

# **ANNA BERESIN, Ph.D.**

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## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **University of the Arts**

Philadelphia, PA

Professor

Psychology and Folklore  
Critical Studies, Liberal Arts  
2015-Present

Associate Professor  
Assistant Professor  
Lindback Distinguished  
Teaching Award

Liberal Arts, 2005-2015  
Liberal Arts, 1999-2005  
2004

Thesis Advisor

Museum Studies;  
Industrial Design, 2000-  
Present

Coordinator

Undergraduate Science  
Program, 2005-2017

Service  
(Selected)

UARTS Executive Faculty  
Council 2019-2020

UARTS Executive Search  
Committees, 2017, 2019

UARTS Middle States  
Reaccreditation Executive  
Committee, 2018-2019

## **Grants**

UARTS Provost Grant Award, Thirteen times through 2020  
President's Award for Excellence, 2019, 2018  
Dorothy Howard Award, American Folklore Society, 2019  
Esri ArcGIS Grant Award 2018  
Fortune Foundation, 2018, 2017  
Zeldin Foundation, 2018-2014  
Beneficial Foundation, 2017  
Harry Chapin Foundation, 2017  
Dolfinger Foundation, 2016  
Opie Award, American Folklore Society, 2012  
Society for American Music, Sight and Sound Fund, 2010

## **Adjunct Faculty Positions**

### **Rutgers University**

Camden, PA

Visiting Professor

Graduate Program Childhood  
Studies, 2011-2017

### **University of Pennsylvania**

Philadelphia, PA

Visiting Professor

College of Liberal and  
Professional Studies,  
2005-2017

Center for Folklore and  
Ethnography, Department of  
Folklore  
1994-2013

## **EDUCATION**

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife

Ph.D. in Psychology of Education, Child Cultures

Joint degree, conferred with distinction, 1993

Phi Delta Kappa Award for Outstanding Dissertation, 1994  
Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Award, 1992

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

M.Ed. in Human Development, Interactive Technology  
Graduate School of Education, 1986

**Tufts University**, Jackson College, Medford, MA

B.A. summa cum laude  
Dual major, Child Study and Sociology, 1983

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

Beresin, A. (2019). *The character of play*. Washington DC: Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education.

Herrmann, Brigitta, Fischbeck, Manfred, Sinaico, Elia & Beresin, A. (2018). *Group Motion in practice*. 2018. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press.

Beresin, A. (2014). *The art of play: Recess and the practice of invention*. Temple University Press.

Beresin, A. (2012). *Recess battles: Playing, fighting, and storytelling*. University Press of Mississippi. 2010.  
Winner of the Iona and Peter Opie Award, American Folklore Society.

**Articles and Chapters**

Beresin, A. (In Press). Unequal resources: Space, time, and loose parts and what to do with an uneven playing field. In Olga Jarrett & Vera Stenhouse (Eds.). *Play and social justice*. Peter Lang.

- Beresin, A. (In Press). A more serious introduction: A critique of the inherent racism in the play theory of Yrjö Hirn. Special Issue: The *International Journal of Play*.
- Beresin, A. (2019). Brian Sutton-Smith's views on play. With Fraser Brown & Michael Patte. In P. K. Smith & J. L. Roopnarine (Eds.). *The Cambridge handbook of play: Developmental and disciplinary perspectives*. 383-398.
- Beresin, A. (2019). Play signals, play moves: A gorilla critique of play theory. With Kristen Farley-Rambo, Gorilla Keeper of the Philadelphia Zoo. *International Journal of Play*, March. 322-337.
- Beresin, A. (2019). Review of *Prehistoric games of North American Indians subarctic to Mesoamerica*. (B. Voorhies, Ed.). University of Utah Press. *Western Folklore Review*. Vol. 78 No. 2/3.
- Beresin, A. (2018). O.P.: Collection as celebration of children's self-organized play. Essay in honor of the work of I. and P. Opie. In Julia Bishop & June Factor, (Eds.). *The lifework and legacy of Iona and Peter Opie: Research into children's play*. London: Routledge. 321-325.
- Beresin, A. (2018). Sound ideas: A folk arts response to taboo rhythm games at school. *Journal of Folklore and Education*. Vol. 5, Issue 2.
- Beresin, A. (2016). Playing with time. *International Journal of Play*, Reprint, Fifth Anniversary Issue, February 2017. 159-165.
- Beresin, A. (2015). Inventing the discipline while you break it down: An essay in honor of Brian Sutton-Smith. *Children's Folklore Review*. (37), 2015.
- Beresin, A. (2015) Pen tapping: Forbidden folklore. *Journal of Folklore and Education*. (2).
- Beresin, A. (2015). Playgrounds. In Simon Bronner & Cindy Dell Clark, (Eds.). *Youth cultures in America*. Santa Barbara: ABC- CLIO.
- Beresin, A. (2012). Play counts: Pedometers and the case for recess. *International Journal of Play*. August. Issue 1 (2). 131-138.

- Beresin, A. (2012). *Play*. *Oxford bibliographies on-line*. Oxford University Press. July.
- Beresin, A. (2010). Children's museums and children's bodies. In Drew Chappell (Ed.). *Children under construction*. Peter Lang. 127-128.
- Beresin, A. (2009). Charades. In R. P. Carlisle (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of play*. Sage.
- Beresin, A. (2009). Teasing. In R. P. Carlisle (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of play*. Sage.
- Beresin, A. (2004). School power, children's play, and the timing of recess violence. In Myrdene Anderson, (Ed.). *The cultural shaping of violence*. Purdue University. 18-23.
- Beresin, A. (2002). Children's expressive culture in the light of 9/11/01. *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*. Special Issue. 33 (3). 331-337.
- Beresin, A. (1997). Folk games. In Thomas Green (Ed.). *Folklore: An encyclopedia of forms, methods and history*. ABC-CLIO. 393-401.
- Beresin, A. (1997). Folk toys. In Thomas Green (Ed.). *Folklore: An encyclopedia of forms, methods and history*. ABC-CLIO..494-499.
- Beresin, A. (1996). 'Sui' generis: Mock violence in an urban school yard. *Children's Folklore Review*. 18 (2) Spring. 25-35.
- Beresin, A. (1995). Double dutch and double cameras: Studying the transmission of culture in an urban school yard. In Brian Sutton-Smith et al (Eds.). *Children's folklore: A source book*. Garland Press. 75-91.

### **Conference Papers**

"Play and Social Justice," Invited Speaker, Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence. Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. November 2020.

"Play Theory" Invited Keynote, Digital Playwork Conference. London,

UK. June 2020.

"A New Child Normal: Health, Play, and the Great Indoors in Philadelphia." American Anthropology Association. Panel sponsored by the Society for Medical Anthropology. Vancouver, BC. November 2019.

"Recess and Social Justice: A Call for Advocacy." Panel: Play and Social Justice. The Association for the Study of Play. Harrisonburg, VA. March 2019.

"It/Not It: Playing with Sutton-Smith's Concept of Dialudics." Harrisonburg, VA. March 2019.

"Migrations Imagined," Panel on Children, Families, and Migration: Adapting, Imagining, and Resisting. American Anthropology Association. San Jose, CA. November 2018.

"International Forum on Recess Research." The International Play Association. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. September 2017.

"The Microphysics of Unfreedom at School." Diverse Unfreedoms and Their Ghosts Conference. Rutgers University, Camden. March 2017.

"NEUARTS Collaborative Studio." Association of Writers and Writing Programs. Washington, DC. February 2017.

Visiting Scholar, American Association of Primatologists. Chicago, IL. June 2016.

"Not Heard: Listening to Unspoken Motifs in Children's Noise and Rebellious Quiet at School." American Folklore Society. Miami, FL. October 2016.

"Play Signals, Play Moves." The Association for the Study of Play. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. March 2016.

"Recess Research: Historical, Sociological, and Anthropological Perspectives on Play at School." Society for Research in Child Development. Philadelphia, PA. March 2015.

“Art Stories/Kid Stories: Neighborhood Engagement at UARTS.”  
American Folklore Society. Santa Fe, NM. November 2014.

“The Art of Play: The Advocacy of Recess Access” International Play  
Association. Istanbul, Turkey. May 2014.

“Recess Research: Play, Parity, Policy” Chair of panel, American  
Education Research Association. Philadelphia, PA. April 2014.

“The Art of Play: A Community Conversation about Invention as  
Intervention.” Painted Bride Art Center, Philadelphia, PA. December  
2013.

Keynote, “What We Kids Do’: Children’s Folklore and the Study of the  
School Yard.” Ohio State University, September 2013.

Visiting Scholar, American Association of Primatologists, San Juan,  
Puerto Rico. June 2013.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/ INNOVATION**

### **Co-Editor**

*International Journal of Play,*  
By Invitation. 2016- Present.

Crafts editorials and coordinates peer review relating to child cultures.

### **Co-Founding Scholar**

Global Recess Alliance.  
Post COVID-19 Research.  
April 2020- Present.

Works with international scholars addressing play, culture, and health  
given the global challenges of COVID-19.

### **Curriculum Specialist**

Autism Program, Snapology  
King of Prussia, PA 2019

Created daily innovative STEAM Lego programs for children on the  
autism spectrum.

**Founding Co-Director**

NEUARTS: Neighborhood  
Engagement at The University  
of the Arts, 2014-2019

Established partnerships between university students and after school programs in the under-resourced Point Breeze neighborhood of Philadelphia.

**Founding Director**

Recess Access, 2010-2014

Linked grant funded materials donation to Philadelphia public schools for a health initiative.

**Consultant/Guest Lecturer**  
(Selected)

By Invitation, 2010-Present:

*Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*

Children's Hospital Medical Residents

Community Design Collaborative

*Genius of Play*

*Global Recess Alliance*

Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Association

PHENND, Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood  
Development

The School District of Philadelphia

Smith Memorial Playground

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- children's expressive cultures
- history of games
- art and play