

March 2024  
Volume 139 Number 2

# PMLA

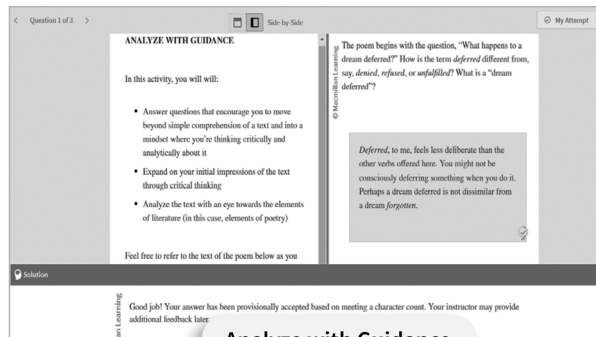
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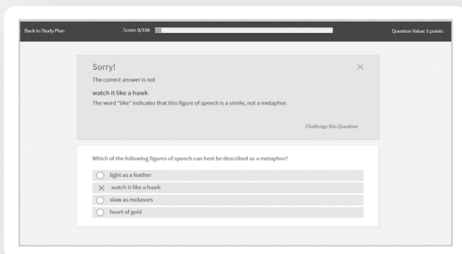
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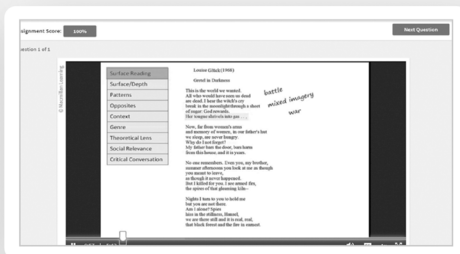


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# PMLA

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## 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.) Following the guidelines established by the journal's publishing partner, Cambridge University Press, AI tools cannot be considered authors of works submitted to the journal.

**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. (Uploading the submitted version of the article to an institutional repository does not count as previous publication.) Authors must fully cite in the manuscript, at submission, their use of all content (whether text, images, data, or other) created by an AI tool.

**Simultaneous 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. The MLA reserves the right not to consider submissions from authors who already have a submission under review with the journal, as well as the right to desk-reject submissions sent by the same author within a year of a previous submission to the journal.

**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 quotations in languages other than English.

**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

ALEXANDER ULLMAN. "Audre Lorde, Sound Theorist: Register, Silence, Vibrato, Timbre"

DAVY KNITTLE. "Unruly Vernacular Riverfront": Eileen Myles's Queer Persistence in the Changing Climate of New York"

MARIO DIGANGL. "Unfairing the Fair: Sexuality and the Affective Epistemology of Race in Shakespeare's *Sonnets*"

CLÉMENTINE FAURÉ-BELLAÏCHE. "The Protestant Connection in André Gide's *Les faux-monnayeurs* and French Literary Modernism"

ALEXANDER SHERMAN. "Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697–1829"

#### *Little-Known Documents*

"An Interview with Joseph Conrad in Cracow in 1914." Introduction and translation by Jean Szczypien

FRANZ KAFKA. "'Man-Eater' Variant to 'A Hunger-Artist.'" Introduction and translation by C. F. S. Creasy

#### *Theories and Methodologies*

##### Prompted by Large Language Models

Coordinated by Rita Raley and Matthew Kirschenbaum. Essays by Holly Dugan and Dolsy Smith, Junting Huang, Tim Laquintano and Annette Vee, Eduardo Ledesma, Meredith Martin, Seth Perlow, and Aarthi Vadde; response by Katherine Elkins

## Forthcoming in *PMLA*

### IN OTHER ISSUES

- ROBYN BARTLETT AND HOLLY CROCKER. "Dorigen's Boundless Subjectivity in Chaucer's Franklin's Tale"
- LYDIA COOPER. "The Body in Ruins: Queering Cli-Fi and the Trauma Novel in Omar El Akkad's *American War*"
- JONATHAN DAVIS-SECORD. "Trans Saints in Old English"
- RACHAEL DEWITT. "Thoreau, Gender, and the Ecology of Housework"
- SAMUEL DIENER. "Narration in the Key of 'We': The Voyage and the Grammar of Identity"
- HILLARY EKLUND, JENNIFER PARK, DEBAPRIYA SARKAR, AND AYANNA TENE THOMPSON. "Becoming Undisciplined: On Pathways to Environmental and Racial Justice in Early Modern Studies"
- GRAHAM HUGGAN AND SOPHIA NICOLOV. "The Animal That Remembers: History, Hauntology, and Animality in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Sylvia's Lovers* and Ian McGuire's *The North Water*"
- LITAL LEVY. "Diasporic World Literature: *The Vale of Cedars* in the Global Haskalah"
- GREGORY MACHACEK. "Prosodic Unrest in Shakespeare's Sonnets"
- NANDITA MAHAJAN. "From Elegy to Climate Bildungsroman: Jenni Fagan's *The Sunlight Pilgrims*"
- MAEVE MCCUSKER. "Headless Horror: Writing Decapitation in the French Caribbean Plantationocene"
- CARLA NEUSS. "Black Skin, White Eyes: Spiritual Efficacy and Racial Animatedness in *Yimimangaliso: The Mysteries*"
- KATARINA O'BRIAIN. "Phillis Wheatley's Georgics of Repair"

(continued)

### 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, a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted (as a *Word* file). The proposer may either serve as translator of the essay or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member).

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations.

### 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, the proposal should include a 1,000-word sample of the translation. The proposer may either serve as translator of the document or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member). The editorial board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations, if applicable.

### Special Topics

#### *Environmental Humanities in Practice*

*Deadline for submissions: 31 March 2025*

Coordinators: Christina Gerhardt (Univ. of Hawai'i, Mānoa) and Cajetan Iheka (Yale Univ.)

In tandem with the growing climate crisis, the environmental humanities has expanded to engage an increasing array of languages and literatures, as well as theories and methodologies in literary criticism. Graduate and undergraduate programs focusing on the environmental humanities have also been established at universities across the world to underscore the importance of humanistic values and interdisciplinary scholarship in tackling the planetary crisis. The exponential growth of the environmental humanities has transformed disciplinary practices, recalibrating the category of the human amid the unequal distribution of climatic privileges and risks and foregrounding relational processes across species and on

### Forthcoming in *PMLA* (continued)

CLAIRE SEILER. "J. G. Farrell's Lost Polio Novel"

ERIC STRAND. "Richard Wright and the Literary Popular Front: Progressive Antiracist Nationalism and the Postwar Birth of World Literature"

RYAN TRACY. "The Weather in Stein"

MIKKO TUHKANEN. "'Dreaming of Some Vanished Relationship': James Baldwin on Aesthetics and the Sacred"

ZHIYI YANG. "The Chairman's Voice: Revolutionary Classicism and Lyric Ventriloquism in Maoist China"

#### *Little-Known Documents*

"An Alternate Ending of C. L. R. James's *Minty Alley*." Introduction by Kaneesha Parsard

"Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's 'The Greek-Egyptian Poet Cavafy' and Atanasio Catraro's 'Meeting with Marinetti.'" Introduction and translations by Nicoletta Ascuto and Stephen Minta

"Three Documents from the Archive of Roma Enslavement." Introduction and translation by Anca Parvulescu, Adrian-Nicolae Furtuna, and Manuela Boatca

spatial and temporal scales. Taken together, the fields represented by the environmental humanities are best understood in practice. In practice, the literary field is a prominent space of intellection in the environmental humanities for its formal flexibility, imaginative possibilities, and representational capacities, especially as it concerns understudied voices and perspectives. Consequently, this special issue of *PMLA* asks, What is the affordance of literature for the environmental humanities as practiced in various cultural contexts? What constellations of practices in the environmental humanities emerge from its incubation as a scholarly, theoretical, and critical paradigm, specifically through the politics of literary representation and literature's salience for both pedagogical and activist projects? What literary modes, including experimental ones such as speculative climate fiction, have provided key points of intervention for the practice of the environmental humanities?

This special topic welcomes essays that address any language area or literary period and that assess the past, present, and future directions of the environmental humanities in practice. We seek essays from a wide range of vantage points and methodologies that articulate understandings of the environmental humanities that are accessible and of interest to the broad *PMLA* readership. Analyses of specific literary texts should emphasize the implications for the environmental humanities. We are particularly interested in submissions considering the environmental humanities as practiced beyond North America and Europe and in submissions on issues and conceptual frameworks arising from the Global South, especially those that examine the relationship between the environmental humanities and the imperative of decolonization across a variety of contexts. We also welcome submissions on the environmental humanities in relation to the following topics, among others: animal studies, Black ecologies, climate fiction, digital humanities, disability studies, ecopoetry, environmental justice, horror, Indigenous studies, petrocultures and petrofiction, plant studies, postcolonial studies, queer studies, speculative climate fiction, and trans studies. This list is intended as a suggestion not a restriction. The eras, languages, literatures, methodologies, and topics are open.

### 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)).