Editor's Note

The following three features require a brief introductory comment. In October 2005, the MLA and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, cosponsored an international conference on "the humanities in human rights: critique, language, politics," organized by Judith Butler and the MLA president, Domna C. Stanton. The papers from this conference collected here will give *PMLA* readers a sense of the participants' lively debates about the human rights movement, its efficacy, and the role of humanistic inquiry and critique in its evolution.

Following the conference, the *PMLA* Editorial Board invited several MLA members to write contributions for the series Correspondents at Large on performances of human rights in Latin America. These texts supplement and (indirectly) converse with the conference papers.

The Editorial Board also invited brief reflections on feminist criticism today, which appear here under Theories and Methodologies. At a recent meeting, some of us on the board commented on the reduction in the number of feminist submissions to the journal. We wondered why those contributions had declined and how feminist criticism might be described today. I am grateful to the colleagues who responded to this invitation and am certain that readers will find the range of responses as instructive and ultimately encouraging as I do. I am especially grateful to Shanna Greene Benjamin for offering an excerpt of her interview with Nellie McKay, whose remarks capture the enormous energy and excitement of feminist criticism at the moment of its inception and beginning institutionalization. This feature, "Feminist Criticism Today," is dedicated to the memory of Nellie Y. McKay, in honor of her generous and lasting contributions to feminist criticism and to our profession. —MH

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