



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Mississippi Philological Association (MPA) will hold its annual meeting **February 26-27, 2027**, at the Mitchell Memorial Library on the Mississippi State University campus. MSU Libraries is home to the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and the Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana. Given the historical associations with these assets, the planning committee has designated ***Reconstructions and Reimaginings*** as the theme for MPA 2027.

Developments in literature, language, and culture gain impetus from the dual impulses of **reconstruction** (restoring, analyzing, and interrogating historical and cultural narratives, linguistic structures, and archives of various kinds) and **reimagining** (envisioning different pasts, possible futures, speculative models, and innovations in form, genre, and canon). How do literature, language, and culture engage in the imaginative work of remaking the natural world, built environments, and lived experiences past and present? How do social, historical, economic, and political forces and movements shape and take shape from literary, cultural, and linguistic texts and practices? How do texts represent the possibilities and limitations of efforts to reconstruct and reimagine society and culture?

We invite proposals for individual papers/presentations, panels, and roundtables focused on analyzing works of literature and culture (film, television, music, social media/internet content); creative writing; pedagogical approaches to linguistics and the humanities; and demonstrations or discussions of digital projects, public scholarship, or archival collections and materials related to the study of language, literature, and culture.

Scholars ranging from established to emerging (including graduate and advanced undergraduate students) are welcome to submit proposals. Over the years, MPA has fostered a cordial and supportive environment for sharing research and receiving constructive feedback.

MPA 2027 will feature the following as part of the meeting schedule:

**Keynote by Diamond Forde.** [Diamond Forde](#) is the author of *The Book of Alice* (Scribner, 2026), winner of the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets, and *Mother Body* (Saturnalia Books, 2021). Forde's talk will be open to MPA participants and to the public.

**The Future of Mississippi Literary History.** This plenary roundtable discussion will honor the life and work of Dr. Lorie Watkins Massey, a longtime supporter of MPA and of *Publications of the Mississippi Philological Association (POMPA)*. Participants will reflect on *A Literary History of Mississippi* (Heritage of Mississippi Series, University Press of Mississippi), edited by Dr. Massey, ten years after its publication and discuss what the past decade suggests about what Mississippi literary history might look like down the line.

**Benjamin F. Fisher Panel on 19<sup>th</sup>-century American Literature.** All proposals for critical presentations on works from 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature will be considered. Papers on literature of the Reconstruction era are especially encouraged. This panel is dedicated to Dr. Fisher, who was a professor of English at the University of Mississippi and a frequent presenter at MPA on topics related to the study of 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature.

**Robert Hamblin Creative Panel.** All creative writing proposals will be considered. Dr. Hamblin, a native of Booneville, MS, and professor emeritus at Southeast Missouri State University, received his doctoral degree from the University of Mississippi before joining the faculty of SEMO, where he founded and led the Center for Faulkner Studies. He has published numerous volumes of poetry in addition to novels and memoirs.

Individual papers/presentations/demonstrations. Submit a 300-word abstract and a bio in the range of 50-100 words.

Panel/roundtable proposals. Include an overview in the range of 300-500 words and a 300-word abstract for each paper or presentation. Also submit a 50-100-word bio for each presenter.

Click on the link below to submit a proposal.

**MPA 2027**

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

Submission deadline: **November 23, 2026**

If you have any questions, please contact the chair of the MPA 2027 planning committee, Ted Atkinson, at [mpa2027msu@gmail.com](mailto:mpa2027msu@gmail.com).

Committee members: Kate Gregory, MSU Libraries; Brett Hanley, MSU Department of English; Sol Pelaez, MSU Department of Classical & Modern Languages and Literatures; Kemeshia Randle Swanson, MSU Department of English