



LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, LEARNING

Language is at the heart of our profession and a constant topic of interrogation. Literature enhances the imagination, builds the capacity for creative thinking, and cultivates the quality of language. Learning takes place through language, from transmission of information to critical thinking, and the encounter with imaginative literature plays a special role in educational development.

I hope that my choosing Language, Literature, Learning as the presidential theme will provoke innovative thinking about our commitments to literature and language and the learning opportunities for students. Please browse through this brochure for information on the more than sixty sessions that will focus on this theme. The 2012 convention in Seattle will be an exciting gathering. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Russell A. Berman
2011 MLA President



Presidential Forum



Language, Literature, Learning is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2012 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

Presidential Forum

Friday, 6 January

202. The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

10:15 a.m.–12:00 noon, Metropolitan A, Sheraton

Presiding: Russell A. Berman, Stanford Univ.

1. “Networking the Field,” Kathleen Fitzpatrick, MLA
2. “Of Degraded Tongues and Digital Talk: Race and the Politics of Language,” Imani Perry, Princeton Univ.
3. “Learning to Unlearn,” Judith Halberstam, Univ. of Southern California
4. “Borrowing Privileges: Dreaming in Foreign Tongues,” Bala Venkat Mani, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
5. “Teaching Literature and the Bitter Truth about Starbucks,” Christopher Freeburg, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

283. What Makes Language Literary?

1:45–3:00 p.m., Metropolitan A, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Language, Literature, Learning

Presiding: Sabine Wilke, Univ. of Washington, Seattle

Speakers: Charles Francis Altieri, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Daniel Doohan, Univ. of Tampa; Frances Ferguson, Johns Hopkins Univ., MD; Alexa Alice Joubin, George Washington Univ.



Presidential Forum Participants

Charles Francis Altieri

Professor of English
Rachel Anderson Stageberg
Endowed Chair
University of California, Berkeley



Barbara K. Altmann

Professor of French
Director of Oregon Humanities Center
University of Oregon



Reem Bassiouney

Associate Professor of Arabic Language
and Linguistics
Georgetown University



Mark Bauerlein

Professor of English
Emory University



Russell A. Berman

Walter A. Haas Professor
in the Humanities
Stanford University





Presidential Forum Participants

Christopher Freeburg

Assistant Professor of English
University of Illinois, Urbana



Anne Ruggles Gere

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Gertrude Buck Collegiate Professor
Director of Sweetland Center for Writing
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Judith Halberstam

Professor of English, Gender Studies,
and American Studies and Ethnicity
University of Southern California



Alexa Alice Joubin

Associate Professor of English, Theatre,
and International Affairs
George Washington University



Catherine Ingold

Executive Director of the National
Foreign Language Center
University of Maryland, College Park



Claire J. Kramsch

Professor of German
University of California, Berkeley



