

## Welcome to the Hudson Valley!

Marist University and I are excited to have you visit our home in Poughkeepsie, New York, on the banks of the Hudson River—a tidal estuary that has been important to people living in this area for ages, beginning with the Algonquins, who called the Hudson Valley home for ages before the first European settlers arrived. After Henry Hudson sailed up the river, waves of Dutch and English immigrants settled in the area. The name Poughkeepsie seems to be an English re-spelling of the Dutch rendering of what the Wappinger people called the area. It's fascinating how history builds on itself like that, leaving little traces of who was here.

### Conference registration

To register for the conference, click [this link to go to the EasyChair site](#). There you can register yourself and pay for the conference and the banquet. You will need to provide proof that you have paid your annual membership.

If you need to join IALJS or renew your membership, go to the [IALJS site](#) here.

### Traveling to Poughkeepsie

If you are flying into the area, you will most likely arrive at one of the three primary New York City–area airports. Newark Liberty International Airport is easiest for those of you who plan to rent a car and drive to the area. John F. Kennedy International Airport is probably the easiest for those who want to take the train to Poughkeepsie. LaGuardia Airport is also an option, and has been recently, impressively renovated. There is a small commercial airport in nearby New Windsor, New York called Stewart. There is a once-daily flight to Stewart from Reykjavik, Iceland on Play Airlines, which connects to several cities in Europe. There are also flights from Florida and South Carolina.

Poughkeepsie is easily accessible by car. From points south or north, you will probably take the New York State Thruway, the Taconic River Parkway, or Interstate 684. Interstate 84 will give you east/west access.

The Poughkeepsie train station, designed by the same architects who designed New York's Grand Central, is served both by Amtrak and the Metro-North Railroad, the commuter service from New York City ([use the Train Time app](#)). Amtrak runs out of New York Penn Station. You can catch Metro-North from Grand Central Terminal. Amtrak is a little bit more comfortable and faster, but it is also less frequent and more expensive. Metro-North runs hourly, and more often at peak times. Both trains travel at river level up the Hudson and have terrific views. If you sit on the left side of the train (in the direction of travel), you can see the George Washington, Tappan Zee, and Bear Mountain bridges; the New Jersey Palisades; the United States Military Academy at West Point; and [a romantically crumbling "castle"](#) on an island in the middle of the river that was actually a warehouse for a 19<sup>th</sup> Century military surplus dealer named Bannerman. It's in ruins because military surpluses are prone to explode.

### Conference site

The conference will take place in Marist University's [Dyson Center](#), which opened in August, 2024. Our plenary sessions will be held on the ground floor, with breakout rooms on the fourth level enjoying views of the river.

### Reception and banquet venues

The first night cocktail reception will take place in the historic [Cornell Boathouse](#), which did belong to Cornell University in the days when the Hudson River was the site of the annual [collegiate championship regatta](#).

The conference banquet will be held at [The Governess](#), a waterfront restaurant in a building that was originally an ice house for collecting the giant blocks that were hewn out of the frozen river.

## Lodging

The official conference hotel is the Inn at Bellefield, a new hotel in Hyde Park, New York that is across the street from the Culinary Institute of America. IALJS has secured a group rate for the conference of \$199.00 USD per night for a studio king suite. The Inn at Bellefield is operated by Marriott for those of you who use loyalty programs. Book by 28 April 2025 to secure this rate and use this link: [Book your group rate for The International Association of Literary Journalism Studies](#). The Inn at Bellefield is best accessed by car. If you won't have a car at the conference, you could always organize a ride with someone who does or from the local host. There are also taxis and car share services such as Lyft and Uber.

For those who would prefer a more pedestrian experience, the [DoubleTree Poughkeepsie](#) is a short walk from both the train station and the conference banquet venue. The hotel is currently under renovation, and work should be substantially complete by the time of the conference. It is also possible to walk to Marist University from the hotel (it is about 25 minutes), and it is quite pleasant in good weather.

## Dining

- The Culinary Institute of America has [three full-service restaurants](#) which are operated as upper-level classes for students. One class runs the kitchen, and another learns front-of-house service. Bocuse is a French restaurant. American Bounty serves American farm-to-table dishes. And Caterina de' Medici is Italian. Bocuse and American Bounty are both in the main CIA building, which was originally a Catholic seminary. Book these restaurants in advance if you want to eat there. The main building also has a casual café, open for lunch, called Apple Pie Bakery. Those in the know, though, will go to the student center building and eat at [The Egg](#), which is the student dining facility, but also open to the public. Cafeteria-style dining at a high level.
- [Palace Dumplings](#): authentic northern Chinese dumplings with a huge selection of fillings, as well as soups, appetizers, rice, and noodles. Across the street from the Marist campus.
- [Moonrise Bagels](#): Some traditional New York style bagels but mostly their specialty: bagels stuffed with various fillings, including eggs and bacon or Buffalo chicken. Across from Marist.
- [Giacomo's Pizza](#): a good New York style slice or a square "grandma" slice. Across the street from Marist.
- [Kelly's Bakery](#): Terrific artisan bakery with good coffee and a light lunch menu, across from Marist.
- [Palace Diner](#): Traditional northeast American diner, 24 hours, across from Marist.
- [El Azteca](#): excellent casual Mexican food with an emphasis on specialties from Oaxaca.
- Rosticceria [Rossi & Sons/Alimentari Rossi & Sons](#): a social-media-famous Italian deli with gigantic and delicious sandwiches, salads, and other Italian specialties (but no seating).
- [Brasserie 292](#): Downtown main street French brasserie.
- [Hudson and Packard](#): Award-winning Detroit-style pizza from a CIA alum.
- [Handsome Devil](#) barbecue: Excellent Texas-style barbecue downtown.
- [Essie's](#): upscale casual Poughkeepsie dining.
- [Farmers and Chefs](#): farm-to-table bar and restaurant beneath the Walkway Over the Hudson.
- [The Salt Line](#): fine dining in a boutique hotel on the Vassar College campus.
- [Miss Saigon Pho](#): simple, satisfying Vietnamese food near Vassar.
- [Lola's Café](#): soups, salads, sandwiches under the Walkway Over the Hudson.
- [Mill House Brewing Company](#): lively brewpub with very good local beer and a huge food menu.
- [La Cabañita](#): Oaxacan Mexican restaurant in an old church, with a full bar (and excellent mezcal cocktails).
- [Korpot](#): good quality casual Korean.
- [Tamarind](#): Good Indian cuisine in a large airy space.
- [Peru Cuisine](#): Peruvian rotisserie chicken, beef dishes, seafood, across from the IBM facility.
- [Meyer's Olde Dutch](#): Excellent hamburgers and more with a bar, across from Vassar.
- [Spettro](#): Hip Italian near Vassar with great pizzas and pastas.
- [Zeus Brewing](#): Downtown brewpub with pizza and a seasonal rooftop bar.
- [Anna et Pierre](#): waterfront café and pastries.

## Sights, entertainment, and day trips

- [Walkway Over the Hudson](#): The world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge, a state park on a rehabilitated rail bridge, which connects to pedestrian and bike trails on both sides of the Hudson. If you haven't been to the Walkway, you haven't been to Poughkeepsie!
- The [Franklin Delano Roosevelt home and Presidential Library](#); and Eleanor Roosevelt's [Val-Kill](#), in Hyde Park.
- The [Vanderbilt Mansion](#) and grounds, in Hyde Park.
- [Vassar College](#): beautiful liberal arts college campus on the other side of town from Marist University. The library is a cathedral for books, and the art gallery has work by several world-class artists.
- [Bardavon Theater](#): an 1868 opera house still operating for live shows. Check their performance calendar.
- [The Falcon](#): a button factory that has been converted into a music venue over a waterfall in Marlboro, New York, across the river. Check their website for performances.
- [Daryl's House](#): a roadhouse style venue owned by Daryl Hall of Hall and Oates, in Pawling, New York. Check the website for shows.
- [Storm King Art Center](#). Huge sculpture garden with an earthwork sculpture by Maya Lin.
- New Paltz, New York: a fun, walkable town in the foothills of the Shawangunk Mountains. Home to the [State University of New York at New Paltz](#).
- Rhinebeck, New York: a wealthy, leafy town with nice shops, excellent restaurants, and a terrific arthouse [movie theater](#).
- Woodstock, New York: bohemian mountain town across the river, which has attracted artists for a century.
- Kingston, New York: the first capital of New York, a city undergoing a commercial and artistic revival.
- Beacon, New York: trendy town on the train line between New York and Poughkeepsie, home to the [Dia:Beacon](#) contemporary art museum, galleries, cafes, and restaurants.
- [Woodbury Common Premium Outlets](#): a pleasant outdoor outlet mall with a huge selection of brands.

