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# PMLA

*Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*

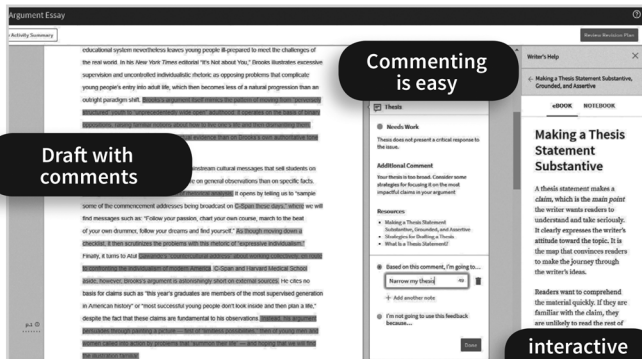
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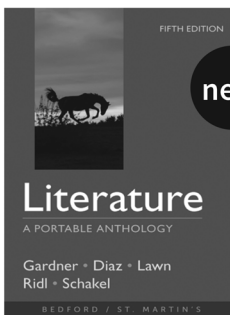
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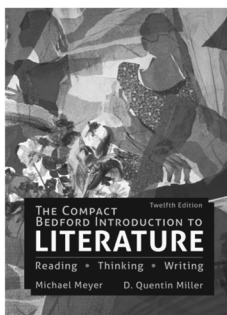
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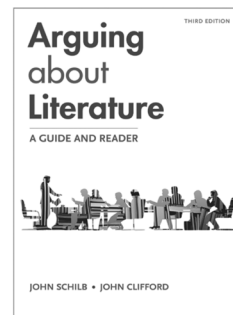


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March 2021  
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# PMLA

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## Submitting Manuscripts to *PMLA*

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### 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 to 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.

## Forthcoming in *PMLA*

### IN THE MAY ISSUE

“Editor’s Column—Refusing Extinction”

JENNIFER A. LORDEN. “Tale and Parable: Theorizing Fictions in the Old English *Boethius*”

ENA SELIMOVIĆ. “*Weltliteratur* and Its Others: The Serbian Poem in Eckermann’s *Conversations with Goethe*”

PHILIP STEER. “The Climates of the Victorian Novel: Seasonality, Weather, and Regional Fiction in Britain and Australia”

PHILLIP ZAPKIN. “*Ubuntu* Theater: Building a Human World in Yael Farber’s *Molora*”

#### *Little-Known Documents*

RAMÓN DEL VALLE-INCLÁN. *Midnight: Astral Vision of a Moment of War*. Introduction and translation by Elizabeth Drumm

#### *Theories and Methodologies*

*The Year 2020*

Essays by Jesse Alemán, Jorge Coronado, Cliff Mak, Kinohi Nishikawa, Jesse Oak Taylor, Aarthi Vadde, Kyla Wazana Tompkins, Cord Whitaker, and Edlie Wong

## 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.

Please submit manuscripts (as *Word* files) through *PMLA*’s ScholarOne site ([mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla](http://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@mmla.org](mailto:pmlasubmissions@mmla.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](http://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 1,000 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 proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, if the proposer wishes to serve as translator of the essay or to designate a translator (who must also be an member), a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted (as a *Word* file); otherwise the Editorial Board will select a translator.

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The Editorial Board will approve or decline the proposals, evaluate the quality of the translations, and cooperate with the proposers and translators.

### 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](http://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 1,000 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 and if the proposer wishes to serve as translator or to designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member), the proposal should include a 1,000-word sample of the translation (submitted as a *Word* file); otherwise the Editorial Board will select a translator of accepted non-English material. The Editorial Board will approve or decline the proposals.

### Special Topics

#### *Translation*

*Deadline for submissions: 30 June 2021*

Coordinator: A. E. B. Coldiron (Florida State Univ. and Univ. of St Andrews)

In our era of increasing globalization, destabilized national boundaries, and mass migrations, it is not surprising that the complex and critical practice of translation has taken on new importance and sparked intense scholarly, cultural, and ideological debates in our profession. The time has passed when translations were valued for their faithfulness to an original and translators were considered servile copyists whose role was to remain invisible. Scholars now explore translation as a process of creative remaking: an inventive engagement with an earlier text and its literary

### Forthcoming in *PMLA*

#### IN OTHER ISSUES

- SHERIF ABDELKARIM. "On the Assassinations of Ibn al-Khaṭīb, Minister and Man of Letters"
- TYLER BRADWAY. "Queer Narrative Theory and the Relationality of Form"
- ALEXANDER FREER. "Romantic Microethics"
- JONATHAN GREENBERG. "Springtime for *Ulysses*"
- BENEDICT ROBINSON. "Resentment: Shakespeare and Nietzsche on Anger without Privilege"
- JULIE SINGER. "Fetal Personhood and Voice in Medieval French Literature"
- VANESSA SMITH. "Possible Persons: Dickensian Character, Violent Play"
- SHOUHEI TANAKA. "Fossil Fuel Fiction and the Geologies of Race"
- SHANE VOGEL. "*Waiting for Godot* and the Racial Theater of the Absurd"

#### *Criticism in Translation*

- GIORGIO AGAMBEN. "The 'Dark Night' of John of the Cross (1974)." Introduction and translation by Alberto Parisi
- LÍLIA MORITZ SCHWARCZ. "Racism in Brazil: When Inclusion Combines with Exclusion." Introduction and translation by Rex P. Nielson

#### *Little-Known Documents*

- JOHN M. OSKISON. "A Laboratory Fancy." Introduction by Alex Benson

and linguistic systems, usually tied to broader cultural or historical phenomena. Especially today, it is crucial to understand translations' mediated and mediating encounters with the foreign. A powerful, flexible instrument of contact and connection across time and space, translation is never inert; it is always a dynamic site of aesthetic and cultural negotiations.

The *PMLA* Editorial Board welcomes essays from any chronological period or language area that examine the art, practice, and discipline of translation. Ideally, essays will break new ground by analyzing particular translations and drawing general conclusions accessible and of interest to the broad *PMLA* readership. We seek essays that will address a wide range of questions and issues from varied viewpoints and using diverse methodologies. Essays might consider questions such as the following: What implications do translations have for literary history? What are the consequences for canons and curricula if we address literary "originality" as a problematic norm? How have the ethics of translation changed? How does translation function across media, between, for example, books and films, and what are the ramifications of intersemiotic processes? How might we better acknowledge and understand translation as a cultural force?

In a different vein, contributors may wish to explore the reception of translations or the reading or even teaching practices that working with a text in translation entails. How do we account for the historical specificity of a particular translation? How does the translator's own historical and linguistic context affect the original text? And how do we understand "untranslatability" or incommensurability across historical periods or cultures?

Scholarly approaches and disciplines such as cognitive science, memory studies, disability studies, gender studies, and the digital humanities, among others, could also be used fruitfully to examine translation in innovative ways. Scholars may wish to interrogate current hegemonies of language and the cultural power dynamics inherent in translation.

Such lines of inquiry are intended as suggestions, not restrictions: methodologies, language areas, periods, and topics are open. Essays engaging non-European languages are especially welcome.

### 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](http://www.mla.org/PMLA-Submissions)).