



South Central Modern Language Association

Affiliated with the Modern Language Association of America

76th Annual Convention in Little Rock, Pathways: Past, Present and Future

The 76th annual South Central Modern Language Association conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 24-26 at the Marriott Downtown. As in years past, a wide variety of topics were explored and discussed throughout the conference. Some of the Special Session Topics this year included: Creative Writing/Playwriting; Literature Pedagogy; The Search for Identity in French and Francophone Literature and Film. The convention featured a total of 144 sessions and more than 350 conference participants. The South Central Modern Language Association is fortunate to have successful conferences year after year.

SCMLA continued its tradition of offering a Job Seekers Workshop and Mock Interviews to help members prepare for entering the job force. Both events were a major success and will continue to be offered at future SCMLA conferences. This year the conference also featured a roundtable titled "Strategies for Getting Published." The roundtable featured *South Central Review* managing editor, Nick Lawrence, *South Central Review* book review editor, Christopher Bundrick, and Associate Editor of *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, Sara K. Day. The roundtable was a huge success and enjoyed by members. Because of the popularity of the roundtable, SCMLA would like to continue this event at future conferences.

We would like to thank all those who participated in and attended the conference in Little Rock. Your contributions helped to make this year's conference a success!

FACEBOOK & Twitter:

Please follow our Facebook page: @SouthCentralModernLanguageAssociation

Our Twitter handle is @SouthCentralMLA

SCMLA has a new Staff Assistant!

Kyla Thompson recently joined the association as the Executive Director's Assistant. Kyla may be reached at scmla@ou.edu or 405-325-6011.

2020 SCMLA Conference

**October 8-10
Houston, Texas**

The Call for Papers for Houston 2020 is listed later in this edition of the Newsletter. Topics are varied and can accommodate research on a broad range of subjects. We also accept Special Session proposals on topics beyond the conference theme.

2020 Conference Theme: "Politics of Protest"

The South Central Modern Languages Association has chosen Houston, Texas for the site of its 2020 annual convention.

Awarded by South Central Review:

2019 Kirby Prize for the Best Article Published in The South Central Review

And the winner of the Kirby Prize for best SCR essay of 2019 is Marina Trninic, for her article "Edgar Allan Poe's Tarred and Feathered Bodies: Imagining Race, Questioning Bondage, and Marking Humanity." Trninic's article appeared in our Fall 2018 issue (35.3), which was a Special Issue entitled "New Perceptions on the American Literary Renaissance: Essays in Honor of Larry J. Reynolds." Marina is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Honors College at the University of Houston, and she specializes in nineteenth-century American literature.

Recognition of 2019 Grant & Award Winners

In 2019, the following members received awards from SCMLA:

SCMLA Faculty Research Travel Grant
Alexander J. McNair

SCMLA Short Story Prize
Allie Mariano

SCMLA Prize for the Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies
Alana King

SCMLA Poetry Prize
Anthony Rintala and Deborah Phelps

SCMLA offers up to \$15,000 in grants and prizes in 2020!

The association is pleased to support the original research of our members with the SCMLA Research Award in the amount of \$1500, open to scholars who have completed the PhD. In addition, the SCMLA also offers a Research Award for Temporary Faculty and In-dependent Scholars in the amount of \$1500 (open to eligible members who have completed the terminal degree in their area and do not hold a regular faculty position.)

Our full list of grants, awards, and paper prizes can be found in the pages of this newsletter and at <http://www.southcentralmla.org/grants-awards>

2020 Grants & Awards

2020 SCMLA PAPER PRIZES

Eligibility Requirements:

For most awards, applicants must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. Graduate Student and travel grant applicants must have been members for at least one full year. SCMLA Executive Committee members are ineligible. Deadlines are all in 2020. For more information, see our website:

<http://www.southcentralmla.org>

SCMLA GRANTS

SCMLA FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT—\$1500
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2020

SCMLA GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT—\$500
at the dissertation stage
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 10, 2020

SCMLA RESEARCH AWARD—\$1500
Open to all eligible members who have completed the PhD
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 10, 2020

SCMLA RESEARCH AWARD FOR TEMPORARY FACULTY AND INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS—\$1500
Only eligible members who have completed the terminal degree for their area and do not hold regular faculty positions may apply
APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 10, 2020

SCMLA CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS
Up to \$500 for Graduate Students (at the doctoral level), Faculty, and Independent Scholars
APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2020

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:
Career Achievement in Research—\$750
Service to the Profession—\$750

Nominations for the Career Achievement Awards should be sent to scmla@ou.edu by March 31, 2020 and should include a letter detailing the nominee's achievements. The Awards Committee may also nominate members for these awards. Self-nominations for these awards are not allowed.

Members scheduled to present appropriate work in our Regular/Allied and Special Sessions at the Fall 2020 conference are encouraged to compete for our conference paper and writing prizes. Submissions must have been accepted in a session for the current year; may be nominated by a session chair or by the author; must represent new, previously unrepresented and unpublished work; must be typed and double-spaced, using 12-pt. type size; must observe a 3,500 word limit (winners agree to shorten papers for 15-20 minute delivery); and be **received by August 31, 2020 via email to the SCMLA office. Entries must be submitted in English except in the case of the Andrist prize**, for which entries in Spanish and Portuguese are also acceptable.

Submissions must include a cover sheet with the paper title and the name of the prize being sought (papers may compete for one prize only); the cover sheet must OMIT the writer's name and address. Winners will be notified by mid-September and will be expected to attend the SCMLA Business Meeting at the Annual Conference where their names will be announced.

SCMLA Short Story Prize—\$500

SCMLA Prize for the Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies—\$250

SCMLA Prize for the Best Paper in Historical, Literary, and/or Cultural Studies (Graduate Students)—\$250

SCMLA Poetry Prize—\$500

SCMLA BOOK AWARD—\$500

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2020

Scholarly and critical books and editions published in English in 2019 by SCMLA members are eligible for the 2020 prize. Books published in a language other than English will be considered if a translation of the book into English is provided.

Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted from members or from the publisher of an eligible book. Send **two copies** of the nominated book by **March 31, 2020** to the SCMLA office.

Nominees must be current SCMLA members and must have been members for the previous two years. The successful candidate for the SCMLA Book Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting in Houston, Texas.

Professional Development Opportunities: Workshops, Mock Interviews, and More!

The 2020 Conference in Houston will feature professional development opportunities designed to be helpful to members at all career stages. In addition to a workshop for job-seekers and mock interviews, we will also hold a roundtable with journal editors. Be sure to look for these exciting events in the 2020 Convention Program.

We Invite Regional and National Associations to Hold Allied Sessions at the SCMLA Conference in Houston

The South Central MLA invites regional or national associations for scholars in fields of cultural studies, literature, linguistics, philosophy, theory, visual arts, and other areas of the humanities to form an allied session at our annual convention. Forming an allied session is an excellent opportunity for associations that would like to meet more frequently or for small associations that do not have the resources to plan a regularly scheduled conference. Association presidents, executive directors, or officers may write directly to scmla@ou.edu for details.

Friends Membership

We are pleased to offer special benefits to those who renew or join as Friends of the South Central MLA, a membership category that allows members to make a tax-deductible donation to the organization by contributing at a higher optional annual membership rate. This support allows the association to offer new research and conference travel grants, and to subsidize low graduate student rates. Please consider purchasing a membership at the Silver (\$150), Gold (\$300), or Platinum (\$500) level when you renew your membership this year. Friends of the SCMLA receive an invitation to a special reception at the annual convention.

Reminders for Conference Participants:

You must be a current member to propose a paper or otherwise participate in a Regular or Special session. Please renew your membership before sending a paper proposal to a session chair or a session proposal to our office.

**In addition to the paying membership fee, conference participants must register for the conference by August 31, 2020.

Please note: At the Fall 2014 meeting, SCMLA's Executive Committee approved a change to conference submission procedures: double submissions of abstracts are no longer allowed. Members may send a proposal to only one academic session and one creative writing session.

Accommodating abstracts: If a high quality abstract cannot be accommodated in the session to which it is submitted, the chair should forward it to the SCMLA office, which will try to find an alternate placement for the abstract. Alternately, the Chair may, with the consent of the submitter, contact other sessions that might be able to accommodate the abstract and ask if they have space.

Splitting Sessions: If a session chair receives five or more abstracts of high academic merit, s/he may petition to split the session into 2 or more panels. Please email scmla@ou.edu to ask about this option.

We ask that chairs wait to confirm the acceptance of additional presenters until we verify that there will be adequate space to split the session. Requests to split sessions will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. SCMLA members who present work on a creative writing session may also deliver an academic paper at the conference as in the past.

The South Central Review Invites Ideas and Submissions

The South Central Review is edited by **Richard J. Golsan**, University Distinguished Professor of French and Director of the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University. SCR is published by Johns Hopkins University Press and archived by Project Muse and is the official publication of the South Central Modern Language Association. Managing Editor **Nick Lawrence** (University of South Carolina—Lancaster) welcomes submissions and ideas for special projects and issues on a wide range of topics concerning literature, culture, and the arts. Members may contact him at: lawrennm@mailbox.sc.edu

New and Retiring Executive Committee Members

Executive Committee members who will begin service in 2020 are:

Lisette Blanco-Cerda
(Vice-president)

Joy Smith
(American Literature)

Lowry Martin
(At-Large)

Sara Day
(At-Large)

Luvia Estrella Morales
(Graduate Student)

Congratulations to all of you!

The Executive Office warmly thanks retiring EC members **Sylvia Moran** of University of Tennessee - Martin (Past President), and **Maria Perez** (At-Large) for their contributions to governance and their service to the profession. It has been a pleasure working with you!

SCMLA 2020 Executive Committee

Paul Nelson, **President**
Louisiana Tech University
pbnelson@gmail.com

Lisette Blanco-Cerda, **Vice President**
Tarrant County College
lisette.blanco-cerda@tccd.edu

Lynn Alexander, **Past President**
University of Tennessee - Martin
lalexand@utm.edu

José Juan Colín, **Executive Director**
University of Oklahoma
josejuan@ou.edu

Richard J. Golsan, **Editor** (2013-2020)
South Central Review
Texas A&M University - College Station
rjgolsan@aol.com

Nicholas Lawrence, **Managing Editor** (2013-2020)
South Central Review
University of North Carolina Lancaster
lawrennm@mailbox.sc.edu

Jessica Murphy, English (2018-2020)
University of Texas at Dallas
jessica.c.murphy@utdallas.edu

Jane Evans, French (2020-2022)
University of Texas – El Paso
jeevans@utep.edu

Sarah Tusa, German (2019-2021)
Lamar University
tusasd@lamar.edu

Annachiara Mariani, Russian and Less-Commonly-Taught Languages (2018-2020)
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
amariani@utk.edu

Susana Perea-Fox, Spanish (2018-2020)
Oklahoma State University
susana.perea-fox@okstate.edu

Sara Day, At-Large (2019-2021)
Truman State University
sdav@truman.edu

Lowry Martin, At Large (2020-2022)
University of Texas – El Paso
lmartin@utep.edu

Joy Smith, American Literature (2020-2022)
Bossier Parish Community College
josmith@bpcc.edu

Luvia Estrella Morales, Graduate Student (2019-2020) University of Oklahoma
luvia.e.morales.rodriguez-1@ou.edu