# 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.)

*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. An article is considered previously published if it appears in print or in an online outlet with the traits of publication, such as editorial selection of content, a formal presentation, and ongoing availability. Online contexts that typically lack these traits include personal Web pages, discussion groups, and repositories.

*Exclusive 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 An article found to have been simultaneously submitted elsewhere will not be published in *PMLA* even if it has already been accepted for publication by the Editorial Board.

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

*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.

Cover: Detail from Ottoman miniature of astronomers studying the moon and the stars. © Istanbul University Library, Istanbul, Turkey. Image source: DeA Picture Library / Art Resource, NY.



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## Forthcoming in *PMLA*

### In the October issue

"Editor's Column—Languages in the Time of Corona"
"Presidential Address 2020—Being Human"

Michael Gibbs Hill. "Reading Distance: Port Louis, Cairo, Beijing"
Robin Bernstein. "'You Do It!': Going-to-Bed Books and the Scripts of Children's Literature"
Jacob Emery and Elizabeth Geballe. "Between Fiction and Physiology: Brain Fever in *The Brothers Karamazov* and Its English Afterlife"
Emelia Quinn. "Notes on Vegan Camp"

*Little-Known Documents*
Giorgio Agamben. *Decadenza*. Introduction and translation by Daniel Lukes
Eliza Sharples. *A Glossary for the Bible, Chiefly Designed for Children*. Introduction by Suzanne L. Barnett

*Theories and Methodologies*
*Cultures of Argument*. Coordinated by Pardis Dabashi. Essays by Amanda Anderson, Michael Bérubé, Robert Chodat, Nijah Cunningham, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Kyle Kaplan, Grace Lavery, Yoon Sun Lee, and Erin Spampinato; response by Heather Love

### 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.

*Permissions*. If the contribution includes any materials (e.g., quotations that exceed fair use, illustrations, charts, other graphics) that have been taken from another source, the author must obtain written permission to reproduce them in print and electronic formats.

Submissions should be sent electronically to pmlasubmissions@mla.org.

### 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 send the following materials to pmlasubmissions@mla.org: (1) a photocopy of the original essay, (2) an extended summary of the entire essay in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style, that will be published with the essay if the essay is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the



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