This year’s presidential theme, Avenues of Access, is bound by the multivalence of the term access:

**Student access to higher education.** What role, if any, should scholarly associations play in making higher education more accessible for students?

**Access to tenure-track jobs for PhDs.** What can we do to make higher education more accessible for new PhDs?

**Access and disability studies in the humanities.** Does disability change what we know about narrative, textuality, and aesthetics? How can our classroom practices accommodate students with intellectual disabilities?

**Open access and scholarly communication.** How can the MLA continue to rethink the dissertation and encourage questions about the future of peer review, publication, and intellectual property?

I hope that you will take a moment to read about the 2013 convention sessions related to Avenues of Access, and I look forward to meeting you in Boston.

—Michael Bérubé
2012 MLA President
Avenues of Access is the theme of the Presidential Forum at the 2013 MLA Annual Convention. The following are the programs for the Presidential Forum and its linked sessions.

**Presidential Forum**

**Thursday, 3 January**

112. The Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access: Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members and American Higher Education

5:15–7:00 p.m., Constitution Ballroom, Sheraton

**Presiding:** Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park

1. “Free-Market Faculty Members: The Adjunct Project and the Disposable Professor,” Joshua Boldt, Univ. of Georgia
2. “Human Resources: Employment Practices and the Future University,” Elizabeth Landers, Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis
3. “Addressing the Scarlet A: Adjuncts and the Academy,” Maria Maisto, New Faculty Majority
4. “Reinventing Access: Free Public Higher Education, Quality Instruction, and Job Security for All Faculty Members,” Robert Samuels, Univ. of California, Los Angeles

**Friday, 4 January**

353. Avenues of Access: Digital Humanities and the Future of Scholarly Communication

3:30–4:45 p.m., Republic Ballroom, Sheraton

A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access

**Presiding:** Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park

1. “The Mirror and the LAMP,” Matthew Kirschenbaum, Univ. of Maryland, College Park
3. “Resistance in the Materials,” Bethany Nowviskie, Univ. of Virginia

Saturday, 5 January

570. Avenues of Access: The State of Disability Studies
1:45–3:00 p.m., Republic Ballroom, Sheraton
A linked session arranged in conjunction with The Presidential Forum: Avenues of Access
Presiding: Michael Bérubé, Penn State Univ., University Park

2. “Just Getting In/It: The MLA, Disability Studies, and Access,” Brenda Jo Brueggemann, Ohio State Univ., Columbus
4. “Disability Studies on Fire,” Tobin Siebers, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Presidential Forum Participants

Rachel Adams
Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Columbia University

Michael Bérubé
Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature
Penn State University, University Park
Joshua Boldt
Instructor of English
University of Georgia

Brenda Jo Brueggemann
Professor of English and Disability Studies
Ohio State University, Columbus

Cathy N. Davidson
Ruth F. DeVarney Professor of English
John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Duke University

Rosemarie Garland-Thomson
Professor of Women’s Studies and English
Emory University

Matthew Kirschenbaum
Associate Professor of English
Associate Director of MITH
University of Maryland, College Park
Elizabeth Landers
Director of Language Programs
Assistant Teaching Professor in French
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Maria Maisto
President of the New Faculty Majority
Executive Director of the NFM Foundation

Bethany Nowviskie
Director of Digital Research and Scholarship
University of Virginia

Robert Samuels
Lecturer in the Writing Programs
University of California, Los Angeles

Tobin Siebers
V. L. Parrington Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2013 Presidential Theme Sessions

The following is a list of sessions related to the presidential theme, Avenues of Access, arranged by divisions, discussion groups, allied and affiliate organizations, and individual members.

Thursday, 3 January

21. Avenues of Access for Recent PhDs
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Fairfax B, Sheraton
A special session

22. Expanding Access: Building Bridges within Digital Humanities
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 205, Hynes
A special session

71. A More Capacious Conception: Digital Scholarship and Tenure
1:45–3:00 p.m., Public Garden, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition

86. Owing: On Student (and Other) Debt
3:30–4:45 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Delegate Assembly

88. Age, Obsolescence, and New Media
3:30–4:45 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Age Studies

129. Teaching in the Shallows: Reading, Writing, and Teaching in the Digital Age
5:15–6:30 p.m., Berkeley, Sheraton
A special session

139. On Cognitive Approaches to Literature, Disability Studies, and Being Wrong
5:15–6:30 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton
A special session
163. Tweeting the Revolution: Networked Media, the Rhetorics of Activism, and Practices of the Everyday
7:00–8:15 p.m., Gardner, Sheraton
A special session

165. Beyond the PDF: Experiments in Open-Access Scholarly Publishing
7:00–8:15 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

Friday, 4 January

198. Convergent Histories of the Book: From Manuscript to Digital
8:30–9:45 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

210. Disability Studies in the Italian Context
8:30–9:45 a.m., 205, Hynes
Program arranged by the Division on Twentieth-Century Italian Literature

236. Representations of Cultural Resistance: Deafness and Power
10:15–11:30 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

237. Access to What? A Roundtable on Public Scholarship, Community Engagement, and Diversity
10:15–11:30 a.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton
A special session

268. Disability Discourses: Bodily Selves and the Embodiment of Deviance
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

270. How Did I Get Here? Our “Altac” Jobs
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Back Bay B, Sheraton
A special session
306. Disability Studies, the MLA, and the AAUP Report “Accommodating Faculty Members Who Have Disabilities”
1:45–3:00 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

319. The Future of the PhD in Postsecondary Teaching
1:45–3:00 p.m., 203, Hynes
Program arranged by the Division on Teaching as a Profession and the Division on the History and Theory of Rhetoric and Composition

332. The Experience of Class in the Academy
1:45–3:00 p.m., 201, Hynes
Program arranged by the Division on Sociological Approaches to Literature

354. Gender and Contingent Labor
3:30–4:45 p.m., The Fens, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages and the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession

368. Debt Theory
3:30–4:45 p.m., Fairfax B, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Society for Critical Exchange

382. Enabling Access: Gower and Premodern Disability Studies
5:15–6:30 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

401. Digital Archives and Their Margins
5:15–6:30 p.m., Berkeley, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Bibliography and Textual Studies

Saturday, 5 January

438. Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members in the Modern Languages: Issues and Directions
8:30–9:45 a.m., Liberty A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Contingent Labor in the Profession
440. How I Got Started in Digital Humanities: New Digital Projects from DHCommons
8:30–9:45 a.m., Commonwealth, Sheraton
A special session

441. Disability in Jane Eyre: The Madwoman and the Blindman
8:30–9:45 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

472. LGBTQI Graduate Students and Academia
10:15–11:30 a.m., Beacon D, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Graduate Student Caucus

485. Inventing New Journals: The Pressures for and against New Scholarly Publications
10:15–11:30 a.m., Riverway, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals

507. New Archives, Renewed Access: Research Methodologies in Latin American Collections
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 301, Hynes
A special session

510. Disabled Bodies and African American Literature, 1859–1946
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
A special session

524. Thinking Success outside the Classroom: The PhD as Preparation for Diverse Career Opportunities
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 209, Hynes
Program arranged by the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages and the Association of Departments of English

545. Experimental Theory: From The Arcades Project to The Telephone Book and Beyond
1:45–3:00 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Division on Literature and Other Arts
562. Digital Dictionaries  
1:45–3:00 p.m., Public Garden, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Lexicography

581. Getting an Education at Occupy Boston: A Roundtable on Intellectual Activism  
3:30–4:45 p.m., Back Bay D, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Radical Caucus in English and the Modern Languages

583. Intellectual and Cognitive Disability Studies  
3:30–4:45 p.m., Beacon F, Sheraton  
A special session

599. L’apprentissage du français comme voie d’accès au 21e siècle  
3:30–4:45 p.m., 203, Hynes  
Program arranged by the Conseil International d’Études Francophones

619. Program Discontinuance on the Rise?  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Jefferson, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the American Association of University Professors

631. Literary Theory and American Sign Language Literature  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession

637. Open Access? ECCO, EEBO, and Digital Resources  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Commonwealth, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Division on Restoration and Early-Eighteenth-Century English Literature

644. Pedagogy of the Precariat: From Conference to Classroom to Community  
5:15–6:30 p.m., Liberty C, Sheraton  
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Part-Time Faculty Members
Sunday, 6 January

669. Social Media and Scholarship: The State of Middle-State Publishing
8:30–9:45 a.m., Beacon A, Sheraton
A special session

694. “This Is Not the Ivy Tower”: Scholarship at Community Colleges
8:30–9:45 a.m., Liberty B, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Community Colleges

696. Disability and the Coloniality of Power
10:15–11:30 a.m., Hampton, Sheraton
Program arranged by the MLA Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession

702. South Asian-izing the Digital Humanities
10:15–11:30 a.m., 209, Hynes
A special session

12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Hampton, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on Computer Studies in Language and Literature

754. Negotiating Feminist Issues in Pedagogy, Activism, and Administration at Community Colleges
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., Beacon D, Sheraton
Program arranged by the Women’s Caucus for the Modern Languages

767. Rewards and Challenges of Serial Scholarship
1:45–3:00 p.m., Liberty A, Sheraton
A special session

795. Literature and Digital Pedagogies
1:45–3:00 p.m., Fairfax A, Sheraton
A special session