Camelia Lenart

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https://www.albany.edu/faculty/lenart/camelia.html

History Department, State University of New York at Albany Book Reviews Co-Editor, *Dance Research Journal (DRJ)*, Cambridge University Press

Education

Ph.D. in History University at Albany

Distinguished Dissertation Award, 2015

Dissertation: "State of the Art/Art of State: The European Tours of Martha Graham and Her Dance Company, 1950-1967"

ABD (with distinction)

M.A. in History *University at Albany*

2005

M.A. in History

(with honors) University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

B.A. (summa cum laude)

Major – History *University of Cluj-Napoca* (Romania)

Minor – Philosophy

Fellowships

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship Award, University College London, UK, 2010

Dissertation Research Fellowship (University at Albany), 12/2009

Awards/Grants

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, 2025-2026.

Torch Award - University at Albany, 2025

Recognizing the UAlbany faculty member who has made the most profound impact on graduating seniors' undergraduate careers

Dance Studies Association Fellow, 2025

German Research Foundation Travel Grant, November 2024

Inclusive Excellence Award "Dancing, Discussing, and Furthering Excellence, Inclusiveness and Diversity on Campus and Beyond." Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), University at Albany, November 2024

President's Award for Leadership - Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award. University at Albany, April 2024

Diversity Transformation Award "Dancing Dialogues: Hip-Hop, Diversity and Collaboration," Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), University at Albany, November 2023

Individual Development Award, March 2023

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Travel Grant, June 2022

Individual Development Award, April 2022

Faculty of the Year - Minerva Award, State University of New York at Albany, May 2021

CAS Conference Support Award, November 2017

Dance Chronicle Founding Editors' Award (third place), February 2016 (in a competition open to people from universities worldwide who received their PhD between 2012-2015 with a thesis related to dance)

Excellence in Teaching Award, University at Albany, December 2016

Individual Development Award (University of Albany), November 2016

University of Albany Foundation Travel Grant, July 2016

Distinguished Dissertation Award (University at Albany), May 2015

Rothschild Archive Grant, London, June 2014

Research Award from the Center for Jewish Studies, New York, 11/2011

History Department Dissertation Award (University at Albany), 05/2010

Sherry Penney Award (University at Albany), 04/2009

Research Benevolent Grant (University at Albany), 01/2009

Initiatives for Women Award (University at Albany), 06/2008

Award of the Graduate Dean (University at Albany), 12/2005

Tuition Award (University at Albany), 01/2002

Soros Grant, IUC, Dubrovnik, 1990

Book

Seraphic Dialogue: Martha Graham's Tours to Europe during the 1950s and 1960s. (under consideration.)

Book chapter

"Dancing Barefoot and Politicizing Dance at the White House: Eleanor Roosevelt and Martha Graham's Collaboration during the Rise of Fascism in Europe"

in *The Global Citizen: Eleanor Roosevelt's Views on Diplomacy and Democracy*, ed. Dario Fazzi (London: Palgrave, 2020.)

Reviews (Invited)

"Rebekah J. Kowal's *Dancing the World Smaller: Staging Globalism in Mid-Century America*," Book Review (Invited), *Dance Research Journal*, 53.1 (2021):83-86.

"Victoria Phillips' Martha Graham's Cold War: The Dance of American Diplomacy," Book Review (Invited), H-Diplo, October 2021.

https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/8520825/h-diplo-roundtable-xxiii-6-phillips-martha-graham%E2%80%99s-cold-war

Journal Articles

- "Martha Graham, the Ancient Greek Theater and the Rewriting of the Classical texts through the Bodily Movements," *Theatrical Colloquia*, vol.12, no. 1 (May 15, 2022): 30-45
- "Resisting Trauma, while Keeping Hope Alive: Romanian Modern Dance during the Complicated Twentieth Century," *Dance Chronicle*, vol. 42, no. 3, (2019): 342-372
- "A Trustworthy Collaboration: Eleanor Roosevelt and Martha Graham' Pioneering of American Cultural Diplomacy," *European Journal of American Studies*, March 2017
- "Dancing Art and Politics beyond the Iron Curtain: Martha Graham's 1962 Tour to Yugoslavia and Poland," *Dance Chronicle*, vol. 39, no. 2 (2016): 197-217
- "Rehearsing and Transforming Cultural Diplomacy: Martha Graham's Tours to Europe during the Fifties," published in the *Proceedings of Dance History Scholars Conference*, October 2013

A Different 'Special Relationship': Martha Graham and the British Cultural Luminaries John Gielgud, E. M. Forster, and Henry Moore," published in the *Proceedings of Dance History Scholars Conference*, June 2012

- "Martha Graham and Bethsabee de Rothschild—An Artistic Friendship in the Service of Modern Dance", published in the *Proceedings of Dance History Scholars Conference*, June, 2011
- *This work it part of the Rothschild Archive Library, London, UK.

- "A New Perspective on Martha Graham's Tour to Britain in 1954 and the Response to its Artistic and Political Complexity", published in the *Proceedings of Dance History Scholars Annual Conference*, July 2010
- "Turning the Tide and Replaying the Politics -- Martha Graham's Tours to Britain during the 1950s" published in the *Proceedings of the Dance History: Politics and Perspectives Symposium*, June 2010
- "Martha Graham's Modern Dance and its Impact on Europe during the Fifties",
- vol. 9 of New Readings, November 2008, Cardiff, England
- -Proceedings of "The 1950s Conference The Lost Decade," Cardiff, 11-13 July 2007
- "Nous n'avons pas besoin du danse moderne ou Martha Graham". Some Considerations Regarding the Negative Reaction to Martha Graham's Modern Dance in France. *Proceedings of Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities*, Honolulu, 4-7 January, 2008

Invited Speaker

"Beyond the Iron Curtain and the Cold War: Alvin Ailey's Company Tours to Communist Romania During the 1970s," Center for American Studies at the University of Bucharest, November 21, 2024.

"Forgetting While Forgotten: Romanian Modern Dance During the Complicated Twentieth Century," Studies in Dance Seminar, Columbia University, January 31, 2022.

"Martha Graham, the Ancient Greek Theater and the Rewriting of the Classical Texts through the Bodily Movement on Stage." Emerging Theatre: Distancing, Interaction and Resilience in the Performing Arts of the 21 Century Conference, Iasi, Romania, March 19, 2022.

Upcoming Conferences:

"From the White House to the World: Martha Graham and the Indeterminate American Anti-Fascist Movement of the 1930s," Indeterminate States: Bodies, Fields, Praxis, Dance Studies Association Conference, George Washington University, Washington D.C., June 2025.

Panel Proposal organized: "Belonging not Excluded: National, International and Transnational Women Diplomacy through War and Peace during the 20th Century."

Presentation: "Belonging, Mending and Expanding Black Cultural Diplomacy beyond the Iron Curtain: Judith Jamison's Tour to Romania in 1977."

The Society of the Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Conference, Washington D.C., June 2025.

"Looking East, Looking West and Moving Forward: Alvin Ailey Company's Cold War Tours

to Romania and Their Impact on the Country's Modern Dance and Cultural Diplomacy," Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention, Washington D.C., November 2025.

Conference Presentations (selected):

- "Modern Women, Modern Dance and the Re-bordering of the Cold War Diplomacy in 1957 Berlin," Symposium Culture & International History VII - Uncertain Boundaries in International History, John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin.
- "Judith Jamison's American Black Diplomacy in the Inverted Europe of the Cold War," Cartographies of Movement Dance Studies Association Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 23-27, 2024.
- "Among the Firsts: Eleanor Roosevelt, Bess Truman, and the First Steps of American Cultural Diplomacy in Europe," Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.
- "Not Like Us: Too Modern, Too Crazy, and Too Old:' Martha Graham's Otherness on the European Stages During the 1950s," DSA Conference, Dancing Resilience: Dance Studies and Activism in a Global Age Dance Studies Association Fraser University University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, October 13-16, 2022.
- "Black Bodies' Stories, Cultural Diplomacy, and the Cold War: Alvin Ailey Company's Tours to Communist Romania during the 1970s," New York State Association of European Historians, Niagara Falls, NY on October 7-8, 2022.
- "Black Bodies, American Cultural Diplomacy and the Cold War: Alvin Ailey Company's Tours to Communist Romania during the 1970s," Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, New Orleans, June 16, 2022.
- "Revelations and Negotiations, Political Agendas and "Otherness" in Alvin Ailey Company's Tours to 1970s Romania," DSA Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ October 10-17, 2021.
- "Dancing with the Angels' Religion, Dance and Resistance in Romania During the Cold War," The Cold War and the End Times: Apocalyptic and Millenarian Themes in Politics, Society and Culture Symposium, Centre for the Critical Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements, June 4, 2020 (via Zoom)
- "Dining, Dancing, and Making the 'Personal' Political: Eleanor Roosevelt and Martha Graham's Collaboration against Fascism," Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, New Orleans, June, 2020 (virtual conference)

- "Dancing Art and Politics beyond the Iron Curtain: Martha Graham's 1962 Tour to Yugoslavia and Poland," Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, Washington, DC, June 19-22, 2019.
- "The Tale of Two Eleanors and Cold War Arts' Patronage: Martha Graham's Collaboration with Eleanor Roosevelt and Eleanor Lansing Dulles in the Making of American Cultural Diplomacy," Arts Patronage in Modern America Conference, Rothermere Institute, University of Oxford, June 26-28, 2019.
- "From Loie Fuller and Harald Kreutzberg, to Martha Graham: the Un/Common Making of Romanian Modern Dance during the Long 20th Century," Dance Studies Association Conference, Chicago, August 8-11, 2019.
- "More Than a Footnote in Someone Else's Life:" Eleanor Roosevelt and Martha Graham's: Collaboration in the Making of American Cultural Diplomacy and Feminism," Capital Feminist Studies Conference, Skidmore College, February 1, 2019.
- "Cold War Diplomacy, Modern Dance, and the Cultures of the World: Martha Graham and Eleanor Lansing Dulles' Collaboration in 1957 Berlin," Dance Studies Association Conference, Valetta, Malta, July 2018
- "Making Dance, Moving On, and Finding 'The Place': Martha Graham's Tour to England in 1963," Historians of the Twentieth Century United States Conference, Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, June 2018
- "Forgotten while Forgetting: The Untold Story of Romanian Modern Dance during the long 20th century," Dance in the Age of Forgetfulness Conference, Royal Holloway University, London, UK, 20 April 2018
- "The Lady is Not for Burning.' Martha Graham's Tour to Edinburgh in 1963," presented at the Congress of Research in Dance and Society of Dance History Scholars Joint Conference, *Transmissions and Traces: Rendering Dance*, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 21, 2017
- "Cold War Diplomacy, Modern Dance, and the Cultures of the World: Martha Graham and Eleanor Lansing Dulles' Collaboration in 1957 Berlin," presented at New York State Association of European Historians Conference, October 7, 2017
- "Transition, Transdisciplinarity and Transemotions in the Actor-Director John Gielgud's Creative Relationship with the Modern Dancer Martha Graham," presented at *Approaching Dance: Transdisciplinary, Methodologies and Modalities of the Moving Body in Performance Conference*, New-York, May 11, 2017
- "A Trustworthy Collaboration: Eleanor Roosevelt and Martha Graham's Pioneering of American Cultural Diplomacy," presented at Researching New York/the Conference on NYS History,

Albany, November 17, 2016

- "The Curious Case of Martha Graham in Romania," presented at Congress of Research in Dance and Society of Dance History Scholars Conference, Pomona College, CA, November 4, 2016
- "Performing American Cultural Diplomacy behind the Iron Curtain," presented at the New York State Association of European Historians Conference, Albany, NY, October 1, 2016
- "Dancing Art and Politics beyond the Iron Curtain: Martha Graham's 1962 Tour to Yugoslavia and Poland," presented at CORD and SDHS Conference "Writing Dancing/ Dancing Writing," Iowa City, 13-16 November 2014
- "The Curious Case of Martha Graham in Romania," presented at The Third Euroacademia International Conference, 28-29 March 2014, Berlin, Germany
- "Martha Graham's 1962 Tour to Yugoslavia and Poland" presented at the International Conference: Re-Inventing Eastern Europe, Prague, 15-16 November, 2013
- "Rehearsing and Transforming Cultural Diplomacy: Martha Graham's Tours to Europe during the Fifties," presented at the International Joint Conference in Dance Research "Dance ACTions—Traditions and Transformations," (organized by The Nordic Forum for Dance Research and The Society of Dance History Scholars)
 Trondheim, Norway, June 2013
- "Rehearsing American Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: Martha Graham's Tours to Europe during the Fifties," presented at NYSAEH conference, SUNY Oswego, 5-6 October 2012
- "A Different 'Special Relationship': Martha Graham and the British Cultural Luminaries John Gielgud, E. M. Forster, and Henry Moore," presented at: 35th annual SDHS conference, "Dance and the Social City," Philadelphia, USA, June 2012; at the Conference of the Canadian Society for Dance Studies: "Collaborations: Intersections, Negotiations, Mediations in the Worlds of Dance," Montreal, Canada, May 2012; at the "Dancing Between Disciplines and Cultures" Conference, Long Island University Post Campus, November 2012
- "A Different 'Special Relationship': Martha Graham and the British Cultural Luminaries John Gielgud, E. M. Forster, and Henry Moore," presented at the U.S.Intellectual History Conference, New York, November, 2011
- "Martha Graham and Bethsabee de Rothschild—An Artistic Friendship in the Service of Modern Dance," presented at Society of Dance History Scholars Conference, "Dance Dramaturgy: Catalyst, Perspectives and Memory Conference," 23-26 June, 2011, Toronto, Canada
- "A New Perspective on Martha Graham's Tour to Britain in 1954 and the Response to its Artistic and Political Complexity," presented at "Dance & Spectacle Society of Dance History

- Scholars Annual Conference", University of Surrey, Guildford and The Place, London, UK, 8-11 July 2010
- "Turning the Tide and Replaying the Politics A New Perspective on Martha Graham's Tours to Britain during the 1950s" presented at "Dance History: Politics and Perspectives Symposium" organized by Roehampton University and the Society for Dance Research, London, March 13, 2010
- "Who Is Afraid of Martha Graham? Martha Graham's Tour to Great Britain in 1954 and its Importance for the Cultural Diplomacy of the Cold War," U.S. Intellectual History Conference, New York, November 2010
- "A Fortunate Encounter: Bethsabee de Rothschild's Contribution to Martha Graham's European Tours during the Fifties," presented at NYSAEH Conference, Brockport, October 2009 and at U.S. Intellectual History Conference, New York, November 2009
- "'When Did New York Become the New Capital of Arts?' An analysis of the role of the U.S.A. in the world of arts during the 20th century, based on the works and lives of George Balanchine, Arshile Gorky and Lincoln Kirstein, "presented at Siena College Conference, Loudonville, November 2008
- "Ardent Song A Comparison Between the Negative Reaction which Martha Graham Received in Great Britain during the Fifties, and Her Success and Impact a Decade Later," Presented at the 58th annual meeting of the New York State Association of European Historians, LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY, September 2008
- "The Romanian Painter Aurel Ciupe (1900-1988) an Artistic Destiny between Manet and Cezanne," presented at 2008 Popular Culture/American Culture Conference, San Francisco, California, March 19-22, 2008
- "Nous n'avons pas besoin du danse moderne ou Martha Graham". Some Considerations Regarding the Negative Reaction to Martha Graham's Modern Dance in France; paper presented in the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 4-7, 2008.
- "Martha Graham's Modern Dance and Its Impact on Europe during the Fifties"; paper presented at the Conference "The 1950s -The Lost Decade", Cardiff, England, July 2007
- "Aurel Ciupe an Romanian Artist Who Lived History", presented at McGill-Queen's Conference, Kingston, Canada, March 2007.
- "Martha Graham's Modern Dance an Art without Frontier", presented at:
- "History and Power across American Borders", Graduate Student Conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, November 2006; Graduate History Forum, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, March 2006

Service for the CAS:

Committee Member, Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Campus Climate Committee, CAS, SUNY Albany, November 2024

Committee Member, Excellence in Teaching Award Committee, CAS, SUNY Albany, November 2017

Panel moderator, Undergraduate Research Conference, SUNY Albany, April 28, 2017

Committee Member, Search Committee Modern Germany position, History Department, SUNY Albany, November 2016-March 2017

Service for the Profession:

Organizer of the Panel for The Society of the Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)Arlington, Virginia Conference, 2025; Title: "Belonging not Excluded: National, International and Transnational Women Diplomacy through War and Peace during the 20th Century."

Participant - Summer Institute "Women in the World," organized by the Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, New Orleans, June, 2022

Moderator - Writing Circle Project *Dancing the Long Nineteenth Century* - 6 months, March-September 2022.

Organizer of the Panel: Dinners, Diaries, and Combat: Expanding and Ungendering American Diplomacy at Home and Abroad, Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, New Orleans, June, 2020 (presentations via Zoom.)

Organized the panel "Arts and Cultural Diplomacy: Exchanging and Changing the 'Heart and Mind' of the Cold War," Society for Historians of the American Foreign Relations Conference, Washington, DC, June 19-22, 2019

Chair of the panel "Intelligence and Foreign Policy in the 1970s", June 15, 2018, *Historians of the Twentieth Century United States Conference (HOTCUS)*, Cambridge University, UK

Chair of the panel, "Representing Conflict through Dance: a rule-based approach to studying and creating choreography," Dance Studies Association Conference, Valetta, Malta, July 8, 2018

Chair of the panel "Dance and Memory," Dance in the Age of Forgetfulness Conference, Royal Holloway University, London, UK, 19 April 2018

Chair of the panel "Social Values in Social dance," Congress of Research in Dance and Society of Dance History Scholars Joint Conference, *Transmissions and Traces: Rendering Dance*, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 21, 2017

Chair of the panels:

- "Art as Cultural Diplomacy: (Re)Constructing Notions of Eastern and Western Europe and Identities"
- "The Cities: Transition and Change in Urban Image Construction in Central and Eastern Europe"

The Third Euroacademia International Conference, 28-29 March 2014, Berlin, Germany

Chair of the Art Panel at 2008 Popular Culture/American Culture Conference, San Francisco, California, March 19- 22, 2008

Teaching Awards, Advising and Recognitions

- * Nominee for the *Torch Award*, Spring 2024, University at Albany -3 nominations (the winner had 4 nominations.)
- *Faculty of the Year Award, UAlbany Student Association, 2021
- *Nominee for the *Torch Award*, which recognizes a faculty member who has had an outstanding positive impact on a graduating senior's academic and personal success Spring 2020, University at Albany
- *Excellence in Teaching Award, December 2016, University at Albany
- *April 2, 2017: Akeela Makshood, who received the *President's Leadership Award* named Dr. Camelia Lenart as the most influential Professor of her collegiate career
- *"The One Who Makes You Want to Travel," History Undergraduate Student Organization, 2017

Distinguished Teacher Award (Ministry of Romanian Education), for outstanding results in teaching – 1998

Visiting Researcher, Department of Education, Cambridge University, U.K., April 1997

Advising:

*My advisee Sonya Herbach received *Undergraduate Student Research Award* – 2017

She presented her paper "The Anxieties of the Appearance and Emotions: Empress Elizabeth's Challenges and Struggles in the Nineteen Century's Sexist Society" at the International Conference "Kings and Queens 6: In the Shadow of the Throne," Madrid, Spain, September 2017

- *Her story was featured in:
- -University at Albany News Center: The Reluctant Empress and the Fervent Researcher, Fall 2017: http://www.albany.edu/news/83208.php

-College of Arts and Science Newsletter, History Department Student Profile, Fall 2017: http://www.albany.edu/cas-newsletter/fall-2017/sonya-herbach.html

*Sonya Herbach had a poster presentation "Countess Elizabeth Bathory, the other at the Vampire of Transylvania," at the Conference "Kings and Queens 7," Hampton Court and University of Winchester, July 2018.

CURCE conference presentations of advisees:

Ziliang Gao, "Neighboring influence: The Soviet-Chinese dance-cultural relationships from 1950 to the early 1960s," 2022.

Janelle Moe, "Josephine Baker and the Objectification of Black Bodies," 2022

Kalie Rodriguez, "La Hermanas Mirabel: The Butterfly sisters," 2022

Meghan Pannone, "The Silence of Women: Oppression and Trauma of Women during Communism"

She received the Situation Prize for Research, 2020

Sharmila Porter, "Being, Black, Being White: Passing in Harlem, Black in Paris," 2019 Yuehang Chen and Veronica Saethre "Looking North, Looking East: Norway, China and Diplomatic Crisis of the Cold War," 2019.

Sonya Herbach "Countess Elizabeth Bathory, the other at the Vampire of Transylvania," at the Conference "Kings and Queens 7," 2018.

Sonya Herbach, "The Anxieties of the Appearance and Emotions: Empress Elizabeth's Challenges and Struggles in the Nineteen Century's Sexist Society" at the International Conference "Kings and Queens 6: In the Shadow of the Throne," 2017

Anda Alexandru, 2017

Jonathan Drayton, 2017

Akeela Makshood, received *Undergraduate Student Research Award*, for her paper "Doris Duke's Islamic Art Collection: Building Bridges between Islamic Art and American Society," 2016

University Clubs Advisor, since 2017.

UAlbany Dance Club

-organizing workshops and choreographing works

"Club Spotlight: UAlbany Dance Council" Article about the Club, February 2023.

https://www.albanystudentpress.online/post/club-spotlight-ualbany-dance-council

Other recognitions:

*Guest Speaker, "From Transylvania to Albany: Empowering Women with my Story of Crossing Borders and Making it New," at "Cultural Night - A Celebration of Women," Muslim Student Association Event, University at Albany, March 25, 2017

- * Teacher of the Month, November 2012, College of Saint Rose, Albany
- *Distinguished Teacher Award (Ministry of Romanian Education), for outstanding results in teaching 1998
- *Visiting Researcher, Department of Education, Supervisor Professor Martin Booth, Cambridge University, U.K., April 1998

Courses developed:

"Negotiating the Power of Bodies, Souls and Minds: The Making of the 'Professional Woman' in Europe during the 20th Century," Spring 2018

"Drifting Away: The Political, Social and Cultural Consequences of the Cold War on Eastern European Countries, 1945-1989," Spring 2016

"Making it New: American Women and the 20th Century Arts," Fall 2015

*The story of the course "Making it New: American Women and the 20th Century Arts" was featured here: http://www.albany.edu/cas-newsletter

Courses Taught:

- 1. History of European Civilization II
- 2. History of Germany
- 3. Europe, 1914-1945
- 4. Art, Music and History: A Multimedia Approach
- 5. Women in European History
- 6. American Political and Social History I
- 7. American Political and Social History II
- 8. History of Women in the United States

9. The World at War, 1939-45

Professional Affiliations

Dance Studies Association Society for Dance Research The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Phi Alpha Theta, SUNY Albany Chapter (Chi Delta)

Languages

English and Romanian: fluently
French: very good
Italian and Hungarian: good

German: beginner