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Submitting Manuscripts to *PMLA*

Editorial Policy for Essays

PMLA welcomes essays of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature. As the publication of a large and heterogeneous association, the journal is receptive to a variety of topics, whether general or specific, and to all scholarly methods and theoretical perspectives. The ideal *PMLA* essay exemplifies the best of its kind, whatever the kind; addresses a significant problem; draws out clearly the implications of its findings; and engages the attention of its audience through a concise, readable presentation.

Eligibility

To be eligible for review, manuscripts must meet the following requirements:

MLA membership. Authors must be members of the MLA. (For a collaboratively written essay to be eligible for review, all coauthors must be members of the MLA.) Following the guidelines established by the journal's publishing partner, Cambridge University Press, AI tools cannot be considered authors of works submitted to the journal.

Author anonymity. Authors should not refer to themselves in the first person in the submitted text or notes if such references would identify them; any necessary references to the author's previous work, for example, should be in the third person.

Word length. Articles must be between 6,000 and 9,000 words. The word count includes discursive notes but excludes works-cited lists and translations.

Originality. Articles cannot have been previously published in any language. (Uploading the submitted version of the article to an institutional repository does not count as previous publication.) Authors must fully cite in the manuscript, at submission, their use of all content (whether text, images, data, or other) created by an AI tool.

Simultaneous submission. Articles cannot be under consideration by other journals or publishers. An article found to have been simultaneously submitted elsewhere will not be published in *PMLA* even if it has already been accepted for publication by the editorial board. The MLA reserves the right not to consider submissions from authors who already have a submission under review with the journal, as well as the right to desk-reject submissions sent by the same author within a year of a previous submission to the journal.

Language. Manuscripts in languages other than English must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English (generally of 1,000 to 1,500 words) and must be translated into English if they are recommended to the editorial board. Translations should accompany all quotations in languages other than English.

Scope. PMLA does not publish book reviews or new works of fiction. Submissions should be broadly of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature.

Quality. PMLA publishes the best of its kind. Works that demonstrate egregious signs of poor quality (e.g., lack of scholarly apparatus when relevant, evidence of extreme carelessness in preparation) cannot be sent for review.

Forthcoming in *PMLA*

In the January Issue

Lauren Horst. "Fantasies of Limitless Growth: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and the Magical Thinking of Sustainable Development"

Grant Wiedenfeld. "The Paragraph in Literary Aesthetics: Examples from Flaubert's *Bouvard and Pécuchet*"

Adam Mahler. "Sailing the Franco-Portuguese Seas in Colonial Macau: A Blue Poetics of Citation in Camilo Pessanha's *Clepsydra*"

Wei Liu. "'Revision-ing' the Caribbean Mother: Kamau Brathwaite, Lorna Goodison, and Pathways toward a Located Literariness"

Justin Parks. "At the Expense of Energy: John Ashbery's 'The Skaters' and the Postwar Poetics of Entropy"

Little-Known Documents

Claude McKay. "Group Life and Literature." Introduction by Jean-Christophe Cloutier

Theories and Methodologies

Toni Morrison, the Editor: A Collective Interview with Dana A. Williams

Brent Hayes Edwards, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Farah Griffin, A. J. Verdelle, and Autumn Womack in conversation with Dana A. Williams

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Forthcoming in *PMLA*

In Other Issues

Doug Battersby. "Free Indirect Style in the English Novel: Literary History and Critical Pleasure"
Elizabeth Blake. "Gourmet, Sodomite, Woman: Djuna Barnes's Multihyphenate Doctor"
Corey Byrnes. "Of Beasts and Animals; or, The 'Chinese' Ends of the Posthuman"
Ben Davies. "Critical Reading and the Fantasy of Method"
Patrick Eichholz. "The Latent Baroque in English Literary History"
Marianna Hagler. "Reading in Reverie: Identifying Anne Carson's Gertrude Stein"
Raye Hendrix. "Deaf Spectacle: Rupture and Resistance in Ilya Kaminsky's *Deaf Republic*"
Benjamin Hulett. "Portage Epistemologies: Wabanaki Perceptual Grammar in Thoreau's Late Natural Histories"
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Submission Procedures

MLA style. Manuscripts should follow MLA style as set out in the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook.* The MLA urges its contributors to be sensitive to the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.

Cover sheet. Authors' names should not appear on manuscripts; instead, a cover sheet, with the author's name and address and the title of the article, should accompany each manuscript.

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Please submit manuscripts (as *Word* files) through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla).

Review Process

Each article submitted and eligible for peer review is sent to at least two reviewers. Articles recommended by these readers are then sent to the members of the editorial board, who meet periodically with the editor to make final decisions. Until a final decision is reached, the author's name is not made known to readers, to members of the editorial board, or to the editor. For detailed information on the review process for submitted essays, please send an inquiry to pmlasubmissions@mla.org.

Features in *PMLA*

Criticism in Translation

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals for translations. Articles, as well as chapters or sections of books that can function as independent units, will be considered. The originals may be in any language. Two types of proposals are welcome: (1) significant scholarship from earlier periods that has not lost its forcefulness and whose retrieval in English in *PMLA* would be a noteworthy event for a broad body of readers and (2) contemporary work of sufficient weight and potential influence to merit the attention of the field as a whole.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should first ascertain that no previous English translation exists. The proposer should then submit the following materials through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the original essay, (2) an extended summary of the entire essay in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 2,500 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be published with the essay if the essay is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the translation is accepted for publication, the

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proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted (as a *Word* file). The proposer may either serve as translator of the essay or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member).

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations.

Little-Known Documents

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals regarding little-known documentary material that merits the attention of a broad range of readers. Consideration will be given to archival data from any period and in any language that do not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should send submit the following material through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the document, (2) an extended summary of the document in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 2,500 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be published with the document if it is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the document is accepted for publication, the proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, if the document is not in English, the proposal should include a 1,000-word sample of the translation. The proposer may either serve as translator of the document or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member). The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations, if applicable.

Special Issue

Mapping Indigenous Literatures

Deadline for submissions: 10 November 2026

Coordinators: Mishuana Goeman (Univ. at Buffalo, State Univ. of New York) and Cristina Stanciu (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.)

The study of Indigenous literatures has seen exponential growth through institutional commitments to programs and departments of Indigenous, First Nations, and Aboriginal studies, majors and minors, as well as scholarly and pedagogical contributions to the field by a cohort of scholars centering Indigenous perspectives, histories, and voices. At the same time, much remains to be done to expand the study of Indigenous literatures across the globe and to integrate the study of Indigenous literatures and cultures into both the broader framework of the humanities and the specific framework of Indigenous humanities.

Forthcoming in *PMLA* *(continued)*

Little-Known Documents

Edward Kamau Brathwaite. "Andrew Salkey's *A Quality of Violence* and the Practice of 'Communal/Impersonal' Criticism." Introduction by René Kooiker

Ralph Ellison. "Remarks on the American Novel." Introduction by Tanya Clement

"Manifesto to the Oppressed Peoples of America!!" Introduction and translation by Carlos Alonso Nugent

Lynne Anne Munson. "Memorandum to Lynne V. Cheney on the 1991 MLA Annual Convention." Introduction by Mark Hlavacik

Rene Ricard. "BASQUIAT: The Poems." Introduction by Paul Benzon

Criticism in Translation

Abū Al-Qāsim Al-Shābbī. "Poetic Imagination among the Arabs." Introduction and translation by Dima Nasser

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This special issue of *PMLA* proposes to center Indigenous authors and communities, and it asks how the field of Indigenous humanities criticism has influenced the broader field of Indigenous studies, and literary studies more specifically. This issue will serve as a touchstone survey of the state of the field, outlining future directions and new areas in Indigenous literary criticism. Questions it might address include but are not limited to the following: What are the most pressing questions in the field of Indigenous literature? How do Indigenous literatures engage with other literary theoretical interventions such as postcolonial or poststructuralist arguments? What is the current state of the field and how might scholars and teachers imagine new approaches to Indigenous humanities by reflecting on how it has developed over time? What is the relationship between critical ethnic studies and Indigenous literatures? In an expanded literary canon, how do Indigenous texts, objects, and artifacts teach the next generation of students about tribal sovereignty, representation, resilience, and reciprocity? As data sovereignty and rhetorical sovereignty continue to guide the study of Indigenous literature cultures, how can teachers formulate responsible pedagogies attending to tribal specificity and knowledge as we expand our students' understandings of Indigenous polities? How do Indigenous humanities and trans-Indigenous networks operationalize new fields of inquiry?

A mapping of Indigenous literatures acknowledges that settlement is not done, but rather, as Bayley J. Marquez defines it in *Plantation Pedagogy*, is "a process of dispossession, genocide and the replacement of peoples and transformations of land that exists across geographic locations and governmental configurations . . . a process in addition to a structure." This special issue welcomes essays that address the literature of Indigenous authors and communities globally, focusing on any literary period or genre, in both Indigenous and colonial languages, including the dynamics of translation, with the prerequisite that they center Indigenous humanities. The issue seeks essays from a wide range of vantage points and methodologies that articulate understandings of Indigenous literatures that are accessible and of interest to the broad *PMLA* readership. Submissions are welcome from a variety of fields and disciplinary foci, from environmental humanities, geography, digital humanities, disability studies, Indigenous feminisms, gender and sexuality studies, speculative fiction, horror, political literatures, and others. This list is suggestive rather than prescriptive.

Special Features

Each fall, the *PMLA* Editorial Board welcomes proposals for clusters of essays on a topic of wide interest, to appear in the following special features: Theories and Methodologies, which addresses a timely issue or recent work of scholarship, and The Changing Profession, which takes up new and emerging fields in the humanities. Please visit the MLA website for more details about proposing special features for the journal (www.mla.org/PMLA-Submissions).

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