

# Nina Beguš

## CURRICULUM VITÆ

Department of Comparative Literature  
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### EDUCATION

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**Harvard University** 2014–2019

- *Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) in Comparative Literature*

**Dissertation:** Artificial Humanities: Creating and Enhancing Humans from Pygmalion to Cyborgs  
**Committee:** Marc Shell, Karen Thornber, David Damrosch, Nancy Jecker

**University of Washington School of Medicine** 2019

- *Visiting Graduate Student, Department of Bioethics and Humanities*  
*Adviser:* Nancy Jecker

**Harvard University** 2014–2017

- *M.A. in Comparative Literature*

**General exam fields:** Comparative Modernisms, Pygmalionesque in Romantic and Gothic Literature, Medical Humanities  
**Committee:** David Damrosch, Marc Shell, Karen Thornber

**University of Ljubljana** 2007–2012

- *Univ. Dipl. in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory* (equivalent to European BA+MA)

**Thesis:** “Fascism vs. Utopia in Ingeborg Bachmann’s *Malina*” (tr.)

*Adviser:* Vanesa Matajč

– Awarded PREŠEREN AWARD for one of the best theses in the Faculty of Arts

- *Univ. Dipl. in Slovene Language & Literature*

**Thesis:** “Novels by Emil Filipčič” (tr.)

*Adviser:* Marko Juvan

**University of Vienna** 2010–2011

- *Erasmus Exchange Program in Comparative Literature, Fall semester*

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed proceedings

- (to appear) Beguš, Nina. “A Typology of the Pygmalion Paradigm”. *ICLA Proceedings*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

### Edited online collection

- Beguš, Nina. “A Tale from the Silk Road: A Philological Account of The Painter and the Mechanical Maiden.” *First Drafts@Classics@*, August 11, 2016.

### Conference reports

- “Onkraj subjekta: (avto)biografska koferenca na Dunaju.” *Primerjalna književnost* 36.1: 117-22.
- “128. srečanje MLA z vidika svetovne književnosti.” *Primerjalna književnost* 36.1: 117-22.

### Under review

- Beguš, Nina. “A tale from the Silk Road: A philological account of *The Painter and the Mechanical Maiden* and its resonances with the Western canon”. Invited to revise and resubmit at the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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- The Harvard Merit/Term Time Research Award 2018–2019  
For “outstanding GSAS students in all fields”, *Harvard University*
- Graduate Student Award 2018–2019  
*Mind Brain Behavior Interfaculty Initiative, Harvard University*
- Travel Grant 2019  
*American Comparative Literature Association*
- Travel Grant 2019  
*Harvard Graduate Student Council*
- Conference travel grant 2016  
*Asia Center, Harvard University*
- Full tuition for the Harvard Summer School 2015  
*Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*
- Summer Term Language Travel Grant (declined) 2015  
*Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University*
- Incoming student tuition for the Harvard Summer School 2014  
*Harvard University*
- Full tuition for the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University 2013  
*Institute for World Literature, Harvard University*

- Prešeren Award for one of the best MA theses at the Faculty of Arts  
*Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana* 2013
- Zois Scholarship 2007–2012  
(awarded to 3% of the exceptionally intelligent undergraduates in the nation)  
*Republic of Slovenia*
- Erasmus Exchange Scholarship 2010–2011  
*University of Ljubljana*
- Grant for Summer School at the Free University Berlin 2010  
*Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund*

## INVITED TALKS

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- “Brave New Birth: A Literary Perspective on Paralysis, Gene Editing, and Humanoid Robots.” *Bioethics Grand Rounds, University of Washington School of Medicine*. 1 May 2019.
- “A Shift in Perspective: Healthcare from a New Lens.” *18th Annual Pre-Health Conference, Minority Association of Pre-Health Students*. University of Washington. 26 January 2019.
- “A Typology of the Pygmalion Paradigm.” **Poggioli Colloquium**, Harvard University. 21 March 2017.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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- *Medical Procedures and Diagnoses Associated with Human Enhancement and Creation: A Literary Perspective* 2018–2019  
Awarded funding for exchange with UW Medical School, conducting experiments, hiring undergraduate research assistants  
*Mind-Brain-Behavior Interfaculty Initiative at Harvard University*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### Seminar Organizer

- “Human and Nonhuman Agency in 20th-Century Fiction and 21st-Century Technologies.” *MLA Annual Convention*. Seattle, WA. 9 – 12 January 2020.
- “Posthuman Language.” *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*. Georgetown University. 7 – 10 March 2019.

### Talks

- (accepted) “Posthuman Neurotechnologies and Nonhuman Agency in Roald Dahl’s and James Tiptree’s Short Stories”. *MLA Annual Convention*. Seattle, WA. 9 – 12 January 2020.
- (accepted) “Pygmalionism as a Diagnosis in South Slavic Literary and Cinematic Works.” *51st Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)*. San Francisco, CA. 23 – 26 November 2019.

- “Artificial Humans from Slovenia to China.” *The 25th Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Northwest Conference (REECAS NW)*. University of Washington. 26 – 27 April 2019.
- “When Galatea speaks.” Talk at Posthuman Language seminar at *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*. Georgetown University. 7 – 10 March 2019.
- “A Philological Account of a Silk Road Tale.” *New England Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS)*. Boston College. Boston, 28 – 29 January 2017.
- “A Typology of the Pygmalion Paradigm”. *21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)*. University of Vienna, 21 – 27 July 2016.
- “Fascism vs. Utopia in Ingeborg Bachmann’s *Malina*.” *21<sup>st</sup> International Conference of Europeanists*. Council for European Studies at Columbia University. Washington, D.C., 14 – 16 March 2014.
- “Autofiction and Open Form in Emil Filipčič’s Prose.” *IABA Europe 2013*. Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for the History and Theory of Biography & University of Vienna, Vienna, 31 October – 3 November 2013.

## TEACHING

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- **Teaching Fellow** 2016–present  
*Harvard University*
  - ENGL 160je: The Joyce Effect (Beth Blum) Spring 2018
  - ENGL 182: Science Fiction (Stephanie Burt) Fall 2017
  - ER 33: The Philosopher and the Tyrant (David Damrosch) Fall 2016
  - ER 32: Security: Carefree or Careless (John Hamilton) Spring 2017
- **Guest Lecture** 2019  
*University of Washington School of Medicine*
  - BH 420: Philosophical Problems in Bioethics  
“Factual and Fictional Accounts of Severe Paralysis”
- *Harvard Summer School in Vis, Croatia* 2019
  - “Islands and Artificial Life”
- **Teaching Assistant** (Slovenian as a foreign language) 2012  
*Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature, and Culture, University of Ljubljana*
- Teaching Slovenian as a foreign language 2011–2012  
*European Voluntary Service*

## ADVISING

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- Undergraduate Thesis Advising 2016-2017  
*Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University*  
Student: Anjie Liu  
Co-mentored undergraduate honors thesis, met weekly with the student and provided comments on the thesis, prepared the student for oral exam, created an individualized syllabus for thesis advising

- Concentration Adviser for Comparative Literature  
*Harvard University*  
Lead and graded final oral exam for Comparative Literature concentration, graded junior projects and senior honors theses, met monthly with advisers at the Department of Comparative Literature
2016–
- Sophomore Academic Adviser  
*Mather House, Harvard College*  
Served as a primary academic adviser to 5-7 undergraduate students per year interested in comparative literature, history and literature, English, classics, social studies, philosophy, music, visual and environmental studies, combining humanities and computer science
2014–
- Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Adviser/  
Consent Advocate and Relationship Educator Tutor  
*Mather House, Harvard College*  
Coordinated workshops and organized events for raising awareness of sexual assault and harassment, served as a liaison between for the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and Title IX, served as a personal advisor in Title IX procedures
2014–

## CO-ORGANIZING A SUMMER SCHOOL

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- Summer program on Islands and Conflict  
8-week interdisciplinary program in Zagreb and island Vis, Croatia  
Faculty directors: Marc Shell and David Elmer  
*Harvard Summer School*
2019–

## SUMMER SCHOOLS & WORKSHOPS

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- *Harvard University*  
Wintersession – Arts, Creativity and Medicine
2016
- *Harvard University, The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning*  
Pre-Text Workshopd
2015
- *Harvard Summer School*  
Intermediate Modern Chinese I, II
2015
- *Harvard Summer School*  
Elementary Modern Chinese I, II
2014
- *École pratique des hautes études*  
Summer Research on Tocharian Philology
2014
- *The Institute for World Literature*  
Harvard University
2013
- *LUD Literatura*  
Workshop on Literary Criticism
2011–2012
- *Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities*  
Translation Workshop (English-Slovenian)
2011
- *University of Ljubljana*  
Summer School in Natural Syntax
2010
- *Free University of Berlin*  
7<sup>th</sup> Indo-European Dahlem Summer School
2010

## COLLABORATION ON A PROJECT

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- Life Writing Trajectories in Post-1989 Eastern Europe 2013–2014  
*European Journal of Life Writing*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Editor-at-large (Slovenia) 2014  
*Asymptote Journal*
- Journalist, Culture and Humanities Editorial Board 2012 – 2013  
*Radio Študent*
- Writing articles and interviews for the magazine 2012  
*Življenje na dotik, European Capital of Culture – Maribor 2012*
- Jurywoman for the ‘best student short story’ 2012  
*World Literatures – Fabula 2012 festival*
- Writing articles for the festival 2012  
*Days of Poetry and Wine 2012*
- Translating columns and essays from Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian for the magazine 2011–2012  
*Življenje na dotik, European Capital of Culture – Maribor 2012*
- Writing reviews, columns, and interviews for the literary magazines 2010–  
*Airbeletrina, Mentor, and Literatura*
- Proof-reader for the publishing house 2010–2013  
*Ekslibris*
- Assistant 2009–2012  
*Seminar of Slovene Language, Literature, and Culture, University of Ljubljana*

## LITERARY JOURNALISM

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### Literary translations

- Herta Müller’s Speech at Magnesia Litera Award Ceremony. *Asymptote Journal*, April 2014.
- Jonas Hassen Khemiri’s Open Letter to Beatrice Ask. *Asymptote Journal*, April 2014.
- Columns and essays by various European authors; *Stanje stvari*. Ed. Aleš Čar and Tanja Petrič. Ljubljana: UMco.
- Pang, Alvin. *Teorija strun*. Tr. Martina Komovec et al. Ljubljana: JSKD. (in collaboration with other translators)

### Editorial

- “Novi val ameriške in svetovne revijalistike,” *Literatura* 276.6: 1-6.

### Essay

- “Odpiranje vrat.” In *Dom so svež rjuhe*, edited by Manca G. Renko. Ljubljana: Beletrina.

### Selected interviews and columns

- Column on Gish Jen's interview with Salman Rushdie on his autobiography *Joseph Anton: A Memoir*; "Primer: Bad boy Rushdie." *LUD Literatura*. Web. 25 Oct.
- Interview with André Velter at the "Days of Poetry and Wine" festival, 2012. *Večer*, 16 Aug.: 9.
- Interview with Alvin Pang; "Poročanje dveh samot." *Mentor* 16.6: 105-10.
- Interview with Charles Simic; "Charles Simic, ameriški pesnik." *Življenje na dotik* 1.4: 22-24.

### Selected literary reviews

- Review of the literary evening with Hanif Kureishi at the *World Literatures – Fabula festival*; "Naš bog iz predmestja." *Radio Študent*. 5 Apr.
- Critique of the novel *Dvigalo* by Tomo Podstenšek; "Homo homini lupus." *Literatura* 249.24: 195-99.
- Recension of the novel *Misli name, ko ti je lepo* by Maja Gal Štromar. *Literatura* 249.24: 209-10.
- Critique of the novel *Psi brezčasja* by Zoran Benčič; "Ko poteče rok trajanja." *Mentor* 32.5: 98-99.
- Recension of the poetry collection *Sens Magique* by Malcolm de Chazal. *Airbeletrina*. Web. 3 Oct.

### Poetry and short stories

- "Je dež in prvo babje pšeno pade." *Rdeča nit: zbornik literarnega natečaja 2010*. Ed. Neja Blaj Hribar et al. Ljubljana: Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete. 25-26.
- Award for the best haiku; *Haiku: zbornik srednješolskega natečaja za najboljši haiku*. Ed. Edin Saračević. Ljubljana: Gimnazija Vič. 10.
- "Kapitan Rožmarin in Gorzdova Tereza." *Apokalipsa* 121-122: 79-88.

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- Peer reviewer 2019  
*STAAR: St Anne's Academic Review*
- Comparative Literature Liaison Committee 2016–2018  
*Harvard University*
- Organizing assistant 2016  
*ACLA Annual Meeting, Harvard University*
- Non-Resident Tutor 2018–  
*Mather House, Harvard University*
- Resident Tutor 2014–2018  
*Mather House, Harvard University*  
Served "as an academic adviser to Mather House students and a liaison to the many resources within Harvard College, helped create and maintain a safe and livable environment"
- Department Representative in the Student Council 2011–2012  
*Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Ljubljana*
- Student Tutor 2010–2011  
*Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Ljubljana*

## LANGUAGES

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Native: Slovenian  
Fluent: English, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian  
Functional: French, German, Spanish, Chinese  
Basic: Czech, Polish, Russian, Old Church Slavonic

## ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

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Modern Language Association  
The Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies  
Réseau européen d'études littéraires comparées  
International Auto/Biography Association  
Slovenian Comparative Literature Association

## REFERENCES

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### **Marc Shell**

Irving Babbitt Professor of Comparative Literature  
Professor of English  
Department of English, Department of Comparative Literature  
Harvard University  
✉ mshell@fas.harvard.edu  
☎ 617-335-3067

### **David Damrosch**

Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Comparative Literature  
Department of Comparative Literature  
Harvard University  
✉ ddamrosch@fas.harvard.edu  
☎ 617-495-2543

### **Karen Thornber**

Professor of Comparative Literature and of East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
Victor and William Fung Director of the Harvard University Asia Center  
Department of Comparative Literature, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University  
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### **Nancy Jecker**

Professor of Bioethics and Humanities  
Department of Bioethics and Humanities, Department of Philosophy, School of Law  
University of Washington, School of Medicine  
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