Welcome to NeMLA’s First Virtual Convention!

Brandi So, NeMLA president

Our 2021 conference theme is **Tradition and Innovation: Changing Worlds Through the Humanities**. When I proposed the theme in 2019, I could not have known how poignant or apt it would be to our lived experiences in 2021. Despite the shift to a virtual platform, this year’s convention is as large as ever, and in some ways, offers us unique opportunities to be closer than ever. Whether you’re in your front-row dining room seat for the special events, or you find that a Zoom chat with a publisher is more productive without the clanging of dishes and shoppers in the Exhibits hall, there are ways in which NeMLA’s distance-format conference will feel more intimate and open up new vistas. Peruse the Convention schedule, take special note of the sessions, workshops and professional development opportunities geared toward our growing facility with the tools that help diminish the distance in distance education.
OPENING ADDRESS: JED ESTY
MARCH 11 @ 7:00PM


KEYNOTE ADDRESS: JENNIFER EGAN
MARCH 12 @ 7:00PM

Jennifer Egan is the author of several novels and a short story collection. Her most recent novel, *Manhattan Beach*, a *New York Times* bestseller, was awarded the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Her previous novel, *A Visit From the Goon Squad*, won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the *Los Angeles Times* book prize, and was recently named one of the best books of the decade by *Time Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and several others. Also a journalist, she has written frequently in the *New York Times Magazine*—most recently about pregnancy and childbirth among opioid-dependent women. She is President of PEN America.

Jennifer Egan has offered to do a certain number of classroom zoom visits in Spring or Fall 2021! If you are teaching her work, contact us at support@nemla.org for more information.
Grace L. Sanders Johnson

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Multi-Modal and Eco-Literacy Approaches to Transnational Feminist Research

MARCH 12 @ 12:00PM

Grace L. Sanders Johnson is Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her PhD in History & Women’s Studies at the University of Michigan where she specialized in Modern Caribbean and Latin American History, Transnational Feminisms, Oral History, and African Diasporic Studies. She has been awarded fellowships from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, the Andrew C. Mellon and Ford Foundations, the Canadian Embassy, and was awarded an Emerging Scholar Fellowship from the Haitian Studies Association for her dissertation La Voix des Femmes: Women’s Rights, National Politics, & Black Activism in Port-au-Prince and Montréal, 1934–1986. She has worked with various archival projects including Concordia University’s Oral History Project Histoire de Vie (Montreal 2011). She has published work in several journals and books including Reconstruction, The Journal of Haitian Studies, Sisters or Strangers? Immigrant, Ethnic, and Racialized Women in Canadian History (University of Toronto Press, 2016; edited by M. Epp and F. Iacovetta), and Caribbean Military Encounters (Palgrave MacMillan, 2017; edited by S. Puri and L. Putnam).

In addition to her study of 20th-century gender, sexuality, migration, and Haitian women’s social and political organizing, she is currently collaborating with colleagues in Haiti and throughout the diaspora to establish a Haitian women’s oral history archive. In addition to her study of gender and politics in Haiti, she is the founder of Harriet’s Hike, an ecological literacy program for girls and elder women in North Philadelphia.
Michael Bérubé is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature at Pennsylvania State University and the author of ten books to date, including *Public Access: Literary Theory and American Cultural Politics* (Verso, 1994); *Life As We Know It: A Father, A Family, and an Exceptional Child* (Pantheon, 1996; paper, Vintage, 1998); and *What’s Liberal About the Liberal Arts? Classroom Politics and “Bias” in Higher Education* (W. W. Norton, 2006). *Life as We Know It* was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year for 1996 and was chosen as one of the best books of the year (on a list of seven) by Maureen Corrigan of National Public Radio. His most recent books are *The Secret Life of Stories: From Don Quixote to Harry Potter, How Understanding Intellectual Disability Transforms the Way We Read* (NYU Press, 2016) and *Life as Jamie Knows It: An Exceptional Child Grows Up* (Beacon Press, 2016).
Mame-Fatou Niang
Julien Suaudeau

Reinventing Universalism for Postcolonial France

MARCH 13 @ 7:00PM

Universalism, as a philosophical concept and a political ideology, was molded by the Enlightenment. It is an intellectual construct with a history, yet some on both sides of the French political spectrum argue that it is a self-evident truth and central to the assumed republican identity. How can a framework that was engineered in the 18th century bear any relevance for postcolonial France? Deconstructing French universalism but not junking it, we argue that its perceived antagonism with antiracism is a superficial and dangerous commonplace. Looking beyond pseudo-universalism, we propose to reconcile the universalist project with both postcolonial studies and the humanistic wisdom of Montaigne.

Mame-Fatou Niang is a director and Associate Professor of French at Carnegie Mellon University (USA). She co-directed the documentary Mariannes Noires (2012). She is the co-author of a photo series on Black Islam in Paris (2018) and the author of Identités Françaises: Banlieues, féminités et universalisme (Brill, 2019).

Julien Suaudeau is the author of four novels—Dawa (2014), Le Français (2015), Ni le feu ni la foudre (2016), Le Sang noir des hommes (2019)—and of Le Spectateur zéro (2020), a conversation with film editor Yann Dedet. His work focuses on contemporary France seen through the lenses of colonial and postcolonial history, immigration, laïcité, terrorism, and socioeconomic inequalities. He also writes about France and the Americas on Slate.fr. He has directed three documentaries and has published extensively on film history, film theory and French cinema in Positif.
Imke Brust is Associate Professor and Chair of German at Haverford College. Dr. Brust’s current research project *Reunification versus Reconciliation* examines the role of literature and film in developing alternative public spheres in post-wall Germany and post-apartheid South Africa. Her scholarly essays engage issues of gender and race, and investigate the images of, and the tensions between, nation and state in contemporary literature, film, and visual culture. Dr. Brust’s research and teaching interests focus on 20th- and 21st-century German literature, film, and theater, nationalism, (post-) colonialism, globalization, European, and African Studies.
Alessandro Vettori is Professor of Italian & Comparative Literature at Rutgers University. He currently serves as Director of Graduate Studies in the Italian Department and as editor of Italian Quarterly. He has published a book on Francis and Iacopone, *Poets of Divine Love* (Fordham UP, 2004), a monograph on Giuseppe Berto, *La passione della scrittura* (Marsilio, 2013), and his latest book, *Dante’s Prayerful Pilgrimage* (Brill, 2019), is on pilgrimage and prayer in Dante. He has edited or co-edited three collections of essays (on Boccaccio, Giuseppe Berto, and contemporary Italian poets), and has written articles on Dante, Boccaccio, Francis of Assisi, Iacopone da Todi, Giuseppe Berto, Diego Fabbri, and Pirandello. He is currently researching the *Donation of Constantine* and its relation to Franciscan poverty for a future book-length project. He is also working on a collection of essays on forged documents that changed history entitled *Fake News*. 

**Alessandro Vettori**

**Dante, Lady Poverty, and the Donation of Constantine**

**MARCH 13 @ 7:00PM**
Sophia A. McClennen

What Does Latin American Cinema Teach Us About Cultural Globalization? How an Interdisciplinary Case Study Can Offer a New Critical Paradigm

MARCH 13 @ 7:00PM

This talk offers an overview of a 25-year interdisciplinary project that used the case study of Latin American Cinema to offer a revised critical paradigm for how we understand the effects of globalization on cultural production. It offers insights into how to effectively use empirical research methods, interdisciplinary approaches and humanistic perspectives to offer concrete and meaningful theories about culture and power.

Sophia A. McClennen is professor of international affairs and comparative literature at Penn State University and founding director of the Center for Global Studies. She has published twelve books including Pranksters vs. Autocrats with Srdja Popovic (Cornell, 2020), Globalization and Latin American Cinema (Palgrave, 2018), and The Routledge Companion to Literature and Human Rights (Routledge, 2015).
Interactive Workshops

Workshops at our Annual Convention model hands-on learning and are interactive discussions led by a moderator. They aim to develop professional skills or examine professional interests, responsibilities, and proficiencies.

Space for workshops may be limited, so please pre-register. If a workshop is no longer listed under “Registration and Membership,” it is sold out, but you may email support@nemla.org to be added to our waiting list.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DISTANCE: ENGAGING VIRTUAL STUDENTS WITH EMPATHY AND TECHNOLOGY
Brandi So, Touro College & University System
Robert Daniel, Saint Joseph’s University
Gregory Bruno, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY
SATURDAY MARCH 13, 10:30AM–12:00PM

DISSERTATION PEDAGOGY
Tommy Mayberry, University of Waterloo
Sarah Gibbons, University of Guelph
THURSDAY MARCH 11 2021, 1:30PM–3:00PM

DO HANSEL AND GRETEL REALLY WANT TO GO HOME? PERFORMATIVE TEACHING OF LITERATURE
Susanne Even, Indiana University-Bloomington
SUNDAY MARCH 14 2021, 1:00PM–2:45PM

DYNAMIC COURSE DESIGN FOR TEACHING THE HUMANITIES ONLINE
Susan Ko, Lehman College, CUNY
Richard Schumaker, City University of New York
SUNDAY MARCH 14 2021, 3:00PM–5:00PM

MAPPING WITH DIGITAL HUMANITIES TOOLS
Caterina Agostini, Rutgers University
WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 2021, 3:00PM–5:00PM

TASK-BASED LITERATURE TEACHING: APPLYING TBLT TO THE LITERATURE CLASSROOM
Chris Jacobs, Temple University
THURSDAY MARCH 11 2021, 1:30PM–3:00PM

USING OPEN PEDAGOGY TO INNOVATE TEACHING AND LEARNING
Christina Riehman-Murphy, Pennsylvania State University
Bryan McGeary, Pennsylvania State University
WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 2021, 1:00PM–3:00PM

Exhibitor-sponsored Workshops

A DISCUSSION ON PUBLISHING WITH INTELLECT BOOKS
James Campbell, Intellect Books
FRIDAY MARCH 12 2021, 3:15PM–5:00PM

PUBLISHING TODAY: A TALK WITH PUBLISHERS
Hannah Brooks-Motl, Amherst College Press
WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 2021, 3:00PM–5:00PM

WORKING WITH LEAN BUDGETS TO IMPROVE DIGITAL PEDAGOGY IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD
Alexandra Lough, LectureSource
Melanie Banfield, LectureSource
SUNDAY MARCH 14 2021, 10:45AM–12:45PM
2020 NeMLA Award Winners

Annual Book Award
The NeMLA Book Award is an annual award bestowed upon the best unpublished book-length manuscript on any of NeMLA’s focal literatures, languages, media, or cultures. Submission deadline: October 15, 2021.

CAITY Caucus Essay Award
The 2021 award is for a paper presented at the 2021 Convention by an independent scholar or a contingent, adjunct, or two-year college faculty member.

Graduate Student Caucus Essay Award
This award is for an expanded (article-length) version of a presentation by a graduate student at any of the sessions of the previous three conventions.

CAITY CAUCUS ESSAY AWARD

Esoy Awards

Postcolonial Studies Essay Award
The Northeast Modern Language Association is proud to sponsor a special essay prize for a revised paper in Postcolonial Studies presented at one of the previous two NeMLA Conventions.

Women’s and Gender Studies Essay Award
The NeMLA Women’s and Gender 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.

Graduate Student CAUCUS ESSAY AWARD
Danielle Jones, University of Chicago, “Kindred, Literacy, and the Body as Text”

Annual Book Award
Amanda Lagji, “Waiting for Now, Postcolonial Fiction and Colonial Time”


POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES ESSAY AWARD
Ngwaba Ijeoma Ann, Federal University of Oye Ekiti, “Re-writing the Nation: History and Re-Historicisation in Chinua Achebe’s There Was a Country and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Half of a Yellow Sun”

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES ESSAY AWARD
Nancy Vera, a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature in the Department of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, “Witches & Tricksters: Feminine Forms of Resistance in Afro-Mexican Folklore”
**Summer Fellowship Award**
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.

**Undergraduate Forum**
The Annual Convention features a separate Undergraduate Research Forum in the form of poster presentations. Students are invited to give 3- to 5-minute presentations on their research followed by a networking event. This is an opportunity for aspiring scholars to discuss their research with peers, graduate students and faculty, and to be awarded prizes by NeMLA’s various constituencies. Join us and vote for your favorite presentations and posters!

### Summer Fellowship Award Winners
- **Alexandra Brown**, University of Pennsylvania, “Bit by Byte: The Speculative Fiction Writers’ Collective of Argentina & Chile”
- **Dana Khromov**, University of Pennsylvania, “Estou Me Guardando Para o Carnaval Chegar: The Disappearance of Lazer”
- **Nancy Vera**, University of Maryland College Park, “Afro-Mexican Literature & Culture”
- **Daniel Davies**, University of Pennsylvania, “Theorizing Literary Empire in Les Voeux du Paon (1312) and The Parlement of the Thre Ages (c.1350–90)”
- **Jon Najarian**, Boston University, “The Intermedial Era: Literary and Pictorial Narrative from Modernism to Comics”
- **Lorena García Barroso**, Columbia University, “Language as a Weapon in Franco’s Nation-building Project”
- **Seda Öz**, University of Delaware, “Politics of Remakes: The Case of Turkish Cinema”
- **Valeria Meiller**, Georgetown University, “Argentina, Nation of Flesh: Confronting Cattle at the Slaughterhouse (1900–1930)”
- **Syrrina Haque**, University of Lahore, “Narrative Shift from Postcolonial to Post-9/11 in Mehr Nigar Masrur’s Shadows of Time and Omar Shahid Hamid’s The Spinner’s Tale”
- **Ana Simón Alegre**, Adelphi University, “Social Activism and Feminism: Editing the Fiction of Concepcion Gimeno de Flaquer”

### Undergraduate Forum Prizes
- **BEST USE OF THE CONFERENCE THEME: “TRANSNATIONAL SPACES: INTERSECTIONS OF CULTURES, LANGUAGES, AND PEOPLES”**
  - **HONORABLE MENTION: Olivia Klein**, Simmons College, “India’s National Identity as an ‘Imagined Community’: Magical Realism in Midnight’s Children”

  **FIRST PRIZE GIVEN BY THE MEMBERSHIP AS A WHOLE FOR BEST OVERALL POSTER**
  - **Elia Agudo**, Delaware State University, “My Guy Pretty Like a Girl: The Impact of Nonheteronormative Hip Hop on Urban Youth Identity”

  **MOST COMPELLING RESEARCH IN WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES (AWARDED ON BEHALF OF THE WOMEN’S AND GENDER CAUCUS)**
  - **Cara Mackenzie**, Simmons College, “It Is Time to Stop Forgetting: The Reenactment of Women’s Trauma in Irish Literature”
Check out the Cosmopolitan Collective!
The Cosmopolitan Collective is a dynamic constellation of interdisciplinary, transnational, and public intellectuals, belonging to but not bound by the field of Italian Area Studies. As a collective, we are committed to construct a cosmopolitan intellectual space where the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, rank, class, and/or language can produce fruitful and stimulating discourses. As Cosmopolitans, we seek primarily to engage those voices—that have been historically marginalized or excluded from academe—in order to create new spaces for intellectual exchanges which are politically and culturally affirmative.

**Inaugural event:** January 18th, 2021 at 5:30PM.
- Cosmopolitancollective
- CosmopolitanCollective
- Cosmopolitan Collective Roundtable

---

**BEST VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

**Azariah Kurlantzick**, Clark University, “Dybbuks and Destruction: Explorations into a Yiddish Gothic”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Riley Lampert**, University at Buffalo, “Intimacy, or Friendship’: Sexual Identity in Victorian Vampire Fiction”

---

**BEST ORAL PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

**Andrew Fleming**, Wesleyan University, “Understanding the Role of Social Salience in the Dialectal Convergence of U.S. Spanish”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Ashley Fenstermaker**, Hunter College, “Workspaces for the Individual: Bloomsbury Rooms and American Office Design”

---

**BEST INTEGRATION OF SOURCES**

**Chris Connors**, University of Missouri-Kansas City, “Oppression and Cultural Autonomy: Scalped and the Paradox of Owning Marginalization”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Elvin Meng**, Johns Hopkins University, “Paratextual Manchuness: Translation and the (Re)Construction of Identity”

---

**FIRST PRIZE AS VOTED BY UNDERGRADUATE PEERS**

**Cara Mackenzie**, Simmons College, “It Is Time to Stop Forgetting: The Reenactment of Women’s Trauma in Irish Literature”

---

**FIRST PRIZE GIVEN BY EXHIBITORS**

**Jake Pawlush**, University at Buffalo, “Queen Elissa: The Roman Adaptation of a Carthaginian Deity”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Kit Pyne-Jaeger**, Cornell University, “My Own Body a Banquet: Dracula and the Necromancy of Appetite”

---

**BEST INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT THAT SHOWS THE RELEVANCE OF THE HUMANITIES TO OUTSIDE FIELDS**

**Kaetlyn Arant**, Amherst College, “Zola et la Genèse de la Contagion: Women as Purveyors of Disease in Nana and Le Docteur Pascal”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Sophie Call**, Wellesley College, “Language Policy and the Integration of Alliance Israëlite Universelle Schools into Thracian Society”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Jose-Romarah Chery**, University at Buffalo, “Eugenics in the United States from the 1900s–1970s”

---

**FIRST PRIZE VOTED BY THE BOARD OF NEMLA**


**HONORABLE MENTION:** **Parker Chase**, University at Buffalo, “The American Melting Pot: How Language Use on Twitter Builds the ‘—American’ Identity”

---

**Cosmopolitancollective**

**CosmopolitanCollective**

**Cosmopolitan Collective Roundtable**
Connect with Exhibitors and Publishers in your Field

Make sure to connect with our exhibitors virtually and collect stamps for their passport contest to win a book!

2021 NEMLA EXHIBITORS INCLUDE:

- Amherst College Press
- Broadview Press
- Clemson University Press
- Intellect Books
- LectureSource
- Lexington Books
- McFarland Books
- Michigan State University Press
- Modern Language Association
- The Scholar’s Choice
- Temple University Press

In Memoriam: Carrie L. O’Connor

Carrie L. O’Connor on September 14, 2020. We lost a beloved member of the NEMLA community with the passing of Carrie L. O’Connor. Carrie was a passionate and devoted teacher and scholar of French. She is dearly missed by her students, colleagues, friends and family. After completing a BA in French at Virginia Tech, she immediately pursued her MA in French at Middlebury College in Paris and then her PhD at Louisiana State University. In 2014, she moved to Boston to teach French, ultimately landing a position as Lecturer and Coordinator in the Romance Studies Department at Boston University in 2019. In addition to her love of languages, literature and cultures, Carrie was an avid traveler and chef. She was always up for an adventure in the kitchen and far beyond. Over the past several years, she organized, chaired, and participated in multiple panels at NeMLA, namely focused on French food studies. This year’s panel entitled “Pedagogical strategies of Food in Foreign Languages and Cultures,” which she would have co-chaired, will be dedicated to her memory. Carrie left us much too soon, but those who knew her will fondly remember her sharp wit, beautiful smile, and impeccable taste.

NeMLA Reads Together

NeMLA members are encouraged to read Manhattan Beach in preparation for writer Jennifer Egan’s keynote address. Manhattan Beach takes us into a world populated by gangsters, sailors, divers, bankers, and union men in a dazzling, propulsive exploration of a transformative moment in the lives and identities of women and men, of America and the world. Submit questions in advance to ask the author at support@nemla.org or with our mobile app.
Board Elections

NeMLA is a member-driven organization committed to a fundamentally democratic approach to governance and convention design. Please vote in our current board elections by February 6 and nominate board representatives for our next open slate of positions by August 15.

Open positions for 2022

- Second Vice President
- Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing Director
- French and Francophone Studies Director
- Spanish and Portuguese Studies Director

Publishing Opportunities

Free Subscriptions

Members of the association can submit essays and book reviews to NeMLA’s three peer-reviewed journals:

- **Modern Language Studies**: NeMLA Essay Award winners receive automatic consideration for publication by MLS, subject to the journal’s double-blind review.
- **The Journal of Media Art Study and Theory (MAST)**
- **NeMLA’s Italian Studies (NIS)**

Mentoring at NeMLA: The Job Clinic and Publishing Mentorship

We want to extend our thanks to all the Faculty members who have volunteered to meet graduate students, contingent and adjunct faculty one-on-one to advise our emerging scholars on their CVs and cover letters. These one-on-one 30-minute advising sessions will be open throughout the Convention and scheduled at the participants’ convenience.

Our Publishing Mentorship Program also pairs senior faculty with emerging scholars in a common research area. The deadline to participate in 2022 is December 15, 2022. For more information on either program, please contact claire.sommers@wustl.edu

NeMLA Caucuses

- Women’s Studies and Gender Caucus (WSGC)
- Graduate Student Caucus (GSC)
- CAITY Caucus (contingent, adjunct, or independent scholars and faculty at two-year institutions)
- Diversity Caucus

Join our NeMLA Caucuses at their Annual Business Meeting and help advocate for each of their constituencies! Discuss the business and goals of each Caucus, vote on matters of import to the membership, and volunteer to run for an officer position. Topics discussed at each meeting include panels, travel awards, essay awards, speakers, and continuing to advocate for members on topics including pedagogy, the profession, and non-traditional career paths.

Caucus Business meetings: March 10 @ 6:00PM.

KEY DATES

- Feb 5: Exhibitors Registration
- Feb 6: Summer Fellowships Application
- Feb 6: Board Elections
- Mar 10: Convention Workshops and Business Meetings
- Mar 11–14: 52nd Convention: NeMLA Goes Virtual!
- Mar 21: Graduate Student Caucus Elections
- Apr 15: University at Buffalo Special Collections Fellowship
- Apr 29: Session Proposal Deadline
- Aug 15: Board Nominations Due
- Oct 15: Book Award Submissions Deadline
The 2022 NeMLA conference theme is CARE. We understand CARE as the practice of interdependency, admitting our vulnerabilities as humans, animals, and other living organisms of the Anthropocene. The NeMLA theme of CARE will embrace but not be limited to questions of representation, migration, the environment, and identity.

OPENING EVENT SPEAKER
VALERIA LUISELLI

VALERIA LUISELLI was born in Mexico City and grew up in South Korea, South Africa and India. An acclaimed writer of both fiction and nonfiction, she is the author of the essay collection Sidewalks; the novels Faces in the Crowd and The Story of My Teeth; and, most recently, Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions. She is the winner of two Los Angeles Times Book Prizes and an American Book Award, and has twice been nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Kirkus Prize. Her work has been translated into more than twenty languages. She lives in New York City.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JUDITH BUTLER