 31 as a mentee in your account by selecting the “Job Clinic Mentee” option under “Registration & Membership.”

Mentees should bring paper copies of their CV, cover letters, and relevant job ads. Come prepared with questions about your application and the academic job interview process.

WGSSC MENTORSHIP

The NeMLA Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Caucus (WGSSC) operates an interdisciplinary mentoring breakfast which pairs senior faculty mentors with junior faculty and doctoral students. It is followed by the WGSC Business Meeting, whose agenda includes determining future speakers and convention topics, as well as securing caucus officer nominations. For more information on becoming a mentor or a mentee, please contact wgsnemla@gmail.com with the subject “WGSSC Mentorship Program.” Please include your name, affiliation, and research interests.

NeMLA CAUCUS INFORMATION

CAITY Caucus

(Contingent/Adjunct/Independent Scholar/Two-Year)

The CAITY Caucus advocates for NeMLA members who are contingent, adjunct, or independent scholars, or who teach at two-year institutions. The Caucus organizes panels, speakers, and discussions on topics including pedagogy, unionizing, and non-traditional career paths, offering travel and paper prizes in support of these endeavors. Everyone with interests in these areas is welcome!

Diversity Caucus

The Diversity Caucus has been created to facilitate discussion among NeMLA members about issues of diversity, especially as related to academic life. This group offers a space to bring about conversations among members with shared interest in Africana Studies, Diaspora Studies, and Diversity issues and develop relevant NeMLA sessions and initiatives.

Graduate Student Caucus

With the generous support of NeMLA, the Graduate Student Caucus (GSC) is able to provide an array of opportunities for graduate students that includes travel grants, professionalization opportunities, CV and Job Clinic, publishing mentorship, special sessions. Please visit our website for further information about events and opportunities.

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The NeMLA Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Caucus (WGSC) welcomes members interested in feminist scholarship, women’s and gender studies, and the status of women in the profession at all stages of their careers. The caucus organizes panels, promotes publication, and fosters the establishment of networks linking senior and junior faculty including graduate students.

Please join these caucuses through the Membership Registration page in the online portal.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear NeMLA members,

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge that the increase in the conference fees this year caught many of you by surprise. This year's fee structure should be understood as an anomaly, the reasons for which we will explain below. Fortunately, next year's conference fees will be lower, and both in-person and remote participation will be priced the same. Those fees will be announced in May, when the submission portal opens.

We recognize that any change in fees raises questions, and we appreciate the opportunity to clarify the factors that affected the fees for 2026. The short explanation is that 2026's fee structure was set to account for the increased expenses in technology and staffing that are needed to run the conference as hybrid.

The decision to introduce a hybrid format was made in 2025 in direct response to immigration restrictions and to concerns expressed by members who were unable to attend the conference in person. Unfortunately, this was after the contracts for the 2026 conference venue were signed. Based on budget models, the executive board determined that higher fees were necessary to ensure that the conference doesn't result in a financial loss.

The conference has been—and continues to be—structured primarily as an in-person event. Its financial model relies heavily on contractual agreements with the host hotel, including room occupancy and catering. These costs are negotiated well in advance, and the contracts include significant penalties if agreed-upon numbers are not met. Conference fees therefore play a crucial role in offsetting these fixed expenses.

In addition, planning and running a hybrid conference effectively requires parallel coordination of in-person and online formats, increased technical support, and substantially more administrative oversight. This additional work nearly doubles the organizational effort required to deliver a high-quality conference experience.

We reiterate that costs for next year will be lower because we have been able to plan for a hybrid conference well in advance of signing the 2027 hotel contract.

For NeMLA, offering a remote participation option remains an important commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. Major benefits include a significantly lower personal cost than attending in person (e.g. no travel, lodging, or food costs)—all of which are significant to both domestic and international members, especially when funding at our institutions has shrunk—as well as the elimination of risks related to visas or border crossing. At the same time, our hybrid conference still provides remote participants access to hundreds of sessions, the CV clinic, and other conference resources.

Furthermore, NeMLA is committed to ensuring that 2026's virtual sessions are not a “conference within a conference” or a separate event. Rather, they are fully integrated into the in-person program and scheduled in the hotel breakout rooms. This integration increases potential audiences for presenters and encourages greater engagement between in-person and remote participants. We hope that the result will be a richer conference experience for all of you.

We hope you will understand that these decisions were made carefully, with the goal of balancing accessibility, fairness, and NeMLA's long-term viability. We are grateful for your understanding and continued support, and we remain committed to fostering an inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable conference community.

Sincerely,

NeMLA's Executive Board

...planning and running a hybrid conference effectively requires parallel coordination of in-person and online formats, increased technical support, and substantially more administrative oversight.

NEMLA BOARD OPENINGS IN MARCH 2026

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations for open Board openings are due at nemla_nominations@nemla.org by January 18, 2026. Self-nominations are welcome. NeMLA's Nominating Committee will consider all nominations and vet prospective candidates based on criteria such as experience, statements, and years of involvement with NeMLA, before selecting two candidates for each position to stand in the election. Elected members will begin their duties on the last day of the upcoming convention. For more information about the nominating process and about the responsibilities and duties expected of board members contact nemla_nominations@nemla.org.

- British and Global Anglophone Studies Director
- German Studies Director
- Italian Studies Director

Deadline for nominations: January 18, 2026.
Email nominations: nemla_nominations@nemla.org

We also seek nominations for the officer position of Second Vice President. Preference is given to members of the Northeast region, and nominations are vetted by the executive board. For more information about the VP position, please contact Victoria Ketzer, Executive Director, or Derek DiMatteo, Associate Executive Director.



NeMLA's 58th Annual Convention: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

MARCH 11-14, 2027
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

CREDIT: MVASCO - Aerial Photo From Robinson R44 Helicopter by Michael Kasch, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=28626108>

Salve Regina University is honored to host the 58th Annual NeMLA Convention at its beautiful campus in Newport, Rhode Island, a city rich in history, culture, and diversity. Newport is located on Aquidneck Island, the original home of the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes, among other nations. The incomparable local attractions, such as the Cliff Walk, the Gilded Age mansions, the Touro synagogue (the first one in the United States), and the Newport Black History Walking Tours, complement this year's theme: "EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES."

We are honored to count on the expertise of Dr. Jerome Branch, professor of Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, for our opening address. Dr. Branche is an expert in coloniality in Latin America and the Caribbean, Critical Race Theory, and the Black Atlantic, among other areas. His intervention promises to enhance our commitment to empowering our diverse communities in NeMLA, our profession, and beyond, positively impacting the people who most need it.

Welcome,
Esther María Alarcón-Arana
Salve Regina University
First Vice President, NeMLA



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Key Dates for 2025-26

2025

- Sep 30** Abstract Submission Deadline
Oct 01 Board Nominations Deadline
Oct 15 Critical and Creative Book Awards Application Deadline
Nov 15 Undergraduate Forum Abstract Submission Deadline
Nov 30 GSC Travel Award Applications Deadline
Dec 15 Convention Registration Early Bird Deadline

Application Deadlines for:

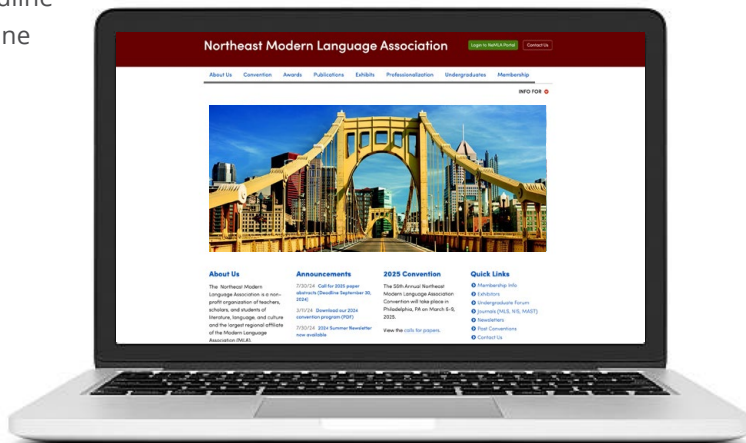
- WSSGC Essay Award
- Creative Writing Award
- Postcolonial Studies Essay Award
- GSC Essay Award
- CAITY Essay Award
- CAITY Travel Award
- Graduate Student Travel Award
- Antonio Cao Memorial Travel Award
- Summer Fellowship

2026

- Jan 25** Convention Registration Regular Deadline
Feb 01 Exhibitor Registration Deadline
Feb 25 Board Elections Voting Deadline
Mar 5-8 57th Annual Convention in Pittsburgh, PA

Find more information on upcoming events, important dates and more on our website:

www.nemla.org



CONNECT WITH NEMLA



#NeMLA26

www.nemla.org

Upcoming Convention Dates

- 2026** March 5–8, Pittsburgh, PA
Local Host: Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown
- 2027** March 11–14, Newport, RI
Local Host: Salve Regina University
- 2028** TBD, Erie, PA
Local Host: Gannon University



Gannon University
English Department
109 University Square
Erie, PA 16541

