

# MICHAEL BIGGINS

## CV HIGHLIGHTS

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Affiliate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures**, University of Washington, 2000 - present. Teach courses in Slovenian language (all levels), advanced Russian language, Slavic to English literary translation, Slovenian literature. Co-founder and co-faculty director of UW Translation Studies Hub, 2019-2022 (with Prof. Richard Watts and Prof. Heekyoung Cho)

**Head, International Studies Units**, University of Washington Libraries, 2004-2023 Oversight and coordination of staff and activities of Near East Section, Slavic and East European Section, Southeast Asia Section, and materials processing for South Asia.

**Head, Slavic and East European Section**, University of Washington Libraries, 1994 - (tenured, 1997). Librarian for Slavic, Baltic and East European studies. Interim Librarian for Scandinavian Studies, 2011- 2012. Head, International Studies units (Near East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Slavic), 1997-1999, 2004-2023. Fund group manager, International Studies (Slavic, East Asia, Near East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and others), 2010-2022.

**Slavic Catalog Librarian and South Slavic Bibliographer**, University of Kansas Libraries, 1988-1994 (tenured, 1993).

**Assistant Professor of Russian**, Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., 1986-1987.

**Instructor of Russian**, Middlebury College Russian Summer School, Middlebury, Vt., 1986-87.

**Assistant Professor of Russian**, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vt., 1985-1986.

**Russian Language Summer Study Abroad Instructor/Group Leader**, University of Kansas, led groups of 20-25 U.S. students enrolled in summer intensive Russian language program in Leningrad, Soviet Union, 1981 and 1982.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

**PhD**, Honors, Slavic Languages and Literatures: University of Kansas (1985).

**MS**, Library and Information Science: University of Illinois/Champaign-Urbana (1988).

**MA**, Honors, Germanic Languages and Literatures: University of Kansas (1978).

**BA**, Highest Distinction: University of Kansas (1976).

### KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Fluent to near-native: Russian, German, Slovenian.

Good command: Czech, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, French, Norwegian.

Reading knowledge: All other Germanic and Scandinavian; all other Slavic languages; Lithuanian; classical Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish.

### NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- President, Society for Slovene Studies (an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies): 2017-2023 (two consecutive terms). Member of Executive Council, ex-officio, 2006-2013. Secretary, 2006-2013. Elected Executive Council member, 1994-1996, 2014-2017. Member, Advisory Committee of the Center for Slovene Studies, 2007-present.
- Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia for Washington State: 2018-
- Selection Committee, Slovene Academy of Sciences Scientific Research Center Scholars Exchange with Ohio State University: 2018-
- Chair, UW-University of Ljubljana Scholars Exchange: 2011-present. Member, 1995-2011.

- Co-founder and coordinator, *Readings from the Heart of Europe*, a community reading group sponsored in part by the UW Libraries, featuring monthly discussions of major literary works by Central European writers in English translation: 2019-
- Dalkey Archive Press, international literature advisory board: 2018-2020
- American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF), Advisory Board: Member, 2015-present.
- Seattle Ethnic Heritage Council, Executive Board: Member, 2016-2017.
- Communications Advisory Committee (Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies): Member, 2015-2017
- University of Connecticut, Creative Writing Program, Aetna Translation Award: Jurist, 2015.
- Slavic Review Advisory Committee (ASEEES): Ad hoc national committee, 2010-11, consisting of three faculty and one librarian to advise in selection of publisher for digital version of flagship Slavic studies journal.
- External Evaluator of Slavic Collections, University of California, Berkeley Library: Autumn 2009. Report submitted January 2010.
- External Evaluator of Slavic Collections, University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana Library: Autumn 2008. Report submitted December 2008.
- Collection Development Subcommittee (AAASS): Member, 1999-2001; 2005-2007. Chair, 2008-2010. Appointive.
- Bibliography and Documentation Committee (American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS)): Chair, 2002-2004. Member, 1999-2001. Appointive.
- Slavic and East European Microform Project (Center for Research Libraries): Chair, 1998-1999; Executive Board, 1997-2000, 2002-2004. Elected. Nominations Committee, 2007- present. Appointive.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Proposal reviewer, 2004, 1994.
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC). Proposal reviewer, 2014.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, PANELS AND VISITING LECTURES

(NB: This section lists only papers delivered and does not include program functions such as as chair or discussant.)

### **American-Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF)**

- “From Slovenian to World Literature: Slovenia’s Past and Future Contributions to the Global Literary Canon,” presented by invitation as part of the ASEF Featured Speaker Series, virtually over Zoom, June 15, 2021.

### **Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)**

- “Baltic Studies Collections in North America: the Past and Coming Thirty Years,” roundtable at the biennial international conference in Seattle, May 26-29, 2022, with colleagues from Stanford University Libraries and New York Public Library

### **Seattle Athenaeum, Folio Meet the Translator Series**

- “*War and Peace* for the 20th and 21st Centuries: Lojze Kovačič’s *Newcomers*,” virtually over Zoom, April 22, 2021

### **Fifth Annual Slovenian Science and Education Showcase (Washington, DC)**

- “Returning the Slovenes to Trieste with Vladimir Bartol” – presented by invitation as part of an annual public research forum sponsored by the Embassy of Slovenia, Washington DC, Oct 4, 2018

### **University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)**

- *Vladimir Bartol, Reconsidered ... Again* – a series of 5 graduate seminar sessions and one public lecture presented by invitation at the University of Nova Gorica, May 14-21, 2018

### **Midwest Slavic Conference (Columbus Ohio)**

- “Canons Continually Recast: Claiming Space for the Genius of Europe’s Borderlands,” keynote address at the annual conference of the Midwest Slavic Association, March 24, 2018

### **Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Northwest Conference (Seattle WA)**

- “East Central European Literature Through the Sieve of American Trade Publishing: the case of Boris Pahor’s *Necropolis*,” April 6, 2022.

### **University of Primorska (Koper, Slovenia)**

- “Vladimir Bartol as a Modernist Pioneer of the Unreliable Narrator,” public lecture delivered in Slovene, 15 September 2016.

### **Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES, formerly AAASS)**

- National Conference 2020, Washington, DC (panelist at a session titled *Latvian Collections at Major American Libraries*, and discussant for a session titled *Balkan Collections in Libraries Outside of Southeastern Europe*)
- National Conference 2019, San Francisco, CA (organizer of a roundtable of five participants titled *Maximizing Effectiveness, Appeal and Outreach for Teaching Smaller and Not So Small Slavic Languages: BCMS, Czech, Polish, Slovene and Ukrainian.*)
- National Conference 2018, Boston, MA (chair and discussant for a panel of three papers titled *Translating the Memory-Performance of Childhood.*)
- National Conference 2015, Philadelphia, PA (presenting a paper titled “The Vladimir Bartol archive and the making of a Slovene literary biography” as part of a panel *New Work by Senior Scholars in Slovene Studies*)
- National Conference 2014, San Antonio, TX (roundtable participant on *The Changing Role of In-Kind Gifts for Slavic Research Collections.*)
- National Conference 2012, New Orleans (presented a paper “Scaling the North Face of American Publishing or Taking the Back Way Up: Advancing Slovene Literature in English Translation” as part of a panel titled *Recent American Translation of Slovene Novels.*)
- National Conference 2010, Los Angeles (organizer and chair of a roundtable titled *Taking Slavic Studies Journals Online: Better Options for Going Digital*, to include journal editors, publishers, and digital librarians, and intended to highlight practical solutions to scholarly communications issues)
- National Conference 2009, Boston, MA (organizer of a panel titled *Slavic Acquisitions and Collection Development: Broadening Bandwidth, Fine-Tuning Reception*, which included a special focus on collection development of Russian and East European art history materials)

### **Wave Books Symposium on Poetry Translation**

November 2011, Seattle, Henry Art Gallery (1 lecture, 1 poetry reading)

### **Center for Jewish History (New York)**

November 2010, organizer and moderator of a symposium on Italian Slovene author Boris Pahor and ethnic persecution in the Julian March under Fascist Italy.

## **PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND EDITED WORKS**

- “How Kovačič’s Fur Coat Is Made: What a Formalist Analysis Tells Us about the Great Slovenian Novel,” in *Slovene Studies*, 41/2 (2019): 23-54.
- “Raising Adria: Vladimir Bartol’s Evocation of the Last Years of Habsburg Trieste,” in *Slovene Studies*, 41/2 (2019): 85-92.
- “Americanizing Slovene literature, or, Taking the Day-Trippers’ Path to the Summit Instead of the North Face: Slovene to English Literary Translation on the Society’s Fortieth Anniversary,” *Slovene Studies*, 34/1-2 (2012): 55-70.
- “Post-1989 Publishing on Previously Suppressed Topics: Trends in Czech Contemporary History, With Reference to Poland,” in *Books, Bibliographies and Pugs: a Festschrift to Honor Murlin Croucher* (Bloomington, Ind.: Slavica Publishers, 2006): p. 13-29.
- Co-guest editor of special issue, *Publishing in the Former Yugoslavia in the 1990s*, vol. 1, no. 2/3 of *Slavic and East European Information Resources* (Haworth Press). In collaboration with Janet Crayne, U. of Michigan.
- "Tomaž Šalamun," in *South Slavic Writers Since World War II*. Detroit : Gale Press, 1997 (Dictionary of Literary Biography ; vol. 181): p. 288-294.
- *Library Assessment Project: Southeastern Europe*. Washington, DC : International Research and Exchanges Board, 1995 (23 pages).
- "Edvard Kocbek," in *South Slavic Writers Before World War II*. Detroit : Gale Press, 1995. (Dictionary of literary Biography ; vol. 147): p. 79-86.
- "Serials in a disintegrating state: the case of the former Yugoslav republics," in *Serials Review* (Ann Arbor, Mich.), Winter 1993, p. 52-55.

- "Handke's Slovenia and Šalamun's America," *Slovene Studies*, 1991/1, p. 181-190; also published in Slovene as "Handkejeva Slovenija in Šalamunova Amerika," in *Literatura* (Ljubljana, Slovenia), no. 22 (Spring 1993): p. 52-60.
- "Upati je, da vaša literatura ne bo več ujeta v političnih vedah," *Delo* (Ljubljana, Slovenia), 17 September 1992, p. 15. Text of a paper delivered at Vilenica 1992, conference of Central European writers.

## BOOK AND DIGITAL RESOURCE REVIEWS

- "Klement's fall, Bartol's ascent: a review essay on four recent books about Vladimir Bartol." In *Slovene Studies*, vol. 41 (2019), no. 1: 57-67.
- Review of: IA. N. Shchapov, *Справочный инструментарий историка России (Reference Resources for Russian History)*. Moscow : Nauka, 2007. In: *Russian Review*, vol 67 (2008), no 3: 512-513.
- Review of: The Digital Library of Slovenia ([www.dLib.si](http://www.dLib.si)). In *Slavic and East European Information Resources*, vol. 9 (2008), no. 3: 294-298.
- Review of: Harold Segel, *The Columbia Guide to the Literatures of Eastern Europe Since 1945*. New York : Columbia University Press, 2003. In: *Slavic and East European Information Resources*, vol. 6 (2005), no. 1: 153-155.
- Review of: Liivi Aarma, ed., *Raamat uhendaab = Book United*. Tallinn: Tallinna Pedagoogikaülikool, 1999. In: *Slavic and East European Information Resources*, vol. 4 (2003), no. 1: 107-108.
- Review of: *Novaia russkaia kniga* (St Petersburg book review journal). In: *Slavic and East European Information Resources*, vol. 2 (2002), no. 3: 127-129.
- Review of: Zlata Filipovic, *Zlata's Diary*. New York: Viking, 1994. In: *Slavic Review* (Fall 1995): 544-545.
- Review of: Aleš Debeljak, *Fearful Minutes*. Fredonia, NY : White Pine Press, 1995. In: *Slavic and East European Journal* (Spring 1995): 152-153.

## LITERARY TRANSLATIONS PUBLISHED OR IN PRESS AS BOOKS

- Lojze Kovačič, *Newcomers, Book Three*. New York: Archipelago Books, 2024. From Slovenian. (Forthcoming)
- Uroš Zupan, *Slow Sailing: New, Selected and Revised Poems*. Ljubljana: Litterae Slovenicae, 2022. From Slovenian.
- Boris A. Novak, *The Doors of No Return: Fragments of an Epic*. Novo Mesto: Goga, 2022. From Slovenian.
- Ivan Cankar, *Three Plays: Romantic Souls, Jakob Ruda, For the Good of the Nation*. Kranj: Prešernovo gledališče, 2021. From Slovenian.
- Katja Perat, *The Masochist*. London: Istros Books, 2020. From Slovenian (forthcoming).
- Lojze Kovačič, *Newcomers, Book Two*. New York: Archipelago Books, 2020. From Slovenian.
- Mate Dolenc, *Sea at Eclipse*. Ljubljana: Litterae Slovenicae, 2018. From Slovenian.
- Lojze Kovačič, *Newcomers, Book One*. New York: Archipelago Books, 2016. From Slovenian. Nominated for the 2016 book award of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.
- Suzana Tratnik, *Games with Greta and Other Stories*. Victoria, TX: Dalkey Archive Press, 2016. From Slovenian (translator of 40% of stories included)
- Vladimir Bartol, *Al-Araf*. Ljubljana: Sanje Publishers, 2015. From Slovenian.
- Drago Jančar, *I Saw Her That Night*. Champaign, IL: Dalkey Archive Press, 2016. From Slovenian. Awarded a starred review by *Kirkus Reviews*, November 15, 2015.
- Drago Jančar, *The Tree With No Name*. Champaign, IL: Dalkey Archive Press, 2014. From Slovenian, with my afterword.
- Florjan Lipuš, *The Errors of Young Tjaž*. Champaign, IL: Dalkey Archive Press, 2013. From Slovenian.
- Drago Jančar, *The Galley Slave*. Champaign, IL: Dalkey Archive Press, 2011. From Slovenian. Awarded a starred review by *Publishers' Weekly*, October 3, 2011.
- Tomaž Šalamun, *The Blue Tower*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011. From Slovenian.
- Vladimir Bartol, *Alamut*. Seattle: Scala House Press, 2004. (European edition: Ljubljana: Sanje, 2005. Paperback edition: San Francisco: North Atlantic Books, 2007.) Also author of afterword. From Slovenian, with my afterword.
- Tomaž Šalamun, *Blackboards*. New York: Saturnalia Press, 2004. From Slovenian.
- Drago Jančar, *Northern Lights*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 2001. From Slovenian.

- Tomaž Šalamun, *A Ballad for Metka Krašovec*. Prague: Twisted Spoon Press, 2001. From Slovenian. Awarded a starred review by *Publishers' Weekly*, April 23, 2001.
- Drago Jančar, *Mocking Desire*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1998. From Slovenian.
- Tomaž Salamun, *The Four Questions of Melancholy: Selected Poems, 1965-1995*. Fredonia, NY: White Pine Press, 1997. From Slovenian. Contributed 50% of translated contents. Book was shortlisted for the Los Angeles Times Book Award in 1998, and reviewed favorably in the *New Yorker*.
- Vladimir Makanin, "Prisoner of the Caucasus," co-translator with Anatoly Vishevsky. In: *Out of the Blue* (San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1997). From Russian.
- Boris Pahor, *Pilgrim Among the Shadows: A Memoir*. New York : Harcourt Brace, 1995. (Republished, with a new introduction, as *Necropolis*: Champaign, IL : Dalkey Archive Press, 2010.) From Slovenian.
- Edvard Kocbek, *Selected Poems*. Ljubljana: Slovene Writers' Association, 1995. From Slovenian.
- Aleš Debeljak, *Twilight of the Idols: Recollections of a Lost Yugoslavia*. Fredonia, NY: White Pine Press, 1994.
- Have also translated poetry and shorter prose fiction from Slovenian and Russian, published in literary journals such as *Paris Review*, *Grand Street*, *Harvard Review*, *Boulevard*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ironwood*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Seattle Review* and many others, 1987-present.

## GRANTS AND GIFTS AWARDED

- **UW Slovene Studies Endowment Fund:** Established the first permanent endowment to support Slovene studies at UW and annual exchanges of UW faculty and students campus-wide with the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). Initial principal amount of \$150,000 (September 2016). Launched second phase of fundraising, with new principal target of \$300,000 achieved (May-December 2022).
- **Grants for Large-Scale Collaboration in the Humanities** (UW Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities): Awarded annually for 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 to support the development, in collaboration with faculty colleagues in French-Italian and Asian Languages and Literatures, of a Translation Studies Hub at UW: \$45,000.
- **I.F. Smith Family Foundation:** Annual awards, 2002-2021, in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000 in response to my invited proposals to support Slavic studies programs within the UW Libraries. Awards in 2006-07 and 2020-21 included requested amounts for establishing and growing a permanent Libraries Slavic endowment with current principal balance of \$100,000. Cumulative awards over twenty years: \$400,000.
- **IREX Grant in Library and Information Science:** Project title: Assessment of Current Acquisitions Options from Southeastern Europe, May 1994. Author. Award: \$4,000.
- **IREX Grant for Processing International Studies Backlogs**, co-authored with Bradley Schaffner: \$60,000.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Honorary Senator, University of Ljubljana Faculty Senate (2023, lifetime)
- Corresponding Member, Slovene Academy of Arts and Sciences (2023, lifetime)
- Primož Trubar Award of the National Library of Slovenia for lifetime contributions toward advancing and preserving Slovenian written cultural heritage (first non-Slovenian recipient in the award's history): 2021
- Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia for Washington State: 2018-2023
- Janko Lavrin Award for Distinguished Contributions to Slovene Literature Abroad: 2015
- Distinguished Staff Award, University of Washington: 2005
- University of Kansas Dissertation Fellowship: 1984-1985
- Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS, U.S. Dept of Education): 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82
- University of Kansas Graduate School Fellowship: 1976-1978
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Brown University Book Award for outstanding secondary school junior (1971)
- Princeton University Book Award for outstanding secondary school sophomore (1970)

## MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages  
Society for Slovene Studies  
Consular Association of Washington State

*KEY TO ACRONYMS:*

*AAASS: American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (after 2009, ASEES)*  
*ASEES: Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (before 2010, AAASS)*  
*SSS: Society for Slovene Studies*  
*IREX: International Research and Exchanges Board*  
*REECAS: Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies (UW interdisciplinary program)*  
*FLAS: Foreign Language Area Studies fellowships (sponsored by U.S. Dept of Education)*