

About the MLA Convention

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, FIRST HELD in 1883, is an annual gathering of teachers and scholars in the field of language and literature study. The convention enables members of the profession to share their ideas and research with colleagues from other universities and colleges. Sessions begin at 10:15 a.m. on 7 January, and there are workshops at 11:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. on 6 January. The last sessions will end at 6:30 p.m. on 10 January.

Convention sessions are organized by MLA members, but nonmembers are welcome to attend. All participants—members and nonmembers alike—must pay registration fees.

Sessions

Most sessions at the 2021 MLA convention were arranged by the membership at large, either through the association's forums or by individual members. Attendance is open to all convention registrants, but only current MLA members may organize or participate formally in sessions. On occasion, the membership requirement is waived for individuals whose main interests are in other disciplines. The kinds of sessions arranged for this year's convention are described below.

Forum Sessions

MLA forums encompass the scholarly and professional concerns of the association; to this end, their executive committees advise on specific research and pedagogical needs, propose to the MLA Executive Council programs that might be undertaken on behalf of their forums, compile information of interest to their members for

publication in MLA periodicals or in special mailings, and elect forum representatives to serve in the MLA Delegate Assembly.

Members who have suggestions for a forum's sessions or who would like to participate in those sessions should correspond with the 2021 secretary of the appropriate forum, since 2021 secretaries become chairs for the 2022 convention (see the list of executive committee members that follows the sessions listing). For forums approved in 2020, the executive committee members will be listed on the MLA Web site in January 2021.

Plenaries

Arranged by forums or individual members, plenaries are meetings on topics of broad interest. The MLA executive director, with the assistance of the Program Committee, has final responsibility for approving plenaries.

Special Sessions

MLA members whose scholarly or professional interests are not adequately accommodated through convention programs arranged by the forums may propose special sessions. These sessions are the most specialized of all convention meetings and are intended to enable participants to exchange ideas on specific topics.

Allied Organization Sessions

Other scholarly, business, or social meetings are arranged in conjunction with the MLA

convention by officially recognized allied organizations. Typically, these organizations are learned societies or professional associations whose purposes are closely allied with those of the MLA.

Posters

Posters are proposed by individual members who wish to share their pedagogical, institutional, or research-oriented projects. Presenters will be available during a set time to discuss the projects with attendees one-on-one.

Working Groups

Working groups are proposed by individual members who post a call for participation and then engage eight to twelve participants to meet together to discuss their work in two or three sessions during the convention, working toward a collective project or outcome. Working groups extend over more than one session, so participants in a working group will not be able to participate in any other sessions.

Organizing Sessions for 2022

Please see the Procedures for Organizing Meetings on the MLA Web site (www.mla.org/organizing-meetings/) for further details on all types of sessions. All program copy is due 1 April 2021 for the 2022 convention in Washington, DC.