

## JANET L. BEIZER

Harvard University  
Dep't of Romance Languages & Literatures  
404 Boylston Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138

312 Mason Terrace  
Brookline, MA 02446  
(617) 448 - 6005  
[beizer@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:beizer@fas.harvard.edu)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., French, Yale University, 1981.

Minor Field: Comparative Literature. Dissertation: *The Narrative of Generation and the Generation of Narrative in Balzac*. Dir. Peter Brooks.

M.Phil., French, Yale University, 1978.

M.A., French, Yale University, 1977.

B.A. summa cum laude with distinction in all subjects, French, Cornell University, 1974.

Study Abroad (non-degree): Ecole Normale Supérieure, 1978–79. Université de Grenoble, 1973.

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

C. Douglas Dillon Professor of the Civilization of France 2017–

Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University 2001–

Professor of French, University of Virginia 1995–2001.

Associate Professor of French, University of Virginia 1988–95.

Assistant Professor of French, University of Virginia 1981–88.

### FELLOWSHIPS/HONORS (since 2000)

Dean's Competitive Fund Grant (for *The Harlequin Eaters: Leftovers and the Patchwork Imaginary in Nineteenth-Century Paris*) 2019.

John Simon Guggenheim Fellow 2016–17.

Stanford Humanities Center Fellow 2016–17.

Invited Seminar Participant, “Reading Historic Cookbooks” with B.K. Wheaton, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, June 2012.

NEH Research Fellowship, Fall 2010.

Ruth Landes Foundation Research Fellowship, Fall 2010.

Walter Channing Cabot Fellow 2009–10, Harvard (honorific).

University of Virginia Faculty Summer Research Grants 1982, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2001.

Visiting Canterbury Fellow, Department of French, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, May–June 2000.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- *Thinking through the Mothers: Reimagining Women's Biographies*. Cornell University Press, 2009. 276 pp.
- *Ventriloquized Bodies: Narratives of Hysteria in Nineteenth-Century France*. Cornell University Press, 1994. 295 pp. 1995 MLA Scaglione Prize.
- *Family Plots: Balzac's Narrative Generations*. Yale University Press, 1986. 213 pp.

### Book in Progress

- *The Harlequin Eaters: Leftovers and the Patchwork Imagination of Nineteenth-Century Paris*.

### Articles, Interviews, and Book Chapters (since 2000)

- “The House of Harlequins: Eugène Sue's *Mystères de Paris*.” *Romanic Review*, vol. 112, no. 3, 2021, pp. 281–304.
- “Traveling with a Hairy Heart: Where Annatto Can Take You.” *Herbs and Spices: Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2020*, edited by Mark McWilliams, Prospect Books, 2021, pp. 99–107.
- NCFS in Captivity: Special Zoom Interview Session, Janet Beizer in Conversation with Marni Reva Kessler on Kessler's *Discomfort Food: The Culinary Imagination in Late Nineteenth-Century France*. March 5, 2021.
- “Why the French Hate Doggie Bags’– In Conversation with Janet Beizer,” Liverpool University Press Invited Blog Post, February 26, 2020.  
<https://liverpooluniversitypress.blog/2020/02/26/why-the-french-hate-doggie-bags-in-conversation-with-janet-beizer/>.
- “Shooting them Softly: Photographing Lower-Class Eaters in Belle Époque Paris.” *Food and Power: Proceedings of The Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2019*, edited by Mark McWilliams, Prospect Books, 2020, pp. 57–66.
- “Why the French Hate Doggie Bags.” *Beyond Gastronomy*, special issue of *Contemporary French Civilization* vol. 42, no. 3–4, 2017, pp. 373–89.
- “Translating the Self: Colette and the ‘Fatally Autobiographical’ Text.” *Translation and the Arts*, edited by Sonya Stephens, Indiana University Press, 2017, pp. 189–208.
- “Communicating Frenchness: Escoffier and the Export of Terroir.” *Food and Communication: Proceedings of The Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2015*, edited by Mark McWilliams, Prospect Books, 2016, pp. 64–72.
- “Colette's Côtelettes, or the Word Made Flesh.” *Being Contemporary*, Festschrift for S. R. Suleiman, edited by Lia Brozgal and Sara Kippur, Liverpool University Press, 2016, pp. 305–18.

- “The Emperor’s Plate: Marketing Leftovers in Nineteenth-Century Paris.” *Food and Markets: Proceedings of The Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2014*, edited by Mark McWilliams, Prospect Books, 2015, pp. 15–34.
- “Le Voyage et ses autres : inscriptions de la mobilité au XIXe siècle, de Wolfeboro à Mobile.” *French global: Une nouvelle perspective sur l’histoire littéraire*, edited by Susan Suleiman and Christie McDonald, Gallimard, 2014, pp. 393–414.
- “Louise Colet.” *Dictionnaire universel des femmes créatrices*, edited by Béatrice Didier, Mireille Calle-Gruber, and Antoinette Fouque, Tome I, Des Femmes, 2013.
- “The Discoverer Discovered.” Review of *The Discovery of Jeanne Baret*, by Glynis Ridley. *Women’s Review of Books*, vol. 29, no. 3, May–June 2012, pp. 3–5.
- “Textual Women: Twenty-First Century Reinscriptions.” *Parole #2: Phonetic Skin/Phonetische Haut*, edited by Annette Stahmer, Salon-Verlag, 2012, pp. 64–74.
- “Quatre-quarts” (poem). *Pierre gravées: Chiffres d’une voix, mélanges in Memoriam, Michel Viel*, edited by Yann Migoubert, Editions du Relief, Paris-Sorbonne, 2011.
- “The Voyage and its Others: Nineteenth-Century Inscriptions of Mobility.” *French Global*, edited by Christie McDonald and Susan Suleiman, Columbia University Press, 2010, pp. 258–72.
- “Encore ‘Adieu’: de la répétition à la mort.” *L’Année balzacienne*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2006, pp. 55–66.
- “Autonymies: François la Fraise et le nom du corps.” *George Sand : Pratiques et imaginaires* (Actes du Colloque de Cerisy-la-Salle), edited by Brigitte Diaz and Isabelle Naginski, Presses Universitaires de Caen, 2006, pp. 173–85.
- “Dévoiler la momie : à la recherche de Kuchuk Hanem.” *Féminin/Masculin : Écritures et représentations*, edited by Sylvie Triaire, Christine Planté, and Alain Vaillant, 2005, pp. 63–79.
- “History’s Life Story: Nanon as *L’Histoire de ma vie*.” *George Sand et l’Empire des lettres*, edited by Anne E. McCall-Saint-Saëns, Presses Universitaires du Nouveau Monde, 2005, pp. 257–84.
- “Ecoute le chant du labourage : chant et travail de l’écriture dans ‘Les veillées du chanvreur’ de George Sand.” *George Sand, “Le génie narratif,”* special edition of *Littérature*, vol. 134, no. 2, edited by Jacques Neefs and Martine Reid, 2004, pp. 95–110.
- “One’s Own: Reflections on Owning, Motherhood, and Adoption.” *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2002, pp. 237–55.
- “Au [delà du] *Bonheur des dames*: Notes from the Underground” in *Zola: Contemporary Perspectives*, special issue of *Australian Journal of French Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2001, pp. 393–406.
- “F/V: Notes sur *Le Lys dans la vallée*.” *L’Erotique balzacienne*, edited by L. Frappier-Mazur and J.-M. Roulin, SEDES, 2001, pp. 11–22.
- “You Can’t Judge a Book by its Cover: Teaching *Le Père Goriot* and Modernism.” *Approaches to Teaching Balzac’s Old Goriot*, edited by Michal Ginsburg, Modern Language Association, 2000, pp. 168–76.
- “Writing Origins: George Sand as The Story of Our Life.” *Women Seeking Expression: France 1789–1914*, edited by Rosemary Lloyd, Monash French Studies, 2000, pp. 118–45.

**INVITED LECTURES, INTERVIEWS, AND CONFERENCE PAPERS [select list]**

October 2021, NCFS Colloquium, Washington D.C. “Belly of Darkness: Guiana’s Empire in *Le Ventre de Paris*.” Chair of session, “The Empire of Power.”

- July 2021, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Food and Imagination, Plenary Speaker. "Walking Through our Gastronomies: Notes from an Imaginary Flâneuse."
- July 2021, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Food and Imagination. "Eat, Lose, Imagine."
- July 2020, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Herbs and Spices (convened virtually). "Traveling with a Hairy Heart, or Where Annatto can Take You."
- June 2020, Paris Workshop: Cultural Productions in the Nineteenth Century (postponed due to pandemic). "Paris-Cayenne in *Le Ventre de Paris*."
- April 2020, Amherst College Center for Humanistic Inquiry, session on Leftovers (postponed due to pandemic).
- April 2020, Harvard Colloquium, Feasting and Fasting: the Folklore of Food (postponed due to pandemic). "Postcarding the People: Working-Class Eaters in 19th-Century Paris."
- October 2019, NCFS Colloquium, Sarasota: Writing and Disenchantment. "Hauntings: Dialogues with a Ghostwriter."
- August 2019, Tucson, Contemporary French Civilization. "Other People's Food: Indigent and Indigenous Eaters."
- July 2019, Paris Workshop: Paris et ses autres, co-organized with Nicholas White, University of Cambridge, U.K. "Eating Others in Belle Époque Paris: Postcarding the People."
- July 2019, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Food and Power. "Shooting them Softly: Photographing Lower-Class Eaters in Belle Époque Paris."
- March 2019, College of Charleston, invited speaker, Global Foodways Panel: The History, Politics, and Culture of Leftovers. "The Culture of Leftovers in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century France."
- October 2018, NCFS Colloquium, Los Angeles. "Postcards from the Edge: Recirculating the People's Food." Panel organizer, "On Illustration."
- May 2018, Dublin, Colloquium on Food and Powe. "Eating Others: Cannibalizing and Power in France."
- February 20, 2018, interview with Judith Kogan for "The Splendid Table" on leftovers in nineteenth-century Paris with a program inspired by my article "Why the French Hate Doggie Bags" in *Contemporary French Civilization* (aired May 31, 2019).
- February 23, 2018, interview with Fuchsia Dunlop, Newshour, BBC, on food leftovers and waste (aired February 23, 2018).
- January 2018, University of Cambridge, Cambridge Seminar Series in Nineteenth-Century French Studies. "The House of Harlequins: Eugène Sue and *Les Mystères de Paris*."
- December 2017, Yale University. "The House of Harlequins: Eugène Sue and *Les Mystères de Paris*."
- November 2017, NCFS Colloquium, University of Virginia. "Big Mouths: Stylizing Cannibalism in Atar-Gull."
- May 2017, Cornell Alumni Association of Northern California. "Food Waste, Then and Now: Paris 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries."
- April 2017, Stanford University, Workshop on French Cultural Studies, featured speaker. "The Harlequin Eaters."
- April 2017, Vassar College Symposium: Food, Space, and Architecture. "Why the French Hate Doggie Bags."

- January 2017, interview with Tanuja Wakefield on harlequin eating.  
<https://shc.stanford.edu/news/qa-research/stanford-humanities-center-fellow-qa-janet-beizer-history-leftovers>.
- November 2016, Stanford Humanities Center. "The Harlequin Eaters."
- July 2016, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Offal – Rejected and Reclaimed Foods.  
"Constructing the Inedible: Readings in Offal, Pica, Leftovers, and Cannibalism."
- April 2016, Société des Dix-Neuviémistes Colloquium-Paris. "'Ces restes sur lesquels la valetaille a bavé': Becoming Cannibal."
- April 2016, Harvard University Interdisciplinary Symposium on Vampires. "Alias Polidori: Notes on Vampirism, Cannibalism, and Subnaturalism in Eugène Sue's *Les Mystères de Paris*."
- March 2016, Carolina Conference for Romance Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, Keynote Speaker.  
"Devil's Food Soup: Constructing the People's Palate."
- March 2016, interview with Thomas Parker for website *Wonders and Marvels* on harlequin eating. <https://www.wondersandmarvels.com/2016/03/harlequins-and-french-leftovers-from-class-to-crass.html>.
- March 2016, Eastern Sociological Association, Boston, invited extradisciplinary speaker. "At the Writer's Table," for panel "At the Chef's Table" organized by Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson.
- November 2015, NCFS Colloquium, Princeton University. "The Devil's Stew: Exercises in Gastroanomie." Panel organizer, "Mixologies."
- July 2015, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Food and Communication.  
"Communicating Frenchness: Escoffier and the Export of Terroir."
- March 2015, North Carolina State University. "Savor the Harlequins: Patchwork Eating in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Paris."
- January 2015, MLA Convention, Vancouver. "The Emperor's Used Food: Feeding Suspicion."
- October 2014, NCFS Colloquium, San Juan. "Tender Peaches: Escoffier's Culinary Colonialism."
- July 2014, Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery: Food & Markets. "The Emperor's Plate: Marketing Leftovers."
- June 2014, Dublin Institute of Technology. "Lust for Leaves."
- May 2014, Amherst College. "Talking about Food: Gastronomy High and Low."
- February 2014, Max Planck Institute-Berlin. "The Paper Eaters: Colette, Balzac, Pica, and the Perversions of Reading."
- October 2013, NCFS Colloquium. "Let Them Eat Paper: Balzac and Colette Graphophages."  
Panel chair, "Writing Materials, Material Writing."
- May 2013, 20-21<sup>st</sup> Century French Studies: Traces. "Colette's Côtelettes, or The Word Made Flesh."
- January 2013, MLA, co-organizer (with A. Wettlaufer), "Exploring Women Writers' Biographies."
- September 2012, Articulations of Difference: Conference in Honor of Larry Schehr. "Leftovers with Larry: Meals, Memories, Mournings."
- October 2011, NCFS Colloquium. Panelist, "What I Didn't Learn in Graduate School."
- July 2011, Dartmouth Institute in French Cultural Studies. "The Tortoise and the Hedgehog: A Fable of Time Past."
- April 2011, Harvard Graduate School of Design. "The Space in Bodies: From Hysterical Dermographism to Uterine Inscription Technology."

December 2010, French Library Boston. Panelist, *French Global*.

October 2010, NCFS Colloquium. Panelist, *French Global*.

October 2010, NCFS Colloquium. "Nini avant Néel: Becoming Alexandra David-Néel."

August 2010, Harvard University. Panelist, Dean for the Humanities presentation on the Humanities to freshman.

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

19th-21st century French literature and culture, with a specialization in the nineteenth-century novel and short story; food studies and philosophies of eating; intersections of the literary, the visual, and the culinary; narrative theory; postcard history; the culture of hysteria; psychoanalysis and literature, medicine and literature; travel writing; women's biographies and autobiographies.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

#### **Graduate seminars and courses (select list):**

Eating Dystopias • Urban Cannibals • Talking about Food • Sounds of Silence • Sand, Colette, and the Mothers of Invention • Theory Proseminar • Writing Lives • Metamorphoses of the Vampire • Houses of Fiction • Hysteria as Narrative Figure

#### **Undergraduate or undergraduate/graduate courses (select list):**

Crimes of Passion • Under the Table • Talking about Food • Walk, Look, Write (Flânerie and Fugue) • Survey of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century through the Voyage • Inventions of Childhood • Fictions of Gender, Representations of Change (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries)