WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WITNESSING on the world stage at the end of this tragic year is, in Dennis Kucinich’s words, a “descent into madness, into nothingness.” We enter 2024 with the knowledge of the daily destruction of human and civilian life on a mass scale. We enter it in mourning and despair. But we are not helpless. We are the teachers, writers, and students of a common language that can and must transcend all barriers—of identity, space, and time—to voice the horrors of oppression as well as the existence and resilience of the oppressed. As intellectuals, we aim to foster and create spaces where the arts and humanities find the power to turn both sorrow and resistance into a shared experience.

We hope that in March as we gather in person again for the 55th Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association, our 2024 gathering will be a renewed opportunity to affirm our collective belief in peace, coexistence, equality, and fairness, and to assert our common humanity in the face of the intolerable realities and rhetoric that circulate across the world and among us today. We remain committed to imagining new futures to heal the gaping wounds of the past and present.

NeMLove and NeMLand is how we refer to the amazing community that our members and constituencies have created through and at NeMLA over the years. We get together year after year, to model the possibility of peaceful dissent and (dis)agreement in speech and action, to represent the best of what has been thought, to stage debate and opportunities for intellectual growth and cultural advancement.

Since 2014, NeMLA has grown exponentially, and we are now looking for more creative ways to continue developing and thriving. With the support and endorsement of our Board of Directors, staff, and crew, we will continue looking for productive partnerships nationally and internationally. To this end, we will be launching a major advancement and fundraising campaign—and know that we can count on our members’ loyalty and support as we work to establish an endowment for NeMLA so that the organization can continue to remain secure in insecure times.

Should you wish to contribute, please contact me at cmardoross@buffalo.edu or do so directly via your username account.

Our 2024 convention is a return to Boston, the site of the last fully in-person convention before the gruesome pandemic that ravaged our lives, and is thus an exorcism of sorts—a reclaiming of the heart and soul of in-person NeMLA—as we step away from Zoom and return to face-to-face communication and interactions. 2024 NeMLA is where we will gather again to model community and intellectual exchange at their best, in sessions, hallways, the lobby, and exhibit hall, at our receptions, special events, brunch, and on the streets of Boston. Any excuse to talk and learn is embraced at NeMLA.

We want to thank Tufts University, especially James A. Glaser, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and our 2024 NeMLA President and Tufts Professor of English Modhumita Roy, for sponsoring our 55th Annual Convention at the Sheraton Boston. Specifically, we are grateful for their vision and support in helping to organize our keynote event with Caribbean-American writer Tiphanie Yanique, whose beautiful novel *Land of Love and Drowning* is the subject of *NeMLA Reads Together*, as well as our opening address by renowned historian Rickie Solinger. Caribbean studies will be a focus among our other Special Events this year, since we have the honor of welcoming Professor

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WELCOME TO BOSTON

OUR 55TH ANNUAL CONVENTION WILL MEET March 7–10, 2024, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The Boston area offers convention attendees a multitude of activities to enjoy, including fine dining, arts & culture, historical sites, and natural attractions. The Sheraton Boston Hotel is in the historic Back Bay neighborhood, and it is directly connected to the Prudential Center and the Hynes Convention Center. In other words, it is centrally located and within walking distance or a short cab ride to attractions such as Newbury Street, Copley Square, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Sheraton Boston Hotel features an indoor pool, restaurant, fitness center, a convenience store, and drying services. Valet parking is available. Electric car charging stations are available.

DISCOUNTED FLIGHTS WITH NEMLA’S OFFICIAL AIRLINE Delta Air Lines is pleased to offer a special tiered discount for NeMLA convention attendees. Visit our website to book your flight and use the NeMLA discount code and refer to Meeting Event Code: NWEML. You may also call Delta at 1-800-323-3000 Monday–Friday, 7:00 AM–7:30 PM (CT). There is no service fee.

METRO TRAVEL OR THE WHIRL (AKA THE “T”)

Hynes Convention Center station (Green Line) is a 5-minute walk from the hotel.
Symphony station (Green Line) is a 6-minute walk from the hotel.
Mass Ave station (Orange Line) is a 10-minute walk from the hotel.
The Back Bay transit station (Orange Line and Commuter Rail) is a 10-minute walk.

ROOM AND RIDE SHARE

Want to connect with others to share rooms and/or rides in Boston for NeMLA 2024? The Graduate Student Caucus and the Caucus hosts the Room-and-Ride Forum, and it is open to all NeMLA convention attendees! Participants who want to share the costs of traveling or booking rooms can add to the online thread at nemlagraduatecaucus.wordpress.com.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Logan International Airport (BOS) is 6 miles (approximately 9 minutes) by automobile from the hotel.

DISCOUNTED TRAIN TRAVEL WITH AMTRAK

Amtrak offers your Daily Discounts and Guest Rewards. See www.amtrak.com for more information.

NeMLA 2024 PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

One of NeMLA’s core missions is to professionalize our junior scholars on various aspects of the profession, including teaching, publishing, and the job search. To that end, we cannot meet with senior faculty in their field as well as with convention exhibitors who offer their guidance and expertise in preparing job-market materials and book proposals, practicing mock interviews and book pitches, writing articles for publication, and offering advice on teaching and the profession. We offer these services in a range of formats from workshops and a Job Clinic that take place the convention to extended mentoring programs that last throughout the year. For information on any of our professionalization activities, please contact support@nemla.org.

MENTORING

Job Clinic

Faculty members will meet graduate students, contingent and adjunct faculty one-on-one to advise these emerging scholars on CVs and cover letters, and to practice mock interviews. These one-on-one 30-minute advising sessions will be open throughout the Convention.

Publishing Mentorship Program

We pair senior faculty with emerging scholars in a similar research area. The senior scholar will offer guidance throughout the year on an article that the emerging scholar is hoping to publish. The arrangement would be at the discretion of the mentor and mentee, but the mentor must be willing to read a draft or suggest possible venues for publication. We highly suggest that you meet at least once via Zoom.

WGSC Mentorship

The Women’s and Gender Studies Caucus welcomes current as well as prospective members. The agenda includes suggestions for future speakers and topics at NeMLA conventions, as well as nominations for Caucus officers. The meeting includes the Women’s and Gender Studies Mentorship Program Meeting.

Sunday Membership Business Meeting & Brunch

Open to all members. The membership meeting is a venue where members can present their award and book award winning work, honor our fellowship winners, thank outgoing board directors and welcome incoming ones, share the Call for Session Proposals for our next convention, have our members vote on issues or changes to the bylaws when necessary, and conclude with a Brunch, which allows all members to converse and network.

NEMA STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

We, the Board of Directors of the Northeast Modern Language Association, affirm our commitment to the free exchange of ideas and to the rights of educators and students to have free access to a diversity of ideas and viewpoints, and we condemn the authoritarian attempts of politicians to restrict academic freedom, particularly as the primary targets of their campaigns include most and the campus community. As scholars, professors, and researchers in the areas of languages and literatures, we stand, with our colleagues whose classroom shelves are being emptied, and whose academic freedom is being abridged, with their students whose education is being gutted, and with both their integrity and rights as human beings are under attack.

The selection of educational materials and curricula needs to be left to educators and the deliberate process conducted by experts in the education field, not politicians or administrators. As pillars of our society, schools and libraries make possible critical thinking, learning, and civic engagement, which are the foundations of a democratic society. Therefore, our schools and libraries must remain protected by the First Amendment and defended against partisan ideological control. – NeMLA Board of Directors –

NeMLA NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

Undergraduate Forum

The Annual Convention annually features a separate Undergraduate Research Forum in the form of poster presentations. Students are invited to give 3–5 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.

Undergraduate Networking Event

Following the Undergraduate Forum, join us for an event allowing undergraduates to network with faculty, graduate students, and peers in their field of study and to practice discussing their research and aspirations for graduate study in a professional setting. Please join us to help welcome our newest NeMLA members.

For questions and further details, please contact undergraduates@nemla.org.

Giselle Arsal, whose talk will help us look beyond traditional touchstones of monotony, beer, and horror, and Professor Adali Mundoch, who will discuss the resulting processes that have come to define the Caribbean space.

We are also privileged to have Special Events in each language and scholarship area on Saturday evening. Alberto Blanco’s triple poetic reflection—a combination of music, image, and poetry—is bound to enchant, Professor Elia Gezm, whose expertise will transport us to West Berlin and its Turkish-German community of artists, Professor David Ward, who will offer a panoply of contemporary Italian speculative fiction, and activist and conflict resolution expert Rebecca Sugar, who will share strategies about how to be a changemaker from their book When to Talk and When to Fight: The Strategic Choice between Dialogue and Resistance.

In addition, we have partnered with community organizations to bring you slam poetry and other performances at our conference site. We are grateful to the Boston Poetry Slam group for agreeing to perform contemporary spoken word poetry over several days. On Friday at 7:45 PM, we look forward to the performances by choroprovostky by R. Norris and Dana Venerable, perspicacious poet Jessica Fenissi, and dancer Michele Daniele.

At this year’s NeMLA convention, we will again showcase art pieces, this time by artist Pietro Benetti, whose beautiful and abstract artwork will be accessible throughout the spaces of the convention to help articulate her vision of art precisely not as “surplus” (the theme of our conference) but as part of the everyday.

Finally, our Undergraduate Forum will take place on Saturday, March 5 from 1:00–1:50 PM, in the second floor foyer of the Sheraton, by the registration desk. Please make sure to stop by and provide feedback to our emerging scholars. Our Undergraduate Forum is in its sixth year, and our junior NeMLA members continue to inspire us with their fresh, in-depth perspectives on literature and culture.

Sincerely,

NeMLA Board of Directors

NeMLA 2024 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

One of NeMLA’s core missions is to professionalize our junior scholars on various aspects of the profession, including teaching, publishing, and the job search. To that end, we cannot meet with senior faculty in their field as well as with convention exhibitors who offer their guidance and expertise in preparing job-market materials and book proposals, practicing mock interviews and book pitches, writing articles for publication, and offering advice on teaching and the profession. We offer these services in a range of formats from workshops and a Job Clinic that take place the convention to extended mentoring programs that last throughout the year. For information on any of our professionalization activities, please contact support@nemla.org.

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Open to all members. The membership meeting is a venue where members can present their award and book award winning work, honor our fellowship winners, thank outgoing board directors and welcome incoming ones, share the Call for Session Proposals for our next convention, have our members vote on issues or changes to the bylaws when necessary, and conclude with a Brunch, which allows all members to converse and network.

Sunday March 10 @ 12:00 PM (Grass City)
Since 2019, NeMLA has included an Undergraduate Research Forum (URF) featuring poster presentations by undergraduate students from universities both domestic and international. In 2023, the forum received its submissions from which 30 were accepted.

Three of those participants were willing to share their thoughts and advice for future participants in the Undergraduate Research Forum.

What follows is my edited mashup of my emailed communications with: Katie Koeppl, a freshman French and anthropology double major at the College of Wooster (Ohio); Britt Cranmer, a major in Spanish adolescence education at Forman Christian University (Lahore, Pakistan); Ayesha Jilani, a sophomore majoring in sociology and cultural studies at Forman Christian University (Lahore, Pakistan).

Each of these students submitted abstracts of research projects they worked on for particular classes (ranging from a first year writing seminar to a senior capstone), and each submission had been encouraged by a professor who had attended NeMLA in a previous year.

**KATIE KOEPPPL, COLLEGE OF WOOSTER**

DR. DIMATTEO: What were your feelings about submitting your abstract?

**AYEISHA JILANI, FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

DR. DIMATTEO: What was your process of preparing for the conference?

**BRITT CRANMER, SUNY FREDONIA**

DR. DIMATTEO: What were your thoughts about participating in the NeMLA conference? How has this experience benefited or influenced you?

KATIE: I feel like it was extremely beneficial for me to attend and learn more about other people’s research (and even more about my own). Presenting my poster was freeing in a way I can’t quite describe. It helped me realize that there are people out there (beyond my friends and professors) who truly share my interests and are eager to hear more about what I write.

This conference has helped to show me what I’m capable of in terms of both research and collaboration with other people. It also opened my eyes to experiences and stories of which I had been previously unaware, and it made me want to learn more about the world around me. The sheer number of people at the NeMLA Conference gave me hope for the future, not just in terms of improvements in our education system, but also for the love of learning and how it will continue to expand.

BRITT: Sharing my research greatly increased my self-confidence and the pride that I take in my work as a Spanish teacher. The NeMLA conference gave me an outlet to share my ideas amongst invested audience members, and made me recognize my own, as well as my fellow undergraduate student participants’ contributions.

The experience of attending the NeMLA conference has allowed me to see myself as part of a larger community that goes beyond SUNY Fredonia, being a student, an educator, etc. I am a member of a community that recognizes the powers of language and its nuances. When I reflect on the weekend, I feel that shared importance and excitement over again.

AYEISHA: The other undergrads were extremely passionate and hardworking and wish I’d gotten more time to spend with them. Throughout the forum, I met wonderful people who were not only knowledgeable about my work but also thought provoking questions that made me think about other perspectives and what I could add into my research to make it better. This convention was a wonderful experience, and I’ll forever treasure.

KATIE: To be able to present my research to a variety of talented and accomplished people is something that I will never forget. During the conference, I decided to prioritize workshops that focused more on my own research rather than being nervous by simply sharing my enthusiasm with the audience. I gained a lot of knowledge from the speakers and interacted with many people at the conference. It was interesting to hear stories from people who had attended before, which made me realize that there are people out there (beyond my friends and professors) who share similar interests.

BRITT: As a participant, I am so glad that I did not let the initial intimidation of presenting at a conference scare me away from this opportunity. As an audience member, it was so great to be surrounded by people who all share a love of language throughout the weekend. Attending different sessions allowed me to learn a lot as well as celebrate the linguistic advantages amongst others in the profession. The NeMLA conference sessions that I attended gave me topics to look into as well as new films, books, and music to explore. The recommendations that came from other poster presentations will certainly expand my repertoire.

AYEISHA: I learned so many things throughout the convention, from the different sessions to the keynote speakers and even from the other undergrads. Even at this stage, I already have ideas about my senior thesis. Listening to the speakers and seeing how all their research works and interacts definitely gave me things to take back home with me.

DR. DIMATTEO: What are your final thoughts?

AYEISHA: The experience was truly unique, and it gave me a new perspective on how language is used in different contexts. I feel like I have grown as a language learner and researcher,

BRITT: “Citizen Metaphors in Paradise”

My advice for this year’s students is to not be afraid to ask for help. Doing research is not an easy process, and requires many sleepless nights, but thinking you’re going to be a bother by asking for help is not good for anyone. Being nervous is normal, but it’s important to remember the amount of time and effort you put into this project. You should be proud of completing research at this stage. I definitely wish I had more confidence to feel more proud of this achievement. Another thing I would say is not to be afraid to talk to people. I was nervous about being all alone at a huge event in a new country. I definitely found out there are many opportunities to talk to people and make new friends.

**KATIE KOEPPPL, COLLEGE OF WOOSTER**

**AYEISHA JILANI, FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

**BRITT CRANMER, SUNY FREDONIA**

**Revisiting the Investigating Character Daniel and Themes of Discrimination in Even the Rain**

My advice for this year’s students is to discuss your work with your professors, advisors, or any other academic resource you have. Go to peer review sessions. Talk to people in your major to see if they have any thoughts on your endeavors. It may seem tedious, but setting aside time to talk to your professor about how you could improve my essay (even after I had turned it in) really helped me a lot when developing my argument and creating my final poster. And don’t be afraid to reach out! That’s what the professors are there for; they will always be happy to help.

My advice for next year’s students is to enter the conference knowing that I succeeded in prompting educators to think about what gender-neutral language may look like in the classroom setting, rather than being nervous by simply sharing my enthusiasm with the audience. I was unsure of what to expect. It was very conversational, and I enjoyed myself.

Another piece of advice I have for next year’s students is to enter the conference with a goal in mind. My goal was to encourage educators to give inclusive language a space in their classrooms. I interacted with many Spanish educators at the conference and gave them specific ways that they could incorporate this gender-neutral language in instruction. I left the conference knowing that I succeeded in prompting educators to think about what gender-neutral language may look like in the classroom setting, and hoping that they try out the recommendations that I gave with their own students.
GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS EVENTS

GSC Business Meeting
Agenda includes: updates, awards, and future directions. Please join us at the Graduate Student Caucus meeting on March 7th, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

GSC Brew-Ha-Ha Social
Join NeMLA’s graduate students for a night of socializing and networking while enjoying drinks and light snacks.

Roundtable
Preparation for the Profession: Sharing Information for Early Career Teaching – Speakers include: Lindsey Boyd (Emory University), Alex Finet (University of Virginia), Kathleen Allen (Royal Holloway, University of London), and Camila Barcelos (Bryant University).

Workshop
Navigating the Humanities Careers Landscape – Chaired by Mai Hunt and Lydia Tang from the Modern Language Association.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 12:00 – 2:00PM
No Surplus in Sustainability: Environmental Justice in Latin America

Viviana Hackforth & Aziza Perdomo, Boston University
This workshop promotes cultural awareness through examining Latin American artistic expressions concerned with environmental justice, showcasing a range of thought-provoking contemporary Latin American artists and activists. Attendees will walk away with concrete examples of how to use authentic materials involving different media arts in their 12 classrooms.

AFFECTIVE WRITING PEDAGOGIES WORKSHOP USING ZINES

Irmaida Ettou Houson, Columbus College of Art and Design & Elf Segaran, Rutgers University New Brunswick
In this workshop, participants will be working on developing affective and process-based writing pedagogies along with many colleagues. We will use zines to make annotated bibliographies, write research papers, and create visual writing. The goal of the project is to bridge the gap between student’s lived experiences through encountering everyday media and images and their academic writing while emphasizing the plasticity of writing itself. The results are impressive, and we will implement this pilot in larger writing and research classes.

DECOLONIZING PROGRAM OUTCOMES: A WORKSHOP FOR LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS

Viktoria Hackbarth
INSTRUCTORS

Emilia Illana Mahiques, Cornell University
Juan Escalona Torres, Tufts University

Federico Chávez, University of California, Los Angeles

This interactive workshop aims to provide participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to critically transform the curricula and canons alike. We end by exploring how we can dismantle these structures and further our joint aim of ensuring traditionally marginalized individuals in the learning environment. Throughout the workshop, we will engage in an ongoing discussion related to these themes as these relate to decolonial teaching methodologies and approaches. We will further this discussion by inviting a space to co-imagine how those colonial legacies and biases underpin the languages we teach and continually influence curricula and canons alike. We will explore how one can disrupt these structures and further our joint aim of ensuring traditionally marginalized learners have a voice in determining the workshop.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM

DIGITAL STORYTELLING IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CURRICULUM: THE WHY AND THE HOW

Kerri Keith, Georgetown University
This workshop for foreign language instructors presents how to integrate dissertation projects about the digital storytelling format into existing curricula. It includes best practices for curricular considerations (level, topic, material), an outline of the instructional sequence and lesson plans, and assessment rubrics. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to get started on the basics of their own DS assignment.

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 is limited, so please pre-register. Workshops appear under “Registration & Membership” in your account, unless sold out, in which case you may ask to be added to our waiting list.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9 12:00 – 2:00PM
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**Franco-German Ecocriticism**

**AN INTRODUCTION**

Alwin Franke & Yohann C. Ripert
Stetson University

There is something counterintuitive about the use of nationalist adjectives in ecocriticism—a field whose objects of study transcend national borders. To build a Franco-German ecocriticism course as a challenge to the anglophone dominance in ecocritical scholarship, however, invites a cross-linguistic “international turn” that opens a twofold opportunity: to go beyond ecocritical texts taught in English and American Studies departments and to supplement French and German literature with Francophone and Germanophone aesthetics challenging Eurocentric biases.

In French literary history, Rousseau’s nostalgic depictions of an imagined state of nature resonates with Négritude’s nostalgic poeticizing of a pre-colonial African communion with nature, yet they both reveal an ecological imagination framed by a political “return” to an origin as fictional in postcolonial writing as it is in environmental policy. And while Derrida deconstructs the Eurocentric dichotomy between nature and culture crucial to Lévi-Strauss’s analysis of alterity, the Caribbean ecology that Aimé Césaire’s and Suzanne Césaire’s attempt to poeticize in Tropiques challenges—and is challenged by—a legacy of a colonial politics of naming (plants, fruits, mountains, seas, etc.) that impedes the construction of an indigenous environmental critique.

In the German tradition, ecological thought is inextricably tied to the legacy of Romanticism as both an ideological function of ecological discourses through notions like agency, network, or cosmology, concepts that tend to obscure asymmetrical economic relations of exploitation and domination. The “international turn” in ecocriticism thus also harbors the potential of a critical re-evaluation of its conceptual arsenal, supplementing the new focus on environmental thought with the critical vocabulary of Marxist thought.

Alwin Franke is Assistant Professor of German in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Stetson University.

Yohann C. Ripert is Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies in the Department of World Languages and Cultures as well as a Faculty in the Honors Program at Stetson University.
CAUCUS ESSAY AWARDS

Essays should be between 6,000 and 9,000 words. Submissions should be unpublished manuscripts revised and expanded from original papers presented at previous NeMLA conventions. Submissions should be written in US or British English. Each Caucus Essay Award winner will be awarded a $200 prize and a certificate. Submissions must be submitted as electronic files.

Submissions deadline is January 15, 2024.

FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Fellowship Award

The NeMLA Summer Fellowship Program is designed to support the research of NeMLA members, especially advanced junior faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars. This does not preclude senior faculty from applying.

Submissions deadline is February 4, 2024.

MAST: THE JOURNAL OF MEDIA ART STUDY AND THEORY

Cardiff Universiety, “The Journal of Media Art Study and Theory” is an online, open-access, and double-blind peer-reviewed journal featuring interdisciplinary scholarship in the domain of media studies with a focus on both practice and theory. It stands for “Media Art, Theory and Welcome” and welcomes original high-quality submissions from artists, practitioners, scholars, writers, theorists, curators, academic faculty, and graduate students in artistic research, theory, and practice-based practice-related studies in media arts.

Submissions deadline is January 6, 2024.
Tiphanie Yanique is that rare writer who has received critical acclaim and awards in three literary genres: poetry, the novel, and short stories. She is an outspoken activist on behalf of the Caribbean Diaspora, having appeared on Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman, and published a passionate op-ed in The New York Times on the US response to hurricanes in the Caribbean. Vulture praised her as “one of the most inventive and talented stylists of her generation.” Her poetry collection Wife (2015) won the 2016 Bocas Prize in Caribbean poetry and the 2016 Forward/Felix Dennis Prize for a First Collection. Her debut novel Land of Love and Drowning (2014) — the focus of our annual MLA Reads Together initiative — won the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Award from the Center for Fiction, the Phillis Wheatley Award for Pan-African Literature, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Family Foundation Award, among other honors. She has been awarded the Boston Review Prize in Fiction, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, a Pushcart Prize, a Fulbright Scholarship and an Academy of American Poets Prize. Her second novel, Monster in the Middle, was published in October 2021 to wide acclaim. Originally from the Virgin Islands, she now lives in Atlanta, where she is a professor at Emory University. Visit her web site at https://www.tiphanieyanique.com.

Professor Rickie Solinger is a historian writing about reproductive politics. She is the founder and Senior Editor of the University of California Press book series, Reproductive Justice: A New Vision for the Twenty-First Century. She is also a curator, working with artists, organizing exhibitions about reproductive politics and satellite topics. These exhibitions have traveled to over 150 college and university galleries, aiming to interrupt the curriculum.


In her Opening Address, Rickie Solinger will talk about why Roe v. Wade was “never enough” to underwrite reproductive dignity and safety or to guarantee what we can call “reproductive citizenship.” She will lay out the core ideas of Reproductive Justice and make a case for RJ’s particular relevancy as a framework for both historical analysis and contemporary activism. Solinger will also consider how the Dobbs decision constitutes a brutal effort to re-essentialize gender, race, and class in a white supremacist polity.

Tiphanie Yanique

Rickie Solinger

OPENING ADDRESS

THURSDAY MARCH 7 @ 7:00 PM  •  LIBERTY BALLROOM, BOSTON SHERATON

THURSDAY MARCH 7 @ 7:00 PM  •  LIBERTY BALLROOM, BOSTON SHERATON

FRIDAY MARCH 8 @ 7:00 PM  •  LIBERTY BALLROOM, BOSTON SHERATON

KEYNOTE EVENT

FRIDAY MARCH 8 @ 7:00 PM  •  LIBERTY BALLROOM, BOSTON SHERATON

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Giselle Anatol

Medical ‘Monstrosities’: Black Female Vampires in Recent African Diaspora Fiction

In The Things That Fly in the Night: Female Vampires in Literature of the Circum-Caribbean and African Diaspora (2015), Anatol took up the skin-shedding, bloodsucking soucouyant figure of Trinidadian folklore and other incarnations of Black female vampires in adult fiction to explore how conventional narratives reveal social anxieties about women’s mobility and sexual agency, and condition listeners to strive for/expect female contentment with family care-taking and staying “grounded” in the domestic space.

In this talk, Anatol considers several new examples in literature of the African diaspora, such as Maisy Card’s These Ghosts are Family, Sherri L. Smith’s dystopian novel Orleans, Eden Royce’s historical novel Root Magic, and Tiffany D. Jackson’s horror story White Smoke. Analyzing how each employs the figure of the skin-shedding “boo-hag” or predator who drains the blood of the community, Anatol questions how successfully these stories challenge readers to look beyond traditional touchstones of monstrosity, health, and horror.

H. Adlai Murdoch

Race, Resistance, and the Formation of Subjectivity in the Black French Caribbean

Each and every inhabited territory in the Americas—including, or especially, the islands of the Caribbean—made subject to European colonization was originally peopled and subsequently repopulated by groups ethnically, culturally and linguistically different from the European colonizer. With such difference came assumptions of the inferiority of the Other that undergirded the systems of classification and exploitation by and through which capitalism and slavery co-existed in a relationship of mutual dependency. Professor Murdoch’s talk will discuss how this elicited the liberatory acts, political strategies and ethnocultural theories that came to define the Black French Caribbean, acts which would posit identity, in Stuart Hall’s words, as a “production,” never complete, always in process and constituted within, not outside, representation.

H. Adlai Murdoch is Professor and Head of the Department of French and Francophone Studies at Penn State University. He is the author of Creole Identity in the French Caribbean Novel, and of Creolizing the Metropole: Migratory Metropolitan Caribbean Identities in Literature and Film. He has co-edited multiple essay collections and journal issues. He is currently completing a manuscript entitled Seizing Black Diasporic Subjectivity in the French Caribbean: From the Haitian Revolution to the French Antilles in 2009, on issues of revolution, diaspora, and agency.
Turkish artists, intellectuals, and academics founded numerous associations in West Berlin throughout the 1970s and '80s to establish institutional settings for cultural activities. Central objectives were the promotion of Turkish culture beyond folklorization, the formulation of common interests, and the facilitation of collaborations. This talk will focus on multi-genre exhibits co-organized by the Turkish Association of Academics and Artists, which will be discussed as a key part of the formation of a Turkish public sphere in West Berlin. In addition to reading these as a current within broader efforts to represent Turkish culture as multi-layered and as essential to public-political debates on integration, this talk will also address how we may relate cultural activities in the early phase of Turkish migration to cultural practices and interventions today.

Ela Gezen is an Associate Professor of German at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research and teaching focus on 20th- and 21st-century German literature and culture, with emphases on literatures of migration, minority discourses, and transnationalism. Her first book, Brecht, Turkish Theater, and Turkish-German Literature, examines the significance of Bertolt Brecht for Turkish and Turkish German literature. Currently, she is working on her second book, Cultures in Migration, which examines cultural practices by Turkish artists throughout the 1970s.
David Ward
The Other Sides of History: The Whys and Wherefores of Contemporary Italian Speculative Fiction

Focusing on the alternative history genre, the talk will offer a panorama of contemporary Italian speculative fiction. In addition, Ward will examine the underlying premises of speculative fiction, its effects on its readers, and how the genre casts doubt on the known historical record by underscoring its contingency and questioning its teleology.

Rebecca Subar
When to Talk and When to Fight: The Strategic Choice Between Dialogue and Resistance

Subar will discuss their book When to Talk and When to Fight: The Strategic Choice between Dialogue and Resistance (2021). A conversation between talkers and fighters, it introduces a new language to enable negotiators and activists to argue and collaborate across different schools of thought and action. Weaving storytelling and analysis, the book maps the habits of changemakers, explaining why some groups choose dialogue and negotiation while others practice confrontation and resistance. Why do some groups seemingly always take an antagonistic approach, challenging authority and in some cases trying to tear down our systems and institutions? Why are other groups reluctant to raise their voices or take a stand, limiting themselves to conciliatory strategies? And why do some of us ask only the first question, while others ask only the second?

Rebecca Subar is a strategist and practitioner at Dragonfly Partners, where they support leaders at all levels of organizational life to make strategic and relationship choices with integrity in a racist world. They have given advice and support to political actors and activists on change, challenge and conflict for over thirty years, with attention to power relations and human relationships at the center of their work.
PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM
More than 400 years old, this museum celebrates outstanding artistic and cultural creativity by collecting and interpreting objects of art and culture from around the world in ways that increase knowledge, engage the mind, and stimulate the senses. It presents the earliest collections of Native American & Oceanic art in the US, as well as historic houses and gardens and one of the United States' major museums for Asian art.

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS
A short walk from the heart of Harvard Square, the Harvard Art Museums include three comprehensive collections of works. The Fogg Art Museum features European impressionism pieces, Rubens masterpieces, and a walking pipe organ. The Busch-Reisinger Museum includes Western prints, paintings, and drawings. The Arthur M. Sackler Museum features Asian, Islamic, and African art.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
The museum celebrates more than 40,000 works of art. Highlights include 19th- and 20th-century American art, Native American work, British illustrated books & prints, Chinese paintings & calligraphy, Dutch Golden Age, American work, British illustrated books, & prints, and American art.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The iconic building features a dramatic ribbon form and a cantilevered shape that extends into the water's edge. The design weaves together interior and exterior space, producing shifting highlights of the waterfront throughout the museum's galleries and public spaces. The fuses showcases 20th- and 21st-century art in every imaginable medium, including film and video, music, literature, and dance.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY HOUGHTON LIBRARY
The collections of the Houghton Library encompass wonderfully diverse holdings such as ostraca, daguerreotypes, and the working papers of living novelists and poets. Houghton Library regularly exhibits highlights from its collections in the Edwin and Newman Room. These often include the personal effects, notes, books, and other objects of interest from authors such as Emily Dickinson, John Keats, Dante, Tennessee Williams, Goethe, Cervantes, and Lewis Carroll.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Harvard's natural history museum is home to one of the United States' oldest, most diverse assemblages of stuffed animal specimens, as well as impressive collections of moon rocks and dinosaur bones to check out too. The museum also includes an exhibit of butterfly glass flowers.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
The Boston Public Library offers daily tours highlighting the architecture of its famed National Landmark building by Charles Bulfinch, as well as art treasures by Daniel Chester French and John Singer Sargent. Free one-hour tours are offered to the public by trained volunteer guides.

BOSTON ART CENTERS

MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
The Museum of African American History in New England's largest museum dedicated to the contributions of African Americans, and preserves historic sites and black heritage trails that tell the story of Black Americans from the Colonial Period through the 20th century. Exhibits showcase the stories of Black families who defied the odds of the day, produced great art, organized and advanced the cause of freedom.

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ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM
Originally the home of its namesake, this museum features significant examples of European, Asian, and American art,infamously the 1990s stolen from its collection. Other activities include the concert series and the interior courtyard. Fun diverse opportunities for people named Isabella, visitors on their birthday, and anyone wearing blue pajama bottoms.

BOSTON TEA PARTY SHIPS & MUSEUM
Learn about the history of the Boston waterfront. The Whaling Wall Bank Marine Sanitarium is a rich finding ground for whales, dolphins, sea birds, and other marine creatures. New England Aquarium naturalists are always on board to share knowledge among your questions and explain the minnow-blowing behaviors of these truly magnificent mammals.

MARY BAKER EDDY LIBRARY
Plans cover of this world-famous, three-story, stained glass globe—one of the key attractions at the Mary Baker Eddy Library. The Mapparium’s three-dimensional perspective of the world of 1935 is enhanced by A World of Ideas, an original presentation that features a rich orchestration of words, music, and light to illustrate how ideas have traversed time and geography and changed the world.

CHARLES RIVER ESPLANADE
This Boston state park is a Boston Landmark, offering scenic walks and photographic opportunities looking over the Charles River.

BOSTON OUTSIDE

BOSTON HARBOR & WHALE WATCHING CRUISES
Learn about the history of the Boston waterfront. The Whaling Wall Bank Marine Sanitarium is a rich finding ground for whales, dolphins, sea birds, and other marine creatures. New England Aquarium naturalists are always on board to share knowledge among your questions and explain the minnow-blowing behaviors of these truly magnificent mammals.

BOSTON HISTORY

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BOSTON TROLLEY TOURS

For more than 30 years, Old Town Trolley has provided Boston sightseeing tours highlighting the best of the city. Friendly conductors provide fascinating trivia and humorous local stories. A tour includes free admission to the Old State House Museum, the Dreamland Wax Museum, and discounts to other museums and Boston sites.

TrolleyTours.com/boston

BOSTON WOMEN’S HERITAGE TRAIL

This historic trek takes visitors through fascinating slices and stories from Boston’s illustrious past, highlighting the work of women, from household names like Abigail Adams, Phillis Wheatley, Amelia Earhart, Louisa May Alcott, and Rose Kennedy, to less-familiar leaders like Chew Shee Chin, Julia O’Connor, Clementine Langone, and Melnea Cass. Self-guided and private tours available.

Bwht.org | Walk Through Centuries of Women's History

FREEDOM TRAIL

Experience Boston's iconic 2.5-mile red line leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. Preserved and dedicated by the citizens of Boston in 1951, the Freedom Trail is a unique collection of museums, churches, meeting houses, burying grounds; parks, a ship, and historic markers that tell the story of the American Revolution and beyond. Today the Freedom Trail is a world-renowned, signature tourist experience attracting over 4 million people annually to visit Boston’s precious 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century sites. Stops include the Bunker Hill Monument and Museum; the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned naval vessel still afloat; Faneuil Hall, part of Boston National Historic Park, site of several speeches by Samuel Adams and others leading up to the American Revolution; and Quincy Market, a popular food and retail complex.

Thefreedomtrail.org | 617 357 8300

BOSTON CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

The second oldest and one of the largest children’s museums in the world, its exhibits and programs emphasize hands-on engagement and learning through experience, employing play as a tool to spark the inherent creativity, curiosity, and imagination of children. The Museum’s collections and exhibits of natural history, Native American studies, Afro Caribbean studies, and Japanese artifacts encompass more than 50,000 items. Children and families can make art together in the studio, enter the world of Marc Brown’s beloved book series Arthur, make and float or even stretch bubbles, construct their own city with trucks and diggers, or see the life-size animatronic Dilophosaurus.

BostonChildrensMuseum.org | 308 Congress St | 617 426 6500

FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

This zoo contains more than 200 species of animals from around the world, including gorillas, crocodiles, lemurs, giraffes, lions, kangaroos, flamingos, and llamas.

Zoopnewengland.org/franklin-park-zoo | 1 Franklin Park Rd | 617 541 3466

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM

With more than 1.3 million visitors per year, the Aquarium is a global leader in ocean exploration and marine conservation, a catalyst for global change through public engagement, commitment to marine animal conservation, leadership in education, innovative scientific research, and effective advocacy for vital and vibrant oceans. Exhibits feature seals, coral reefs, giant squids, penguins, touch tanks, and the IMAX Theatre.

Neaq.org | 1 Central Wharf | 617 973 5200

BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS

Each Boston neighborhood tells its own story, a tale of community, culture, and eclectic commercial areas that showcase the best of Boston’s history and contemporary landscape. You can check out those various neighborhoods at https://www.boston.gov/neighborhoods.

2024 EXHIBITORS & ADVERTISERS

» Amherst College Press
» Haymarket Books
» Lexington Books
» McPherson & Company
» The New Press
» PM Press
» Rowman & Littlefield
» Scholars Choice
» Universitas Press
» Verso Books
» W. W. Norton & Co

NEMLA BOARD ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

NEMLA’s success depends on an engaged, volunteer Board. NEMLA is currently conducting a vote to elect new directors in the following areas:

» Second Vice President
» American & Diaspora Studies Director
» Comparative Literature Director
» Cultural Studies & Media Studies Director
» Pedagogy & Professionalization Director

Those interested in serving as Second Vice President should contact the Executive Director at cmardoro@buffalo.edu. They would serve as president in 2027, and the site of the conference would be determined by their institutional location.

Current NEMLA members can vote by completing the online voting form. The deadline to vote is February 1.

Nominations are also sought for the next positions by August 15 2024:

» Second Vice President
» Creative Writing, Publishing & Editing Director
» French & Francophone Studies Director
» Hispanophone & Lusophone Studies Director

NEMLA KEY DATES

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