

CURRICULUM VITAE

Margaret Hiebert Beissinger

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
249 East Pyne
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1984 Harvard University
Committee on Romanian and South Slavic Folklore and Mythology (supervised by
Albert B. Lord)
A.B. 1976 Harvard College
Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology (*Magna cum laude*)

TEACHING POSITIONS

Princeton University: Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

2006- Research Scholar

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Department of Slavic Languages and Literature

2002-2006 Associate Professor
1999-2002 Assistant Professor
1993-99 Lecturer
1989-93 Visiting Assistant Professor

Harvard University: Slavic, Comparative Literature, Romance Language Departments; Committee on
Degrees in Folklore and Mythology

1984-88 Teaching Assistant, Non-Resident Tutor of Folklore & Mythology (Lowell
House)
1978-84 Teaching Fellow, Non-Resident Tutor of Folklore & Mythology (Lowell House)

BOOKS

Epic Traditions in the Contemporary World: The Poetics of Community, co-edited with Jane Tylus and
Susanne Wofford. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.

The Art of the Lăutar: The Epic Tradition of Romania. New York: Garland Publishing, 1991.

ARTICLES

- Why Does Epic Survive? A Comparison of Balkan Oral Traditions" in *Balkan Epic: Song, History, Modernity*, ed. Philip Bohlman & Martin Stokes. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2006 (at press).
- "Ritul de pasaj al unui erou: trecerea la bărbăție în ciclul epic Novac-Gruia [A Hero's Rite of Passage: Initiation in the Novac-Gruia Epic Cycle]," *Cercetări Etnologice Românești Contemporane*, Vol. 2, April-May, 2006 (at press).
- "*Muzic[Oriental]*: Identity and Popular Culture in Post-Communist Romania" in *Balkan Popular Culture and the Ottoman Ecumene: Music, Image, and Regional Political Discourses*, ed. Donna Buchanan. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2006, 95-141.
- "Roma" in *Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*, Vol. 3, ed. William M. Clements. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006, 395-408.
- "Romani (Gypsy) Music-Making at Weddings in Post-Communist Romania: Political Transitions and Cultural Adaptations," *Folklorica*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Spring 2005, 39-51.
- "The Performance of 'Oriental Music' in Contemporary Romania," *Ethnic Identities in Dynamic Perspective*, ed. Sheila Salo & Csaba Pronai. Budapest: Gondolat Ethnic and National Minority Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2003, 229-36.
- "Rites of Passage and Oral Storytelling in Balkan Epic and the *New Testament*," *Oral Tradition*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Fall 2002, 236-58.
- "Gender and Power in the Balkan Return Song," *Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 3, Fall 2001, 403-30.
- "Amintiri duioase despre Mihai Pop [Fond Memories of Mihai Pop]," *Adevărul*, Anul X, No. 566, 25 Sept. 2001, 6.
- "Outreach and the Arts: Integrating Folklore and Music from the Slavic World," coauthored with Steven Duke, *Communiqué*, Vol. 10, No. 2, Fall 2001, 28.
- "Occupation and Ethnicity: Constructing Identity Among Romani (Gypsy) Musicians in Romania," *Slavic Review*, Vol. 60, No. 1, Spring 2001, 24-49.
- "European-American Music: Romanian" in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, ed. Stanley Sadie. Vol. 26. London: Macmillan Publishers, 2001, 104-06.
- "Teaching South Slavic Languages: A Survey of Textbooks and Reference Works" in *The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures*, ed. Olga Kagan & Benjamin Rifkin. Bloomington: Slavica Publishing, 2000, 609-26.
- "Creativity in Performance: Words and Music in Balkan and Old French Epic" in *The Oral Epic: Performance and Music*, ed. Karl Reichl. Vol. 12, Intercultural Music Studies, ed. Max Peter Baumann. Berlin: Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000, 95-113.
- "Caragiale, Ion Luca (1851-1912)," 119; "Croatian Literature to 1918," 172-73; "Eminescu, Mihai (1850-89)," 257-58; "Serbian Literature to 1918," 724-25; "Serbo-Croatian Language," 725; "Yugoslav Literature," 896-97. in *Encyclopedia of Eastern Europe from the Congress of Vienna to the Fall of Communism*, ed. Richard Frucht. New York: Garland Publishing, 2000.

- "Epic, Gender, and Nationalism: The Development of Nineteenth-Century Balkan Literature" in *Epic Traditions in the Contemporary World: The Poetics of Community*, ed. Margaret Beissinger, Jane Tylus, & Susanne Wofford. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999, 69-86.
- "Introduction" coauthored with Jane Tylus and Susanne Wofford in *Epic Traditions and the Contemporary World*, 1-17.
- "Report on the Balkan Summer Seminar, June 1999 in *Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 2, Fall 1999, 25-26.
- "Balkan Folklore and Literature" in *Folklore and Literature: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Mary Ellen Brown & Bruce A. Rosenberg. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1998, 42-46.
- "Recent Books: Romanian Folklore," *Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Winter 1998, 21-24.
- "Recent Books on Serbian Folklore," *Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall 1997, 34-37.
- "Ancheta internațională REF: Dece studiez folclorul azi? [Why do I Study Folklore Today?]" *Revista de folclor și etnografie*, Vol. 41, No. 3-4, 1996, 296-97.
- "Trends and Events in International Folkloristics: Folklore in Romania and Moldova," *American Folklore Society News*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 1993, 3-5.
- "In Memoriam: Albert Bates Lord (1912-1991)," *Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 4, 1992, 533-36.
- "Text and Music in Romanian Oral Epic," *Oral Tradition*, Vol. 3, No. 3, October 1988, 294-314.
- "Couplets and Clusters as Compositional Devices in Romanian Oral Traditional Narrative Songs," *Études et Documents Balkaniques et Méditerranéens*, Vol. 10, 1986, 1-20.
- "Formulaic Systems in Romanian Epic Poetry," *Cahiers roumains d'études littéraires*, No. 1, 1984, 51-59.
- "The Romanian Epic Song and Ballad," *Miorița: A Journal of Romanian Studies*, Vol. 7, 1981, 121-28.
- "Aspects of Peasant Life in the Poetry of G. Colbuc," *Yearbook of Romanian Studies*, Vol. 4, 1979, 8-22.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Culture and Performance among Romanian Gypsy Musicians (a study of Romanian Gypsy musician families, their worlds, and repertoires; based on extensive fieldwork--writing stage; expected completion 2008)

"Romanian Oral Epic as Court Poetry" in *Medieval Oral Literature*, ed. Karl Reichl, New York, Berlin: Walter de Gruyter Publishing Company, 2008 (a study of the role of epic performed for the Romanian nobility and clergy of the 14th-17th c.--research stage; expected completion 2007).

"History and the Making of South Slavic Epic" in *Sheffield Studies in Aegean Archaeology: Homer and Archaeology*, ed. John Bennet and Paul Halstead, Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2008 (a discussion of the role history played and plays in South Slavic epic--writing stage; expected completion 2007).

“Fate, Free Will, and Imagined Gypsy Identities: Literary Depictions of Romani Women by Pushkin, Stankovi, and Voiculescu” (a reading of fictional representations of Romani women whose involvements with non-Romani men lead to rejection and resignation—writing stage; expected completion 2007)

HONORS

- 2002-04 Vilas Associates Research Program Award, Graduate School, University of Wisconsin
- 2001 Article in volume that earned the 2001 American Association of Teachers of Slavic & East European Languages Book Prize for the "Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy" (*The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures*, ed. Olga Kagan and Benjamin Rifkin)

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2005 National Council for Eurasian and East European Research Title VIII Short-Term Travel Grant
- 2001 Wisconsin Humanities Council Mini-Grant for Teacher-Training Workshop "Folklore of Homelands and Diasporas: The Slavic and East European World" (June 2001)
- 1999-2000 Visiting Scholar: Committee on Degrees in Folklore and Mythology, Harvard University
- 1998 International Research and Exchanges Board: Short-Term Travel Grant to Eastern Europe
- 1989 International Research and Exchanges Board: Grant for Slavonic Studies Seminar—Bulgarian Kliment Ohridski Univ., Sofia)
- 1988-89 American Council of Learned Societies: Post Doctoral Fellowship in East European Studies
- 1985 & 1987 International Research and Exchanges Board: Research Exchange with Eastern Europe
- 1981-83 National Resource Fellowship
- 1979-80 Fulbright-Hays DHEW Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (Romania)
- 1979-80 International Research and Exchanges Board: Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant (Romania)
- 1977 Full tuition scholarship: School of Slavic Studies Serbo-Croatian Language Summer Course (University of Zagreb)
- 1975 Josephine L. Murray Traveling Fellowship from Radcliffe College for Romanian Language Summer Course (Braşov)

BOOK REVIEWS

Gilad Margalit, *Germany and its Gypsies: A Post-Auschwitz Ordeal* in *Monatshefte für deutschsprachige Literatur und Kultur*, 2005, Vol. 97, No. 1, Spring 2005, 148-50.

- Radmila J. Gorup & Bogdan Rakić, ed., *In a Foreign Harbor: Essays in Honor of Vasa D. Mihailovich in Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 48, No. 1, Spring, 2004, 121-22.
- Alaina Lemon, *Between Two Fires: Gypsy Performance and Romani Memory from Pushkin to Post-socialism in Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 46, No. 3, Fall, 2002, 632-33.
- John Miles Foley, *Teaching Oral Traditions in Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 114, No. 454, Fall 2001, 495-96.
- Martha Forsyth, *Listen, Daughter, and Remember Well. . . The Songs and Life of Linka Gekova Gergova) in Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, Vol. V, No. 2, Fall 2000, 60-61.
- Zdenko Zlatar, *The Slavic Epic: Gundulić's Osman in Ethnologies: Regionalisms and Ethnicities*, Vol.21, No. 1, 1999, 271-74.
- Irén Kertész-Wilkinson, *The Fair is Ahead of Me: Creativity and Social Context in a Hungarian Vlach Gypsy Song in Romani Studies 5*, Vol. 9, No. 2, August 1999, 141-43.
- Mark Slobin, ed., *Retuning Culture: Musical Changes in Central and Eastern Europe in Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Fall 1998, 38-42.
- Albert Bates Lord, *The Singer Resumes the Tale*, ed. Mary Louise Lord in *Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 110, No. 436, Spring 1997, 212-14.
- Michael Branch & Celia Hawkesworth, ed., *The Uses of Tradition: A Comparative Enquiry into the Nature, Uses and Functions of Oral Poetry in the Balkans, the Baltic, and Africa in Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 4, Winter 1996, 745-46.
- Francelia Mason Clark, *Theme in Oral Epic and Beowulf in Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 3, Fall 1996, 551-52.
- David Bynum et al., *Serbo-Croatian Heroic Poems: Epics from Bihać, Cazin, and Kulen Vakuf in Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 1, Spring 1995, 151-53.
- Sabina Ispas & Doina Trușă, *Lirica de dragoste in Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 106, No. 420, Spring 1993, 236-37.
- Tatyana Popović, *Prince Marko: The Hero of South Slavic Epics in The Sixteenth Century Journal*, Vol. 20, No. 4, 1989, 657.
- Gail Kligman, *The Wedding of the Dead in Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 102, No. 405, July-September 1989, 351-53.
- Nicolae Constantinescu, *Lectura textului folcloric in Journal of American Folklore*, Vol. 101, No. 401, July-September 1988, 362-63.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Mothers, Mistresses, and the Quest for Meaning: A Gendered Reading of *The Return of Philip Latinovicz*, [by Miroslav Krleža],” American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies National Convention, New Orleans, Nov. 2007.
- “Romani (Gypsy) Women in 20th-Century Balkan Literature,” AAASS National Convention, Washington, DC, Dec. 2006.

- "Teaching Slavic Folklore for General Education," Roundtable at Annual Meeting of AATSEEL, Philadelphia, Dec. 2004.
- "Song Performance among Balkan Romani Musicians," MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, Dec. 2004.
- "Political Transitions and Cultural Adaptations: Romani Music-Making in Post-Communist Romania," AAASS National Convention, Boston, Dec. 2004.
- "Romani Music-Making and Traditional Weddings in Post-Communist Romania," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Salt Lake City, Oct. 2004.
- "Why Does Epic Survive? A Comparison of Balkan Oral Traditions," Conference on Balkan Epic: Song, History, Modernity, University of Chicago, Feb. 2004.
- "Crisis in the Profession: The Plight of Traditional Romani Musicians in Post-Communist Romania," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, Oct. 2003.
- "Occupational Crises among Traditional Romani Musicians in Contemporary Romania," Annual Meeting, Gypsy Lore Society, Ann Arbor, May 2003.
- "'Foreign' Music, 'Vulgar' Lyrics: Controversial Cultural Symbols in Romania," AAASS National Convention, Pittsburgh, Nov., 2002.
- "Initiation and the Hero in Balkan Oral Epic," 13th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2002.
- "Gender and Power in the Balkan Return Song," Wisconsin Chapter of AATSEEL Annual Meeting, Madison, Oct. 2001.
- "Oriental Music: Identity and Popular Culture in Post-Communist Romania," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Columbus, OH, Oct. 2000.
- "Occupation and Ethnicity: Constructing Identity Among Professional Romani Musicians in Romania," Annual Meeting, Gypsy Lore Society, Washington, DC, Aug. 2000.
- "Performance and Repertoire among Balkan Romani Village Musicians," Annual Meeting, Gypsy Lore Society, New York, March 1996.
- "Folklore, Gender, and Nationalism: The Development of Nineteenth Century Balkan Literature," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Milwaukee, Oct. 1994.
- "Comparative South Slavic and Romanian Epic," New England Slavic Association Annual Meeting, Cambridge, April 1994.
- "Balkan Women and the Poetry of Life-Cycle Ritual," AAASS National Convention, Honolulu, Nov. 1993.
- "Creativity vs. Formula in Epic Poetry: An Analysis of Balkan Examples," Wisconsin Chapter of AATSEEL Annual Meeting, Madison, April 1991.
- "Common Themes in Balkan Epic," AAASS National Convention, Chicago, Nov. 1989.

- "Narrative Construction in Balkan Epic," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Philadelphia, Oct. 1989.
- "Balkan Traditional Singers as Non-Mainstream Figures," Annual Meeting, American Folklore Society, Cambridge, Oct. 1988.
- "Text and Music in Romanian Oral Traditional Epic," Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore, University of Chicago, March 1988 (also Harvard University, May 1988 and University of Wisconsin, Nov. 1988).
- "Compositional Techniques in Romanian Ritual Poetry," AAASS National Convention, New Orleans, Nov. 1986.
- "Elements of Folklore and Literary Technique in the Prose of Ion Creangă," AATSEEL Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, Dec. 1984.
- "The Question and Answer Technique: Thematic Composition in Balkan Epic," MLA Annual Convention, Washington, D.C., Dec. 1984.
- "Ritualized Epic Songs in the Traditional Romanian Wedding," AAASS National Convention, New York, Oct. 1984.
- "Composition by Theme in the Romanian Epic," AAASS National Convention, Kansas City, Oct. 1983.
- "Religious Elements in the Prose of Gala Galaction," AAASS National Convention, Washington, DC, Oct. 1982.
- "Tudor Arghezi and the Romanian Prose Tradition," Society for Romanian Studies Convention, Chestnut Hill, MA, April 1982.
- "Metrical Problems in Romanian Epic Poetry," MLA Annual Convention, NY, Dec. 1981.
- "Aspects of Peasant Life in the Poetry of George Coșbuc," MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, Dec. 1977.

INVITED LECTURES

- "Traditional Romani (Gypsy) Musicians and Oral Epic in the Balkans: A Comparison of Performance and Performers" at public lecture sponsored by Slavic and Folklore Departments, University of Pennsylvania, March 2007.
- "History and the Making of South Slavic Epic" at Sheffield Round Table on Aegean Archaeology: Homer and Archaeology, University of Sheffield), Sheffield, UK, January 2007.
- "Romani Musicians as Tradition Bearers: A Comparison of Balkan Oral Poets," Lecture Series on Minorities in the Middle Ages, Englisches Seminar der Universität Bonn, June 2006.
- "'Oriental Music': Identity and Popular Culture in Post-Communist Romania," Humanities Center Friday Lunch Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 2004.
- "Occupation and Ethnicity: Constructing Identity Among Professional Romani Musicians in Romania," Five College Faculty Seminar in Folklore, Amherst College, Amherst, MA, April 2000; Southeast European Study Group, Harvard University, Cambridge, Feb. 2000.

"Balkan Folk Traditions, Life-style, and Customs" at "Summer School: The Bright Side of the Balkans,"
7-26 June 1999, Institute for Sociological, Political, and Juridical Research, Ohrid,
Macedonia.

"Epic Traditions in the Contemporary World," 12 Feb. 1999, UW Comparative Literature Student
Organization Spring Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Creativity in Performance: Text and Music in Balkan Epic" at international conference on "The Oral
Epic: Performance and Music," Sept. 1997, Englisches Seminar der Universität Bonn, Bonn,
Germany.

"Journeys to a Faraway Land: Death and Wedding in the Slavic and East European World," Alumni
University presentation, June 1995, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"South Slavic Epic: Women and the Return Song," NEH Summer Institute at the University of
Wisconsin-Madison: "Telling Tales"--June-July, 1994.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Association for Women in Slavic Studies (of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic
Studies), President, 2007-09; Vice President, 2005-07

Modern Language Association, Representative, Delegate Assembly of the Section on Lesser Taught
Languages, 2005-2007

Southeast European Studies Association, Vice President, 2004- Board Member, 2002-04

Slavic and East European Folklore Association, Vice President, 2001- Founding Member, 1995-

Gypsy Lore Society, Board of Directors, 1998-2004

Society for Romanian Studies, Board Member, 2006-2009 1987-88, 1994-95

Nationalities Papers (Association for the Study of Nationalities), Editorial Board, 1998-

East European Meetings in Ethnomusicology, Editorial Board, 1999-2003

Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal, Editorial Board, 1999-

The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages, ed. O. Kagan & B. Rifkin, Editorial Board, 1996-98
Associate Member, Folklore Fellows, 1993-

Slavic and East European Section of the American Folklore Society, President, 1988-89

Jewish Language Review, Advisory Council, 1987-93

NEH, Translations Program; Collaborative Research Program, Reviewer, 1995

U. S. Department of Education, Consultant, 1985, 1992

International Research & Exchanges Board, Serbo-Croatian language evaluator, 2002

Professional translating and private tutoring: Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian, Romanian, 1976-

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SERVICE

Selection committee--Center for Russia, East Europe, & Central Asia (CREECA) MA program, 2003

University of Wisconsin Press Committee, 2002-04

University of Wisconsin Letters & Science Faculty Appeals Committee, 2002-04

Faculty Mentoring Program, 2002-04

Administrative Council, CREECA, 2002-04

Presenter, World Language Day, 2002, 2003, 2004

Speaker, UW Extension Workshop, 2002

Representative for Slavic Department to Faculty Senate, 2001-04

Coordinator, Teacher-Training Workshop (CREECA): "The Folklore of Homeland and Diaspora: The Slavic and East European World," 2001

Coordinator, Weekly Serbo-Croatian Language Table, 2000-04

Undergraduate Advisor, Folklore Program, 2000-04

Speaker, East Europe Day, 1999, 2001

Selection committee for FLAS Fellowships, CREECA, 1998

Co-organizer of conference: "Epics and the Contemporary World," held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1994

Participant, NEH Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: "Telling Tales," 1994

COURSE OFFERINGS

Literature, Culture, and Folklore

- Comparative Balkan and East European Oral Traditions
- Comparative Oral Epic
- Folktale
- Slavic and East European Folklore
- Romani (Gypsy) Culture of Russia and East Europe
- Introduction to Folklore
- Romani (Gypsy) Folklore
- Balkan Literatures
- Images of the Gypsy in Literature

Orality and Literature

Language

Serbo-Croatian—all levels
Romanian—all levels
Bulgarian—beginning & intermediate

BOOK & ARTICLE REFEREEING

University of Wisconsin Press, *Western Folklore*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Balkanistica*, *Romani Studies*, *East European Meetings in Ethnomusicology*, *Slavic and East European Folklore Association Journal*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Etnologia Balkanica*

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES SERVED ON—UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Elisa Frost (Slavic), Alexandra Walter (Slavic), Karen Peters (Music), Scott Mellor (Folklore & Scandinavian Studies), Erica Tucker (Anthropology), Noah Rost (Geography)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Romanian (fluent), Serbo-Croatian (fluent), Bulgarian (excellent), Russian (good), French (good), German (fair/good)