May 2021 Volume 136 Number 3

PMLA

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

Achie./e

Engage Every Student with

ACHIEVE INCLUDES

bedford st.martin's

Macmillan Learning

- **Close Reading Modules**
- Interactive E-book
- Instructor Feedback Tools
- Reporting and Insights
- Peer Review
- Revision Plan
- Source Check
- see our ad inside for more details

The content you trust *plus* the writing tools you need

Achieve puts student reading, writing, and revision at the core of your course, with interactive close reading modules, reading comprehension quizzes for the selections in the book, videos of professional writers and students discussing literary works, and a dedicated composition space that guides students through draft, review, source check, reflection, and revision.



or visit: macmillanlearning.com/PMLAMay2021

May 2021 Volume 136 Number 3

PMLA

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America

Published five times a year by the Modern Language Association of America and Cambridge University Press

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Organized 1883, Incorporated 1900

Officers FOR THE TERM ENDING 9 JANUARY 2022 President

BARBARA FUCHS University of California, Los Angeles

First Vice President CHRISTOPHER JOHN NEWFIELD University of California, Santa Barbara

Second Vice President Frieda Ekotto University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Executive Director PAULA M. KREBS

Executive Council

FOR THE TERM ENDING 9 JANUARY 2022 JEAN ELIZABETH HOWARD Columbia University ELIZABETH MATHEWS LOSH College of William and Mary LEAH RICHARDS LaGuardia Community College,

City University of New York RAMON SALDIVAR Stanford University

FOR THE TERM ENDING 8 JANUARY 2023 ANN KALSCHEUR SUAREZ MiraCosta College, CA ANJALI PRABHU Wellesley College JULIE SHOULTS Muhlenberg College

FOR THE TERM ENDING 7 JANUARY 2024 LISA KARAKAYA Graduate Center, City University of New York JAHAN RAMAZANI University of Virginia

Ignacio Sánchez Prado Washington University in St. Louis

FOR THE TERM ENDING 5 IANUARY 2025 ESTHER ALLEN Baruch College, City University of New York REBECCA COLESWORTHY State University of New York Press ERIN D. GRAFF ZIVIN University of Southern California

Trustees of Invested Funds

BARBARA FUCHS Ignacio Sánchez Prado WILLIAM H. JANEWAY (Managing Trustee) New York, New York Domna C. Stanton New York, New York CATHARINE R. STIMPSON New York, New York

$\mathsf{P}\mathsf{A}\mathsf{F}\mathsf{A}$

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Published five times a year

Available online at JSTOR and Cambridge Core; indexed in the MLA International Bibliography.

> Editor WAI CHEE DIMOCK Yale University

Director of Scholarly Communication ANGELA GIBSON

Associate Editors JOHN D. GOLBACH JOSEPH WALLACE

Senior Advertising Manager and Head of Periodical Publications Submissions Associate ANNABEL SCHNEIDER

Senior Editor BARNEY LATIMER

SARA PASTEL

Editorial Assistant ISABEL XIAOYUE GUAN

PMLA (ISSN 0030-8129) is published five times a year, in January, March, May, September, and October, by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, and the Modern Language Association of America. Membership in the association is open to persons who are professionally interested in the modern languages and literatures. Information about annual dues, which include subscription to PMLA, is available at www.mla.org/Membership/ About-Membership. Membership applications are available on request and at www.mla.org/ Membership/Join-the-MLA.

For libraries and other institutions, a subscription in 2021 to the print or electronic format of PMLA can be purchased through a Cambridge University Press library sales representative. Subscriptions include online access to the 2002-20 volumes. Single copies of issues for the current year and the previous one are also available for purchase. Claims for undelivered issues will be honored if they are received within six months of the publication date; thereafter the single-issue price will be charged. In the Americas, write to subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org. In all other parts of the world, write to journals@cambridge.org.

The MLA publication and editorial offices are located at 85 Broad Street, Suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434 (646 576-5000; pmlasubmissions@mla.org).

All communications concerning membership should be sent to Member and Administrative Services, MLA, 85 Broad Street, Suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434 (646 576-5151; membership@ mla.org).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.

© 2021 Published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the Modern Language Association of America. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. MLA and the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION are trademarks owned by the Modern Language Association of America.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 12-32040.

United States Postal Service Number 449-660.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PMLA, Member and Administrative Services, MLA, 85 Broad Street, Suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434.

326

Contents

- 329 Submitting Manuscripts to PMLA
- 330 Forthcoming in PMLA
- 330 Features in PMLA
- 333 Editor's Column—Refusing Extinction
- 340 Tale and Parable: Theorizing Fictions in the Old English Boethius JENNIFER A. LORDEN
- 356 Weltliteratur and Its Others: The Serbian Poem in Eckermann's Conversations with Goethe ENA SELIMOVIĆ
- 370 The Climates of the Victorian Novel: Seasonality, Weather, and Regional Fiction in Britain and Australia PHILIP STEER
- 386 Ubuntu Theater: Building a Human World in Yael Farber's Molora PHILLIP ZAPKIN

LITTLE-KNOWN DOCUMENTS

401 *Midnight: Astral Vision of a Moment of War* Ramón del Valle-Inclán Introduction and translation by Elizabeth Drumm

Theories and Methodologies

The Year 2020

- 417 The Shush Kyla Wazana Tompkins
- 424 A Great Fire Somewhere? Synchronous Living in Epochal Times JESSE OAK TAYLOR

Editorial Board

MAY 2021

HEATHER BLURTON, 2022 University of California, Santa Barbara GALEN BROKAW, 2021 Montana State University, Bozeman PETER J. KALLINEY, 2021 University of Kentucky MARY MCALPIN, 2022 University of Tennessee, Knoxville JOSEPHINE PARK, 2022 University of Pennsylvania ILYA VINITSKY, 2021 Princeton University

Advisory Committee

ERIC GARY ANDERSON, 2022 George Mason University Bernadette Andrea, 2021 University of California, Santa Barbara ARTURO ARIAS, 2023 University of California, Merced C. D. BLANTON, 2022 University of California, Berkeley TOBIAS BOES, 2022 University of Notre Dame KARL ASHOKA BRITTO, 2021 University of California, Berkeley JIM BROWN, 2023 Rutgers University, Camden KATHARINE CAPSHAW, 2022 University of Connecticut, Storrs NATALIA CECIRE, 2023 University of Sussex MICHAEL C. COHEN, 2022 University of California, Los Angeles JEFFREY N. COX, 2021 University of Colorado, Boulder JENNY DAVIDSON, 2022 Columbia University CESAR DOMINGUEZ, 2023 Universidade de Santiago de Compostela NATALIE EDWARDS, 2023 University of Adelaide, Adelaide MARTIN G. EISNER, 2022 Duke University MAUD ELLMANN, 2021 University of Chicago JACQUELINE ANN FAY, 2021 University of Texas, Arlington ERIN D. GRAFF ZIVIN, 2021 University of Southern California PAOLA S. HERNANDEZ, 2021 University of Wisconsin, Madison CATHERINE ELIZABETH INGRASSIA, 2021 Virginia Commonwealth University BONNIE LENORE KYBURZ, 2023 Northern Illinois University

(continued)

MAY 2021

Advisory Committee (continued)

KATHRYN LACHMAN, 2021 University of Massachusetts, Amherst JESSE MACLIESH LANDER, 2021 University of Notre Dame Leila Maria Lehnen, 2022 Brown University LITAL LEVY, 2021 Princeton University PETER MALLIOS, 2023 University of Maryland, College Park JANE OGDEN NEWMAN, 2022 University of California, Irvine MARIO ORTIZ-ROBLES, 2021 University of Wisconsin, Madison JUAN G. RAMOS, 2021 College of the Holy Cross Alan Rauch, 2022 University of North Carolina, Charlotte CHARLOTTE ROGERS, 2023 University of Virginia CARLOS ROJAS, 2021 Duke University MATTHEW ROWLINSON, 2023 Western University Ignacio Sánchez Prado, 2022 Washington University in St. Louis FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, 2023 Hunter College, City University of New York SUBRAMANIAN SHANKAR, 2023 University of Hawai'i, Mānoa DANIEL SHORE, 2023 Georgetown University VICTOR SIERRA MATUTE, 2022 New York University JONATHAN STONE, 2022 Franklin and Marshall College NATHAN SUHR-SYTSMA, 2023 Emory University ELISA TAMARKIN, 2022 University of California, Berkeley MIRIAM THAGGERT, 2021 University of Iowa ROBERT TRAIN, 2023 Sonoma State University ALEXANDRA K. WETTLAUFER, 2021 University of Texas, Austin

- 432 "We Were outside History": The Middle Ages in *Invisible Man* and the Struggle for Black Lives in 2020 CORD J. WHITAKER
- 441 On Entrenched Inequalities in the Research University: Activism and Teaching for Tenured Faculty Members JORGE CORONADO
- 447 Black Pagecraft KINOHI NISHIKAWA
- 455 Platform or Publisher AARTHI VADDE
- Black Lives Matter, W. E. B. Du Bois's World Color Line, and the Question of Relation
 EDLIE WONG
- 470 The End of English JESSE ALEMÁN
- 475 Pandemic Epistemology: Neoliberalism, Fascism, and Modernist Studies CLIFF MAK
- 483 In Memoriam

Index of Advertisers

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.)

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.

PMLA

Forthcoming in PMLA

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

Editor's Column

JULIE SINGER. "Fetal Personhood and Voice in Medieval French Literature"

TYLER BRADWAY. "Queer Narrative Theory and the Relationality of Form"

JONATHAN GREENBERG. "Springtime for *Ulysses*"

ALEXANDER FREER. "Romantic Microethics"

Criticism in Translation

LÍLIA MORITZ SCHWARCZ. "Racism in Brazil: When Inclusion Combines with Exclusion." Introduction and translation by Rex P. Nielson

Talks from the Convention

Afropolitanism

Introduction by Duncan McEachern Yoon; essays by Adélékè Adéèkó, Yogita Goyal, Janice Ho, Olabode Ibironke, and Monica Popescu

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).

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@mla.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): (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

Forthcoming in PMLA

IN OTHER ISSUES

- SHERIF ABDELKARIM. "On the Assassinations of Ibn al-Khaṭīb, Minister and Man of Letters"
- PRASHANT KESHAVMURTHY. "Two Interpretive Postures and Two Kinds of Friendship in Mughal Commentaries on Sa'dī's *Gulistān*"
- BENEDICT ROBINSON. "Resentment: Shakespeare and Nietzsche on Anger without Privilege"
- VANESSA SMITH. "Possible Persons: Dickensian Character, Violent Play"
- MAGGIE SOLBERG. "Imagining the Bob and Wheel"
- 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

Little-Known Documents

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

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): (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 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).