

The Graduate Program in Folklore & Folklife, the Center for Folklore & Ethnography, and the Department of Slavic Languages & Literature proudly present:

Dr. Margaret H. Beissinger,
Princeton University
**“Traditional Romani (Gypsy)
Musicians and Oral Epic in the
Balkans: A Comparison of
Performance and Performers”**

Thursday, March 22nd, 4:30 p.m.
Moose Room, 3619 Locust Walk (Fiji House)

Oral epic was widespread in the Balkans of the past, though by the present time, the genre—with a few exceptions—has died out. In Serbia (and Croatia), traditional epic performance by South Slavic singers—*guslari*—was in decline in the 19th century, while in Bosnia, it had faded out by the 1950s. By contrast, in Romania, epic was still frequently performed by professional traditional Romani (Gypsy) singers—*lăutari*—through the end of the 20th century and is even sung on occasion at the present time. In this presentation, Dr. Margaret H. Beissinger compares the Romanian and South Slavic traditions.

***Dr. Margaret H. Beissinger** is a Research Scholar of Slavic and East European oral traditions and Balkan languages at Princeton University. She has published widely on oral traditions in the Balkans, Romani folklore and culture, and Balkan languages and literatures. She is completing a book on culture and performance among Romani musicians in southern Romania.*

Reception to follow.

