UMSL Faculty Expertise

Maria Balogh, *University of Missouri-St. Louis*

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María Teresa Balogh
Associate Teaching Professor
314-516-6440
baloghm@umsl.edu
https://works.bepress.com/maria-balogh/

Research Specializations:
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Reading and Discussions
Spanish Language Teaching

Biographical Narrative:
María Teresa Balogh is an associate teaching professor of Spanish, specializing in Latin American literature, diverse cultural special topics, and creative writing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She joined the UMSL languages team in the fall of 2003. Since then, she has taught a variety of courses from freshman to graduate level, in topics such as magical realism, Hispanic films, myths and legends, and others. She has a Master of Arts degree in foreign languages and literature with a double major in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from UMSL.

She is also a bilingual, bicultural poet, fiction writer, and a Caribbean folkloric dancer. She is originally from Colombia. She has a book of poetry in Spanish by Ediciones Torremosas, a Spanish publisher based in Madrid, and a collection of poetry and fiction in English by Cool Way Press, based in St. Louis. Her fiction and poetry have been published in numerous journals from the U.S.A. and South America.

She has been many places and done a bit of everything, including a couple of tours with the Peace Corps. While being a Peace Corps Volunteer, she taught English in Mauritania, West Africa and trained rural people in Honduras in the management of water systems. She also participated in the supervision and construction of these rural water and sanitation projects.
Profesora Balogh is a passionate language learner who became multilingual just out of love of languages and cultures. She speaks Spanish, her native language, English, French, some Portuguese, and a little Italian. This ability has brought her far in life and makes her empathize with fellow language learners.