

**78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the College Language Association :**  
**Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis**  
**April 4-7, 2018**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**Call for Papers**

Participants from all continents are encouraged to submit their proposals for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the College Language Association scheduled for April 4-7, 2018, and hosted by DePaul University, in Chicago, Illinois. We invite proposals that engage with the theme of the convention, “Native Sons/Daughters and Immigrants in the Black Metropolis.” The theme was chosen to foster reflections informed by Richard Wright’s novel, *Native Son*, and its intersections with history, sociology/anthropology and cultural studies; and its connection with St. Clair Drake and Horace Cayton’s book, *Black Metropolis*.

Who are the native sons/daughters? Do they feel “at home” in their “native” land? What evidence reveals the levels of comfort or discomfort felt by those born and reared in the metropolis? Considering the #BlackLivesMatter concerns, are the sons and daughters of Chicago or any other major metropolis safe and secure?

Educators, scholars, literary critics, linguists, rhetoricians, translators/interpreters, historians, sociologists, anthropologists, journalists, fiction/nonfiction writers, playwrights, filmmakers, artists, civil right leaders/activists, and students, etc. are invited to explore the complexity of various migrations (before, during and after the Great Migration to Chicago) experienced by the African and African Diaspora from the South to the North. In other words, it is important to discuss not only the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Great Migration of African American toward Chicago, but also the relentless Great (Im)migration of African and Africa Diaspora toward the “Great” North, i.e. the Americas, and Europe, that creates a Black Atlantic, Black Mediterranean, Black Pacific and Black Caribbean Metropolis, or a “Southside” as a liminal space.

Chicago boasts a rich cultural legacy, evident through poetry, prose (fiction and nonfiction), journalism, drama, speech, music, film/television, and visual arts. The influence of these cultural productions abounds within and outside the United States. Proposals are welcome to celebrate the contributions of black authors and publications associated with Chicago, such as Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ida B. Wells, Willard Motley, Lorraine Hansberry, Langston Hughes, Barack Obama, and *The Chicago Defender*.

The conference aims overall to critically analyze how Black Metropolis was/is a historical, social and racial construct of a segregated Chicago, or “segregated” societies whereas African/Diaspora immigrants live in the world; why black immigration was/is a white identity threat; what mechanisms African, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latino immigrants in US use to renegotiate their identities within the wider African-American

identity; how speeches and cultural productions on immigration shape new meanings and languages; and what could be the role of translation/interpretation on the dialogues and the circulation of knowledge between African American and the African/Diaspora immigrants; or the dialogue between African/Diaspora and African American immigrants, such as Claude McKay and Richard Wright himself, etc.

Topics of proposals may include, but not limited to the following \*:

- Representation of Black immigration in cultural productions and/or sociological analysis
- Urban or Suburban Spaces or Places in cultural productions
- Connections between the Chicago Renaissance and the Harlem Renaissance
- The Chicago Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement
- The Chicago Renaissance and other Renaissances
- Writers, Musicians, Artists of the Chicago Renaissance
- International/Global Contexts for the Chicago Renaissance
- Literary or Film Representations of Chicago or Other Metropolitan Environments Nationally and Internationally
- *The Chicago Defender* and Social Justice
- Examining Richard Wright's *Native Son* within 21<sup>st</sup> Century Contexts: US, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Europe
- Richard Wright's Legacy in Fiction and Nonfiction
- Gwendolyn Brooks and Her Influence Upon Contemporary Poets, including Haki Madhubuti
- Gwendolyn Brooks and Chicago
- Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and film adaptations
- Identity in Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black*
- Lorraine Hansberry's Contributions to Dramatic Literature
- Willard Motley and Diasporic Literature
- Depictions of Chicago or other locations of Black Immigrants in Autobiography or Memoir
- Chicago's Legacy and Music
- Digital Humanities and Immigration
- Social Media and Immigration
- Gender and Immigration in cultural productions
- Cross-Examination of Race and Immigration
- Social Mobility, Immigration, and Popular Culture
- Immigration, Religion, and Metropolitan Sites in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, arts, film/television, or drama
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to *Southside with you* – A biographical film about Barack and Michelle Obama
- Rhetoric of Immigration: between rhetoric of national frontiers and rhetoric of identity threat in film/television and social media
- Southside, Inner City, *Banlieues* (France), *Favelas* (Brazil), *Colón* (Panamá), *Limón* (Costa Rica) in film and television: from social classes to race confinement in Black Metropolis, Black Neighborhoods, and Black Settlements

- Afro-Epistemological Approaches to the construction of Black Immigration as rites and right of passage in Fatou Diome's *Le ventre de l'Atlantique* and Donato Ndongo's *El Metro*
- Interpretation/Translation as tools for the circulation of knowledge and dialogues between Black Atlantic, Black Mediterranean and Black Pacific
- Cross-generational responses to migration: generational divisions regarding issues of adjustment and assimilation
- Language/ linguistic analysis of the influence of migration

\*Submissions relevant to other topics connected with the 2018 theme for the CLA Convention are also welcome and will be considered.

**Proposal Deadlines:**

The deadline to send the proposals is October 15, 2017.

Answers to the submissions will be made before or by November 15, 2017.

**Languages of the Convention:**

Participants will be welcome to present in English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish, which are the official languages of the 78<sup>th</sup> Convention.