

**Camelia Lenart**

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

## **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)*                      2008

*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

## **Occupation:**

Lecturer, History Department, State University of New York at Albany

Book Reviews Co-Editor, *Dance Research Journal (DRJ)*, Cambridge University Press

## **Fellowships**

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

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

## **Awards/Grants**

*Individual Development Award*, March 2023

*Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Travel Grant*, April 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 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**

“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 (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 Bethsabée de Rothschild—An Artistic Friendship in the Service of Modern Dance”, published in the *Proceedings of Dance History Scholars Conference*, June, 2011

\*This work is 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 de 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**

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

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

### **Upcoming Conference:**

“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.

### **Conference Presentations** (selected):

“‘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 will be held in 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Bethsabée 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: Bethsabée 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 58<sup>th</sup> 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, 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:**

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

Moderator of one of the five Writing Circle Groups/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

### **Work in Progress**

"From Napoleon to the Belle Époque: the Rothschild women from muses to 'patrons de l'arts'"  
Study of the contribution of Charlotte de Rothschild (1825-1899) and Béatrice de Rothschild (1864–1934) to the patronage of the arts

"The Cultural Exchange between the United States and Romania during the Cold War" Paper based on primary documents found at the Secret Services Archive division in the Romanian Archives, Bucharest

### **Teaching Awards, Advising and Recognitions**

\**Faculty of the Year Award*, UAlbany Student Association, 2021



\*One of the nominees of 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

### **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 -20192019

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:**

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)*

*Euroacademia*

*Phi Alpha Theta*, SUNY Albany Chapter (Chi Delta)

### **Languages**

English and Romanian: fluently

French: very good

Italian and Hungarian: good

German: beginner