

RAY CASHMAN

Indiana University
Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology
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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Folklore—traditional, vernacular, expressive and material culture—in Ireland, UK, North America
- Oral traditions and verbal art, the ethnography of communication, performance studies
- Social memory and forgetting, oral history, commemoration, nostalgia
- Politics of culture, identity, and tradition
- Place-making and sense of place
- Customs, rituals, beliefs, and material culture surrounding death; thanatology
- Theory, methodology, and ethics of fieldwork and ethnography
- Intellectual history of folklore studies, ethnology, and linguistic and cultural anthropology

EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

M.A. 1998, Ph.D. 2002 in folklore, minor in history

Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

B.A. 1993 in religion, minor in anthropology

University College Cork, Ireland

1991-92, courses in folklore and ethnology, Celtic studies, *Gaeilge* (Irish language)

UNIVERSITY POSITIONS

Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

- Professor, 2018-present
- Director, Folklore Institute, 2017-2021, 2023-4
- Associate Professor, 2015-2018
- Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology
- Affiliated Faculty, Institute for European Studies

The Ohio State University, Departments of English, Anthropology, and Comparative Studies

- Associate Professor of Folklore and English, 2009-2015
- Assistant Professor of Folklore and English, 2006-2009
- Acting Director, Center for Folklore Studies, 2011-2012
- Director of Graduate Studies, Center for Folklore Studies, 2011-2013
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Center for Folklore Studies, 2009-2011
- Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
- Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Studies
- Affiliated Faculty, Center for the Study of Religion

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Department of Anthropology

- Assistant Professor, 2003-2006

Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, Department of Anthropology

- Instructor, 1998, 2001-2003

Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

- Instructor, 1996-1998, 1999-2001

HONORS, DISTINCTIONS, GRANTS

Indiana University

- Nominated for Faculty Mentorship Award, IU Graduate and Professional Student Government, 2022
- Elected Social Science Representative, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2019-2022
- Elected Fellow of the American Folklore Society, 2019
- Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture, for Packy Jim: Folklore and Worldview on the Irish Border, awarded by the American Conference for Irish Studies, 2017
- IU Trustees Teaching Award, 2016-2017
- Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2015, 2016
- Horizons of Knowledge grant, 2015

The Ohio State University

- Elected Member of the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society, 2010-2013
- ASC Grant-in-Aid for International Travel, 2011, 2009
- Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book, for Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border, awarded by the American Conference for Irish Studies, 2009
- The Chicago Folklore Prize, for Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border, awarded by the American Folklore Society and the University of Chicago, 2009
- Elected to OSU English Department Executive Committee, 2008-2010
- Nominated for Undergraduate Professor of the Year, 2008

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Frederick W. Conner Prize in the History of Ideas for “Critical Nostalgia and Material Culture in Northern Ireland,” 2005
- Faculty Development Grant, 2004-2006
- Anthropology representative for SBS Honors Program, 2005-2006
- Invited to speak to the American Folklore Society Fellows Panel, AFS annual meeting, 2004
- Seminar, “History, Culture, and the Politics of Identity,” accepted by UAB Honors College, 2004
- Travel grant, Academy of Irish Cultural Heritage, University of Ulster, Magee College, 2003

Indiana University (as a graduate student)

- “Arts of Conflict: Northern Ireland,” seminar accepted by Collins Living Learning Center, 2001
- IU College of Arts and Sciences Summer Travel Grant, 2000
- Richard M. Dorson Dissertation Research Prize, 1998
- M.A. thesis, “The Irish Outlaw in Song and Story,” awarded highest marks, 1998
- IU International Enhancement Grant for language study, 1996
- Course on Irish folklore accepted by IU College of Arts and Sciences, 1996
- IU Folklore Department Graduate Student Fellowship, 1994-98

Williams College

- National Merit Finalist, Dean’s List all semesters, Graduated *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Packy Jim: Folklore and Worldview on the Irish Border. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press (2016, 2017 paperback 2nd edition)

- awarded the Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture, by the American Conference for Irish Studies, 2017

Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border: Characters and Community. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2008, 2011 paperback 2nd edition)

- awarded the Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book, by the American Conference for Irish Studies, 2009
- awarded The Chicago Folklore Prize, by the American Folklore Society and the University of Chicago, 2009

Current Book Project:

Doing Death Well: Irish Traditions in a Changing World

Edited Volumes:

Grand Theory in Folkloristics, originally ed. Lee Haring, expanded and ed. Ray Cashman and Michael Dylan Foster for *Encounters: Explorations in Folklore and Ethnomusicology* (Journal of Folklore Research book series). Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2016)

The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives, eds. Ray Cashman, Tom Mould, and Pravina Shukla. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2011)

“Irish Folklore and Ethnology,” special issue of Folklore Forum vol. 27, no. 2 (1996)

Journal Articles:

“Neighborliness and Decency, Witchcraft and Famine: Reflections on Community from Irish Folklore” Journal of American Folklore vol. 34, no. 531 (2021), pp. 79-100.

“Reading an Irish Holy Well” Mallow Field Club Journal vol. 38 (2020), pp. 141-60.

“The Hungry Grass: Folklore and the Undead Past in Post-Famine Ireland” Reading Ireland vol. 4, issue 1 (2018), pp. 73-82.

“Tradition, Self Expression, and Social Critique: A Voice from the Donegal Border” in Béaloides: The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society vol. 83 (2016), pp. 16-33.

“Critical Nostalgia and Material Culture in Northern Ireland” translated reprint in Nihon Minzokugaku (The Journal of the Folklore Society of Japan) issue 273 (2012)

“Visions of Irish Nationalism” in Journal of Folklore Research vol. 45, no. 3 (2008), pp. 361-381.

- “Genre and Ideology in Northern Ireland” in Midwestern Folklore vol. 33, no. 1 (2007), pp. 13-27
- “Dying the Good Death: Wake and Funeral Customs in County Tyrone” in New Hibernia Review vol. 10, no. 2 (2006), pp. 9-25
- “Critical Nostalgia and Material Culture in Northern Ireland” in Journal of American Folklore vol. 119, no. 472 (2006), pp. 137-160
- “Politics and the Sense of Place in Northern Ireland” in Folklore Forum, special issue on “The Sense of Place,” vol. 33, nos. 1-2 (2002), pp. 113-30
- “Ethnohistorical Preservation and Persuasion in Geoffrey Keating’s History of Ireland, *Foras Feasa ar Éireann*” in New Hibernia Review, vol. 5, no. 4 (2001), pp. 147-152
- “The Local Historical Society as a Vehicle for Reconciliation in a Northern Irish Border Community” in Working Papers in Irish Studies vol. 17, no. 1 (2001), pp. 5-11
- “‘Young Ned of the Hill’ and the Reemergence of the Irish Rapparee” in Cultural Analysis vol. 1, no. 1 (2000), pp. 51-68 at <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~caforum/>
- “Mumming with the Neighbors in West Tyrone” in Journal of Folklore Research vol. 37, no. 1 (2000), pp. 73-84
- “The Heroic Outlaw in Irish Folklore and Popular Literature” in Folklore vol. 111, no. 2 (2000), pp. 191-215
- “Christmas Mumming Today in Northern Ireland” in Midwestern Folklore vol. 26, no. 1 (2000), pp. 27-47
- “A Letter from Ireland: The News from Ballymongan” in New Hibernia Review vol. 3, no. 2 (1999), pp. 19-35
- “E. Estyn Evans and His Lasting Importance to the Study of Folklore” in Folklore Forum vol. 27, no. 1 (1996), pp. 3-19

Book Chapters:

- “Layered Resonance at Abbeyswell” in Holy Wells of Ireland: Sacred Realms and Popular Domains, ed. Celeste Ray and Finbar McCormick, pp. 293-306. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2023)
- “Teaching Graduate Students” in What Folklorist’s Do: Professional Possibilities in Folklore Studies, ed. Timothy Lloyd, pp. 41-44. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- “Folklore, Politics, and Place-making in Northern Ireland” in The Routledge Handbook of Landscape and Memory, ed. Sarah De Nardi, Eerika Koskinen-Koivisto, Hilary Orange, Danielle Drozdowski, and Steven High, pp. 291-304. New York: Routledge Publishing (2019)
- “Genre as Ideology-Shaping Form: Storytelling and Parading in Northern Ireland” in Genre, Text, Interpretation: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Folklore and Beyond, ed. Kaarina Koski and Ulla Savolainen, pp. 381-402. Helsinki: Studia Fennica Folkloristica, Finnish Literature Society (2016)
- “Situational Context and Interaction in a Folklorist’s Ethnographic Approach to Storytelling” in Varieties

of Narrative Analysis, ed. James Holstein and Jaber Gubrium, pp. 181-206. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (2011)

(with Tom Mould and Pravina Shukla) "Introduction: The Individual and Tradition," in The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives, ed. Ray Cashman, Tom Mould, and Pravina Shukla, pp. 1-26. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2011)

"The Role of Tradition in the Individual: At Work in Donegal with Packy Jim McGrath," in The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives, ed. Ray Cashman, Tom Mould, and Pravina Shukla, pp. 303-322. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2011)

(with Tom Mould and Pravina Shukla) "A Folklorist's Work: Henry Glassie's Life in the Field," in The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives, ed. Ray Cashman, Tom Mould, and Pravina Shukla, pp. 499-528. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (2011)

"Storytelling and the Construction of Local Identities on the Irish Border" in Orality and Modern Irish Culture, ed. Nessa Cronin, Seán Crosson, Louis de Paor, and John Eastlake, pp. 115-125. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2008)

"Mumming on the Northern Irish Border: Social and Political Implications" in Border-Crossing: Mumming in Cross-Border and Cross-Community Contexts, ed. Anthony Buckley, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Séamas Mac Mathúna, and Séamas Ó Catháin, pp. 39-56. Dundalk: Dundalgan Press (2007)

"Irish Folklore and Folklife" in Encyclopedia of World Folklore, vol. 3, ed. William Clements, pp. 22-41. New York: Greenwood Publishing Group (2005)

Review essays:

Formation of a Folklorist: Sources Relating to the Visit of James Hamilton Delargy (Séamus Ó Duilearga) to Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia and Germany, 1 April - 29 September 1928 (Séamas Ó Catháin, 2008) and *Atlantic Currents: Essays on Lore, Literature and Language* (eds. Bo Almqvist, Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Liam Mac Mathúna, Séamus Mac Mathúna, and Seosamh Watson, 2013) in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews (2014) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=1333>

The Construction of Heritage (David Brett, 1996) in New Hibernia Review vol. 1, no. 3 (1997), pp.143-47

Reviews:

Sorry for Your Trouble: The Irish Way of Death (Ann Marie Hourihane, 2021) in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews (2022) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=2731>

Sacred Art: Catholic Saints and Candomblé Gods in Modern Brazil (Henry Glassie and Pravina Shukla, 2017) in Museum Anthropology Review vol. 12, no. 2 (2018)

My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance (David McDonald, 2013) in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews (2016) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=1710>

Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory (Guy Beiner) in New Hibernia Review vol. 12, no. 1 (2008)

Formation of a Folklorist: The Visit of James Hamilton Delargy (Séamus Ó Duilearga) to Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia and Germany, 1 April–29 September 1928 (Séamas Ó Catháin, 2008) in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews (2008) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=1589>

The Stars of Ballymenone (Henry Glassie) in Western Folklore vol. 66, nos. 3-4 (2007)

Stitching Beauty: Kuna Indian Textiles from Panama (exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art) in Museum Anthropology vol. 26, no. 1 (2006)

On the Banks of Mulroy Bay: Stories and Songs about William Sydney Clements, the Third Earl of Leitrim (D.K. Wilgus and Eleanor Long-Wilgus, 2005) in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews (2006) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=347>

From Corrib to Cultra: Folklife Essays in Honour of Alan Gailey (ed. Trefor Owen, 2000) in Journal of American Folklore vol. 116, no. 462 (2003)

Locating Irish Folklore: Tradition, Modernity, Identity (Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, 2000) in New Hibernia Review vol. 5, no. 1 (2001)

The Hallowed Eve: Dimensions of Culture in a Calendar Festival in Northern Ireland (Jack Santino, 1998) in New Hibernia Review vol. 3, no. 1 (1999)

Forgetting Frolic: Marriage Traditions in Ireland (Linda May Ballard, 1998) in Journal of Folklore Research “Book Notes” (1999) <https://jfr.sitehost.iu.edu/review.php?id=52>

Editor-reviewed Articles:

“Joint Conferences of the Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) and the American Folklore Society (AFS), Miami, Florida, 19–23 October 2016” with Carl Lindahl, Antti Lindfors, Mirjam Mencej, and Jonathan Roper. Fabula 58/1-2 (2017)

“In Defense of Nostalgia: Historic Preservation in Aghyaran” in Aghyaran 20 (2007)

“An Introduction to Irish Folklore and Folklife, Part II” in Aghyaran 19 (2006)

“An Introduction to Irish Folklore and Folklife, Part I” in Aghyaran 18 (2005)

“Local Characters and Wit in Aghyaran Folklore” in Aghyaran 17 (2002)

“The Local Historical Society as a Vehicle for Reconciliation in a Northern Irish Border Community” in Working Papers in Irish Studies vol. 17, no. 1 (2001), pp. 5-11

“A Selection of Local Folklore” in Aghyaran 16 (2001)

“Index to Aghyaran 1996-2000” in Aghyaran 16 (2001)

“Weather Lore in the Derg Valley” in Aghyaran 15 (2000)

“The Millennium Book Launch” in Aghyaran 15 (2000)

“From the Field: The Fort Wayne Macedonian Ball” in Fieldnotes: News from Traditional Arts Indiana 2/1 (2000), pp. 7-9

“An Introduction to Mumming with the Ballymongan-Shanaghy Mummers” in Aghyaran 14 (1999)

“A Tribute to John Mongan” in Aghyaran 14 (1999)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Outlaws, Ghosts, and the Liminality of Borderlands,” keynote lecture, New Borderlands Latin American History Workshop, Boston College, March 2025

“What’s Old is New Again: Tradition, Revival, and Willow Coffins in Ireland Today,” Irish Studies Colloquium Series, Connolly House, Boston College, March 2025

“Luck’s Pennies, Butter Witches, and the Hungry Grass: Community in a World of Limited Good,” *An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann/The Folklore of Ireland Society*, The James Joyce Centre, Dublin, March 2024

“Doing Death Well: The Occupational Lore Behind Contemporary Irish Wakes and Funerals,” Irish Focus Research Group, Indiana University, October 2023

Invited participant in two-day international workshop “Folklore, History, Memory and Irish Studies” at Boston College, April 2023

“Neighborliness and Decency, Witchcraft and Famine: Reflections on Community from Irish Folklore,” Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, January 2020

“The Prospect of Community in the Wake of the Famine,” Chuck Ward Memorial Lecture, Center for Celtic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and CelticMKE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 2019

“Worldview: Individual and/or Collective?” Folklore Institute, Indiana University-Bloomington, November 2019

“Memory Studies for Folklorists and Folkloristic Contributions to Memory Studies,” Folklore Institute, Indiana University-Bloomington, October 2019

“Haunting Absences and ‘Zones of Grey’ on the Irish Border,” Cultúrlann Uí Chianáin, Derry, Northern Ireland, February 2019

“Pisheogs on the Northern Irish Border,” Laharn Heritage and Community Centre, Lombardstown, Mallow, Co. Cork, February 2019

“Community and the Social Environment in Irish Folklore,” plenary lecture, American Conference for Irish Studies, University College Cork, Ireland, June 2018

“A Folklorist’s Perspective on Texts and Textuality,” Text/uality Symposium, Indiana University, April 2018

Review of Sacred Art: Catholic Saints and Candomblé Gods in Modern Brazil (Henry Glassie and Pravina Shukla, Indiana University Press, 2017), Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

publication celebration, February 2018

“Irish Ways of Death and Remembrance,” University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota, November 12, 2016

“The World of Limited Good in Irish Folk Narrative,” Irish Language and Culture Weekend, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, May 30, 2016

Review of My Voice is My Weapon: Music, Nationalism, and the Poetics of Palestinian Resistance (David McDonald, Duke University Press, 2013), Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology publication celebration, October 30, 2015

“‘Hey mister, that’s really nice music but I think your monkey’s on fire’: Humor and Politics in Northern Ireland,” The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, April 3, 2013

“Poverty, Folklore, and Social Critique: Voices from the Irish Border,” Elon University, PERCS (Program for Ethnographic and Community Studies), Elon, North Carolina, March 18, 2013

“A Conversation with Henry Glassie” (served as interviewer and moderator), The American Folklore Society, New Orleans, LA, October 2012

“Beyond the Here and Now: Supernatural Encounters on the Irish Border,” Material Culture, Philadelphia, PA, September 2012

“‘To share what they enjoy or must endure,’” OSU-IU Student Folklore Conference opening address, March 2012

“Poetics and Politics of the Irish Wake,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2012

“Cosmology and Eschatology in Irish Legends of Fairies, Wraiths, and Ghosts” University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 2012

“Other People’s Stories and Ethnography on the Margins,” University of Greenwich, London, UK, July 2011

“Mystery and Mastery in Supernatural Legend and Myth,” Hoosier Folklore Society Conference, Terre Haute, Indiana, November 2010

“At Work in Donegal with Packy Jim,” Work-in-Progress Brown Bag Lunch, Center for Folklore Studies, October 2010

“Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border: Characters and Community,” Fall for the Book Festival, George Mason University, September 2010

“‘Ah right... so would you be a *Catholic* atheist or a *Protestant* atheist?': The Joys and Frustrations, Gains and Limitations, of Fieldwork and the Interdisciplinary Scrum,” The American Conference for Irish Studies, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, May 2010

Discussant in ACIS Executive Board’s forum on my book, *Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border*, American Conference for Irish Studies, State College, PA, May 2010

“The Individual and Tradition, Life Story and Myth,” Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, February 2010

“Official and Folk Religion in Ireland since St. Patrick,” Dean’s Student Advisory Group and the History Club, OSU March 2010

“A Sense of Place Beyond the Here and Now: Supernatural Encounters on the Irish Border,” Western Michigan University, March 2010

“The Individual and Tradition, Life Story and Myth,” Indiana University Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, February 2010

“Fieldwork, Service-learning, and Community Outreach through Low-brow Technology,” Qualitative Inquiry Working Group Roundtable, OSU, June 2009

“Working Relationships in the Field: Cases for and against Friendship,” Second Annual Workshop on Fieldwork, OSU, May 2009

“Digital Ethnography (and Other False Teleologies of Progress),” Digital Media in a Social World Conference, OSU, February 2009

Discussant in annual “Text and Community Forum,” American Folklore Society Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 2006, reviewed Henry Glassie’s *The Stars of Ballymenone*

“Reclaiming Community in Northern Ireland through Folklore, Folklife, and Material Culture,” American Folklore Society Fellows Invited Forum, “Folklore and Folklorists in Times of National Crisis,” American Folklore Society Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2004

“Irish Attitudes toward Americans and the U.S. from the Eighteenth Century to the Present,” UAB “As Others See Us” lecture series, March 2004

“History & Culture in a Troubled Land: A Folklorist’s Perspective on Northern Ireland,” UAB “New Horizons” lecture series, February 2004

“Intersections of Place, Memory, and Narrative in Ireland, Alabama, and Arizona,” UAB Center for Urban Affairs, January 2004

“West Tyrone Mummie in its Cross-border and Cross-community Contexts,” “Room to Rhyme” International Mummie Conference, University of Ulster, Magee College, Derry, Northern Ireland, July 2003

“Folklore, Commemoration, and Identity in Northern Ireland,” University of Alabama at Birmingham, March 2003

“Toward a More Holistic Perspective on Irish Narrative: Intersections of Folklore and Literature,” Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, March 2003

“The More Complicated Story: Folklore and Identity in Northern Ireland,” University of Louisiana at Lafayette, May 2002

“Doing Things with Wakes: The Politics of Mourning in Northern Ireland,” Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, January 2002

“Public vs. Intimate Forms of Commemoration in Northern Ireland,” Art and Identity Symposium, Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Bloomington, IN, February 2002

“Character Development and Identity in the Local Anecdotes of Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland,” invited panel, “Folklore and Literature, I,” Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, December 2001

“Our Wallet of Photographs: Ethnographic Photography in Northern Ireland,” Hoosier Folklore Society, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, December 2000 (with Henry Glassie)

“Toward a More Inclusive History: The Folklorist’s Use of Oral and Material Sources,” Missouri Conference of Historians, Washington University, Columbia, MO, April 1997

PRESENTATIONS

“The Revival of Handwoven Willow Coffins and the Dynamics of Tradition in Contemporary Irish Death Observances,” American Folklore Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2024

“Into the Field, Exploring Irish Ways of Death,” American Folklore Society, Portland, Oregon, October 2023

“Layered Significance in the Material Culture and Ritual Observances at an Irish Holy Well,” American Conference for Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas, Houston, March 2020 (conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

“Resisting Disenchantment: Sacred Place Making and Ritual Renewal at Ireland’s Holy Wells,” American Folklore Society, Baltimore, October 2019

“Holy Wells and Pattern Days: Contemporary Irish Vernacular Religion,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Boston, March 2019

“Vernacular Theories of Community in a World of Limited Good: Examples from Ireland,” American Folklore Society, Minneapolis, October 2017

“Survivor’s Guilt and the Hungry Grass in Post-Famine Ireland,” Folklore Studies Association of Canada/Association Canadienne d’Ethnologie et de Folklore, Toronto, Canada, May 2017

“The Hungry Grass as Starvation Couvade, or the Vernacular Acknowledgment of Uncomfortable Truths in Post-Famine Ireland,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Kansas City, March 2017

“Putting Away Childish Things: Belief, Skepticism, and Fairy Legends on the Irish Border Today,” American Folklore Society, Miami, October 2016

“Hares, Witches, and Dirty Butter: Supernatural Aggression on the Irish Border,” American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, March 2016.

“Witchcraft and Anxiety on the Irish Border,” American Folklore Society, Long Beach, CA, October 2015.

“‘Nah, the demons would be bad company now!’: Eschatology and Social Critique in the Mythic Narratives of Paddy Jim McGrath,” The American Conference for Irish Studies, Dublin, Ireland, June 2014

Chair and organizer of double panel, “Contemporary Irish Folklore Studies” (with Criostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Ríonach Uí Ogáin, Stiofán Ó Cadhla, Ciarán Ó Gealbhaín, Bairbre Ní Fhloinn, Kelly Fitzgerald, and Clíona O’Carroll), The American Conference for Irish Studies, Dublin, Ireland, June 2014

“Selective Retrieval in the Construction of Self and Society,” The American Folklore Society, New Orleans, LA, October 2012

“Supernatural Encounters and Sense of Place in County Donegal, Ireland,” Sixth Nordic-Celtic-Baltic Folklore Symposium “Supernatural Places,” Tartu, Estonia, June 2012

“Syncretism and the End of the World in Irish Fairy Legends,” Celtic Studies Association of North America Annual Conference, The Ohio State University, Columbus, May 2011

“Photography for Ethnographers: Book Publication,” American Folklore Society Conference, Nashville, TN, October 2010, also organized and chaired panel, “The Individual and Tradition”

“At Work in Donegal with Packy Jim,” Work-in-Progress Brown Bag Lunch, Center for Folklore Studies, October 2010

“Memory, Place, and Politics on the Irish Border,” Folklore, History, and Memory Symposium, OSU, February 2010

“Dislocation and Supernatural Encounters on the Irish Border,” American Folklore Society Conference, Boise, ID, October 2009, also chair of panel “Dislocations: Beyond the Here and Now”

“Life Story, Coherence, and the Moral Self,” American Folklore Society Conference, Louisville, KY, October 2008, also chair of panel “Coherence and Contestation in Life Story”

“Urban vs. Rural Visions of Irish Nationalism,” 9th Congress of the Société Internationale d’Ethnologie et de Folklore, University of Ulster, Magee College, Derry, Northern Ireland, June 2008

“‘Friendship’ as Fieldwork Relationship,” American Folklore Society Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 2006, chair of panel “Models of and for Fieldwork Relationships”

“Genre and Ideology in Northern Ireland,” American Folklore Society Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 2005, chair of panel “Genres in the Field”

“In Defense of Nostalgia: Evaluating Change and Combating Sectarianism through Grassroots Historic Preservation on the Northern Irish Border,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Conference, Houston, TX, February 2005

“Seeing Politics: Landscapes and Material Culture of Irish Nationalism,” American Folklore Society Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, October 2004, co-chair of panel “Deep Seeing”

“Material Culture and Critical Nostalgia in Northern Ireland,” American Folklore Society Conference, Albuquerque, NM, October 2003

“Photography and Place: Evoking Locality in Northern Ireland,” American Folklore Society Conference, Rochester, NY, October 2002

“The Role of Storytelling in Remembering the Dead and Imagining Community in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, June 2002

“Toward Reconciliation: The Uses of Folklore in an Irish Border Community,” American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Limerick, Ireland, June 2000

“Representations of the Outlaw in Irish Folklore and Popular Literature,” American Conference for Irish Studies, Midwest Conference, Lansing, MI, October 1997

“Estyn Evans’s Irish Folklife Studies: Cultural Geography’s Relevance,” American Folklore Society Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 1996

“The Past and Authenticity in the Works of John Millington Synge and Robin Flower,” Indiana University Graduate Conference in the Humanities, Bloomington, IN, March 1996

“Tories, Rapparees, and Highwaymen: Symbols of Cultural Solidarity and National Struggle,” American Folklore Society Conference, Milwaukee, WI, October 1995

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial Board Member

New Hibernia Review, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota (2019-present)

Series Editor

Special Publications of the Folklore Institute, Indiana University Press (2018-present)

Editor

Journal of Folklore Research (2016-2021)

Series Editor (with Guy Beiner and Oona Frawley)

Irish Culture, Memory, and Place, Indiana University Press (2016-present)

Publications include:

- Island Endurance: Creative Heritage on Inishark and Inishbofin (Ryan Lash 2025)
- Periodical Famines: Irish Memories in Transatlantic News Media 1845-1919 (Lindsay Janssen 2025)
- Are You Dancing? Showbands, Popular Music, and Memory in Modern Ireland (Rebecca S. Miller 2025)
- Of Memory and the Misplaced: Irish Immigrant Life Writing in the United States 1900-1970 (Sarah O’Brian 2024)
- Holy Wells of Ireland: Sacred Realms and Popular Domains (ed. Celeste Ray and Finbar McCormick, 2023)
- Conamara Chronicles: Tales from Iorras Aithneach (compiled by Seán Mac Giollarnáth, translated by Liam Mac Con Iomaire and Tim Robinson, 2022)
- Suitable Strangers: The Hungarian Revolution, a Hunger Strike, and Ireland’s First Refugee Camp (Vera Sheridan, 2022)
- Women and the Decade of Commemorations (ed. Oona Frawley, 2021)
- Migration and the Making of Ireland (Bryan Fanning 2021)
- The Memory Marketplace: Witnessing Pain in Contemporary Irish and International Theatre (Emilie Pine, 2020)
- The Child Sex Scandal and Modern Irish Literature: Writing the Unspeakable (Joseph Valente and Margot Gayle Backus, 2020)
- Smyllie’s Ireland: Protestants, Independence, and the Man Who Ran the Irish Times (Caleb Wood Richardson, 2019)

Series Editor (2016-present, with Michael Dylan Foster 2016-2018)

Encounters: Explorations in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University Press (2016-present)

Publications include:

- The Aesop’s Fable Paradigm: An Unlikely Intersection of Folklore and Science (Brandon Barker and

Daniel Povinelli, 2021)

- Faces of Tradition in Chinese Performing Arts (Levi Gibbs, 2020)
- Grand Theory in Folkloristics (Lee Haring, 2016)
- The Stigmatized Vernacular: Where Reflexivity Meets Untellability (Diane Goldstein, 2016)
- UNESCO on the Ground: Local Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Michael Dylan Foster and Lisa Gilman, 2015)
- The Legacy of Dell Hymes: Ethnopoetics, Narrative Inequality, and Voice (Paul Kroskrity and Anthony Webster, 2015)

Book Manuscript Reviewer Indiana University Press, University Press of Kentucky, Syracuse University Press, University of Illinois Press, University of Wisconsin Press, Cork University Press, Routledge Publications, Wayne State University Press

Journal Article Reviewer Béaloideas, Beascna, Cultural Analysis, Éire-Ireland, Fabula, Folk Life, Folklore, International Journal of Historical Archaeology, Journal of American Folklore, Journal of Folklore Research, New Hibernia Review, Western Folklore, Ulster Folklife

Corresponding Editor

Journal of Folklore Research, Indiana University (2008-2015)

Advisory Editor

Midwestern Folklore, Indiana State University (2004-present)

Advisory Editor

New Hibernia Review, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota (1996-2019)

Editorial Assistant

Journal of Folklore Research, Indiana University (1995-1997)

Bibliographic Indexer of Folklore Scholarship

Modern Language Association, Indiana University (1994-1998)

PUBLIC HUMANITIES WORK

Traditional Arts Indiana

Indiana Heritage Fellowship selection committee, 2021-2022

Ohio Arts Council

Ohio Heritage Fellowship selection committee, 2012-2014

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Consulted on representing Northern Ireland on the Mall, 2005-2007

Alabama Folklife Program (Alabama State Arts Council)

Cultural Resource Management grant applications adjudicator, planning consultant, 2003-2006

Traditional Arts Indiana

Conducted fieldwork with the Irish and Macedonian immigrant communities in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Responsible for recorded interviewing, print and slide photography, video, and the processing and written

analysis of materials for TAI database, 1999-2000

Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Museum

Consulted on the design of and authored labels for the Irish and Macedonian sections of the museum's millennial multi-cultural exhibit, 2000

Aghyaran Magazine, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland

Contracted publisher and secured funding for bound volume of magazine's first ten volumes. Secured funding for book launch, publicized event, invited keynote speakers, and delivered address about importance of collecting folklore, 1999-present

BBC Radio Ulster

Interviewed on the "Your Place and Mine" program about the scope and relevance of folklore studies and about collecting folklore in County Tyrone, 1999, 2017

Indiana State Museum Irish Festival, Indianapolis

Designed and directed exhibit of Irish folk culture, 1996

Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, Indiana

Helped assemble exhibit "Turkish Traditional Art Today," 1994

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional and disciplinary level:

Social Science Representative

American Conference for Irish Studies Executive Board, 2019-2022

Book Prize Organizer and Adjudicator

James F. Donnelly Prize for Outstanding Book in the Social Sciences, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2019-2022

Book Prize Organizer and Adjudicator

Chicago Prize for Best Book in Folklore Studies, American Folklore Society, 2019-2022

External Examiner, Irish Folklore

University College Dublin, 2017-2020

Tenure and Promotion Evaluations

Harvard University, 2024

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2021

West Virginia University, 2020

George Mason University, 2017, 2020

Elon University 2014

Publishing Mentor, Folklore in a Multicultural World Project

American Folklore Society, 2014, 2016, 2018

Executive Board Member

American Folklore Society, 2010-2013

Book Prize Adjudicator

Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2011-2012

Book Prize Adjudicator

James F. Donnelly Prize for Outstanding Book in the Social Sciences, American Conference for Irish Studies, 2010

Membership Committee

American Folklore Society, 2007-present

Publication Prize Adjudicator

Folks Arts section of the American Folklore Society, 2006-2008

Hoosier Folklore Society

Vice-President 2001, Secretary 2000, Indiana State University

College and university level:

College of Arts and Sciences, “Themester” Planning Committee

“Remembering and Forgetting” events and programming, Indiana University, 2018-2019

College of Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning

Outreach, Public Impact, and Advancement Committee, Indiana University, 2016-2017

Presidential Fellowship Award Committee

The Ohio State Graduate School, 2012-2013

Graduate Associate Teaching Award Committee

The Ohio State Graduate School 2011-2013

Oversight Committee, Center for the Study of Religion

The Ohio State University, 2011-2012

Committee for Social and Behavioral Science Web Development

Representative for Anthropology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2005-2006

Committee for Sterne Library Acquisitions

Representative for Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2005-2006

Committee for Teaching and Academic Affairs

Representative for Anthropology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2003-2006

Departmental level:

Director, Folklore Institute

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2017-2021, 2023-2024

Curriculum Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2017-2021, 2023-2024

Faculty Affairs Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2016-2017, 2023-

Chair, Graduate Affairs Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2024-

Chair, Fellowships and Awards Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2024-

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2024-

Graduate Affairs Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2023-2024

Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2015-2020, 2022-2023

Graduate Admissions Committee (for folklore)

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2024-present

Fellowships and Awards Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2019-2021, 2023-

Chair, MA Exam (for folklore)

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2017-2019, 2021, 2023

Graduate Recruitment Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2015-2020

Advancement Committee

Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, 2015-present

Undergraduate Studies Committee

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2014-2015

Graduate Studies Committee

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2012-2013

Director, Graduate Studies

Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, 2011-2013

Acting Director

Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, 2011-2012

Resident Director

English Department Study Abroad, University of Greenwich, UK, summer 2011

Undergraduate Studies Committee

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2010-2011

Honors Undergraduate Advisor

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2010-2011

Resident Director

English Department Study Abroad, Ireland, summers 2009, 2011

Director, Undergraduate Studies

Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, 2009-2011

Graduate Admissions Committee

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2007-2008, 2009-2010

Executive Committee

English Department, The Ohio State University, 2008-2009

Outreach Committee

Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, 2008-2015

Folklore Teaching Committee

Center for Folklore Studies, The Ohio State University, 2007-2015

Faculty Sponsor

Anthropology Club, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 2004-2006

Conferences, lectures, and events:

Richard M. Dorson Distinguished Lecture Series Organizer

Indiana University, 2016-2021 (lectures and workshops by Dan Ben-Amos, Dorry Noyes, Tom Mould, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblet, Terry Gunnell, Ülo Valk)

Event Organizer

Guy Beiner, lecture and reception, Indiana University, 2020

Event Organizer

Lisa Gilman, lecture and reception, Indiana University, 2018

Event Organizer

Diarmuid Ó Giolláin, lecture and reception, Indiana University, 2016

Conference Organizer

Celtic Studies Association of North America, The Ohio State University, 2011

Conference Organizer

“Folklore, History, and Memory,” The Ohio State University, 2010

Conference Organizer

“Words, Things, and Music: Modes of Cultural Production,” Indiana University, 2003

Event Organizer

Dr. William R. Ferris, NEH Chairman, lecture and reception, Indiana University, 1999

Event Organizer

Michael D. Higgins, T. D. (member of Irish Parliament at the time, currently President of the Republic of Ireland), lecture and reception, Indiana University, 1996

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

***=chair, **=co-chair**

Wuerxiya (Folklore) 2021-
Dilara Inam (Folklore) 2021-
* Fionnán Mac Gabhann (Folklore) 2020-2024
* Emily Bianchi (Folklore) 2020-
** Patawee Promsen (Folklore) 2020-2022
Ben Bridges (Folklore) 2020-2024
Micah Ling (Folklore) 2020-
** Sarah Lawson (Folklore and Comparative Literature) 2020-2023
Marisa Wieneke (Folklore) 2020-2024
* Hilary Warner-Evans (Folklore) 2020-
** Caroline Tatem (Folklore) 2020-
Micky Jo Myers (Folklore) 2019-
* Caroline Miller VerMeulen (Folklore) 2018-
** Lydia Campbell-Maher (Ethnomusicology) 2018-
Mathilde Lind (Folklore) 2018-
Clara Steussy (Anthropology), 2018-2022
Eleanor Hasken (Folklore) 2018-2021
Shannon Larson (Folklore) 2018-2019
Jessie Riddle (Folklore) 2018-
** Jesse Fivecoate (Folklore) 2016-2023
Jodine Perkins (Folklore) 2016-2017
(the following committees were during my time at the Ohio State University)
** Brittany Warman (English/Folklore) 2013-2018
** Sara Cleto (English/Folklore) 2013-2018
** Gordon Ulmer (Anthropology) 2013-2016
Levi Gibbs (East Asian Languages and Literatures) 2011-2013
Nancy Yan (English/Folklore) 2011-2013
Chris Hill (Theater) 2011-2013
Yi-Fan Pai (East Asian Languages and Literatures) 2011-2014
Katherine Parker Horigan (English/Folklore) 2010-2013
Ben Gatling (Near Eastern Languages and Literatures) 2010-2012
Cassie Patterson (English/Folklore) 2010-2014
Jeffrey Tolbert (Folklore) 2010-2015
Elo-Hanna Seljamaa (Comparative Studies/Folklore) 2009-2012
Kirsi Haenninen (Comparative Studies/Folklore) 2008-2009

EXTERNAL EXAMINER OF PHD DISSERTATION

John Tunney (Heritage Studies, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology) 2017

CURRENT PHD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Tadhg Ó Meachair (Ethnomusicology) 2021-2024
Andrew Tompkins (Folklore) 2021-
Iryna Voloshyna (Folklore) 2021-2024
Monica Marion (Folklore) 2019-

Donald Bradley (Ethnomusicology) 2018-
Evangeline Mee (Folklore) 2017-

MA THESIS COMMITTEES

Barbara McGinnis (Folklore) 2018-2020
Laila Rajani (Folklore) 2016-2017
Richard Allen (Folklore, University of Iceland) 2014
Gordon Ulmer (Anthropology, OSU) 2011-2013
* Robert Vanscoyoc (English/Folklore, OSU) 2010-2011
Robert Ashmore (English, OSU) 2011
* Casey Gugliotto (Anthropology, UAB) 2004-2006
* Beth West (Anthropology, UAB) 2004-2006

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES

Joelle Jackson (Folklore and IMU, IU) 2023-2024
* Hallie Foster (English/Folklore, OSU) 2011-2012
* Abigail Snyder (English/Folklore, OSU) 2010-2011

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK

Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

2022-2024. Occupational folklife interviews with contemporary undertakers, embalmers, crematoria operators, grave diggers, monument carvers, coffin makers, clergy, non-religious celebrants

County Cork, Republic of Ireland

2016, 2017, 2018, 2019. Survey of folklore and social memory in North Cork.

County Donegal, Republic of Ireland

1998-1999, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014. Interviewed and recorded repertoire of storyteller Patrick James McGrath for project reconsidering studies of life history, repertoire and worldview, personality and culture

County Tyrone, Northern Ireland

1998-1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007. Investigated oral traditions, customs and rituals, and material culture in rural border community of Aghyaran

Birmingham, Alabama

2004-2006. Recorded folklore and oral history from African American homeless men living in Kelly Ingram Park (Civil Rights Institute memorial sculpture garden)

Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina

Summer 2004. Documented vernacular architecture, folk art and craft, material culture

Fort Wayne, Indiana

1999-2000. Interviewed members of the urban Irish and Macedonian immigrant communities about their traditional arts, oral history, and group identities for Traditional Arts Indiana

County Galway, Ireland

1996. Collected Irish language proverbs

Bloomington, Indiana

1995. Investigated the aesthetics, motivations, and personal histories of local potters

Williamstown, Massachusetts

1993. Conducted community study of a Carmelite monastery

Hopi and Navajo Reservations, Arizona

Summers 1991-1993. Interviewed practitioners to compare contemporary Hopi and Navajo religions

Counties Cork and Kerry, Ireland

1991-92. Collected folklore concerning holidays and calendar customs in rural and urban communities

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 101)

Peoples and Cultures (ANTH 2202 Honors)

Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology: Language and Culture (ANTH 120, LING 260)

Introduction to Folklore (FOLK 101, ANTH 104, ENGL 270, ENGL 2270 and 2270 Honors)

Honors First-Year Writing: Analyzing Legends (ENGL H110.01)

Folklore of North America (FOLK 120)

The Arts of Conflict: Northern Ireland (HON 220)

Imagining Ireland in Folklore, Literature, and Film (FOLK 252)

History and Memory in the University District (ENGL 367.05)

Sense of Place in the University District (ENGL 367.05)

History, Culture, and the Politics of Identity (HON 377, ANTH 377/677)

Advanced Linguistic Anthropology (ANTH 452/608, LING 402)

Irish Folklore (ENGL 577.03, FOLK 312/636)

Irish Literature (ENGL 595)

American Regional Cultures: Appalachia, South Louisiana, the Texas Border (ENGL 597.02, FOLK 351)

Study Abroad: Ireland (ENGL 697)

Study Abroad: London (ENGL 697)

Folklore, History, and Memory (COMP STUDIES 677.01, FOLK 800)

Folklore Theory in Practice (FOLK 516)

Fieldwork (ENGL/COMP STUDIES 770.02)

Performance Studies and the Ethnography of Communication (ENGL/COMP STUDIES 770.03)

Theorizing Folklore: Tradition and Transmission (ENGL/COMP STUDIES 7350.01)

Folklore and Language (FOLK 736)

History of Ideas in Folklore Studies: Tradition (FOLK 740)

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Conference for Irish Studies

Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann / Folklore of Ireland Society

American Folklore Society

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore

International Society for Folk Narrative Research

American Anthropological Association

Society for the Anthropology of Europe

Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Society for Linguistic Anthropology