

## **BARBARA HILLERS**

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### **EDUCATION**

1997 **Ph.D. in Celtic Languages and Literatures**, Harvard University  
1990 **M.Phil. in Irish Studies** (with distinction), University College Dublin  
1987 **B.A. (Honours) in Celtic and English**, The Queen's University of Belfast

### **UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS**

- Associate Professor in Folklore, Indiana University, 2018-
- Assistant Professor in Irish Folklore, University College Dublin, 2013-18
- Associate, Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, 2009-18
- Visiting Lecturer, Tufts University Experimental College, 2009-2010
- Associate Professor in Celtic, Harvard University, 2006-2009
- Assistant Professor in Celtic, Harvard University, 2000-2006
- Research Fellow / Lecturer in Celtic, University of Edinburgh, 1997-2000

### **LANGUAGES**

- German, English, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, French, Modern Hebrew and some Spanish.
- Study of ancient and medieval languages includes Latin, Hebrew, Old English, Old Norse, Old Irish and Middle Welsh.
- I have taught Old and Middle Irish, Modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic at university level.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- International storytelling and comparative folktale studies
- Ireland and Scotland: Oral literature, material culture, social tradition
- Traditional folk medicine, charms and curses
- The international ballad and Gaelic song tradition
- The role of gender and the articulation of women's space in folk narrative and song
- Folklore in medieval literature: Oral / literary interactions in Gaelic tradition
- The vernacularization of classical literature in medieval Ireland
- Folklore archives, digitization, and digital research methods

## HIGHLIGHTS: RECENT SENIOR ROLES AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- I am the only US-based Investigator on a major grant funded by the UK and Irish national funding agencies (the UK's Arts & Humanities Research Council & the Irish Research Council), *Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative with Text-Mining and Phylogenetics*, led by Dr Will Lamb, Edinburgh University, and Dr Brian Ó Raghallaigh, Dublin City University (funding period 2021-2024; combined funding c. \$784,000 - £398,992 in UK funding and €265,086 Irish)
- I currently serve as the External Examiner for the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Cork, Ireland (2021-2024).
- I have been elected to the Council of An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann / The Folklore of Ireland Society (2017-19 and 2023-24) and to The Society for Folklife Studies (UK & Ireland, 2016-18)
- I am the co-founder and co-organizer of the Irish Conference of Folklore and Ethnology and its keynote lecture series, the Bo Almqvist Memorial Lecture in Irish and International Folkloristics, Dublin (annual, since 2014)
- I serve on the editorial / advisory boards of leading journals in several countries:
  - Member of International Editorial Board, *Béaloideas: The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society* (2019-)
  - Member of Editorial Board for *Scottish Studies*, Edinburgh (2017-)
  - Member of Advisory Board for *Aiste: Studies in Gaelic Literature*, Glasgow (2007-)
  - Member of Editorial Board for Special Publications series, Folklore Institute, Indiana University (2018-)
  - Member of Editorial Board, *Research Journal of Folklore*, Mymensingh, Bangladesh (2020-)
- I have peer reviewed scholarly journals in three continents (US, Ireland, UK, Bangladesh)
- I served as Senior Advisor for a major grant project 'Words of Power: Charms and charming in European folk tradition and literature', University of Amsterdam (2011-13)

## HIGHLIGHTS: RECENT INVITED TALKS (2019-24)

2024. Invited speaker. 'The Stories of Tomás Ó Cathasaigh (ed. Douglas Hyde): A Reassessment', Annual Meeting of the Irish Texts Society, University College Cork (upcoming November '24).

2023. Invited speaker and workshop participant. 'Mining Irish Folk Memory: The Irish Schools' Collection', Workshop on Irish Folk History & Memory at Boston College.

2022. Invited speaker. 'Eastern Charms in the West? Narrative charms in Ireland', International Network on Charms, Charmers and Charming (ISFNR Charms Committee). Zoom lecture series.

2022. Invited speaker. 'The Wandering of Ulysses' (*Merugud Uilixis meic Leirtis*) and 'Daedalus, Icarus and the Minotaur' (*Sgél in Mínaduir*), Conference on Classical Antiquity and Medieval Ireland, Aarhus University, Denmark.

2021. Invited speaker. 'An International Tale (ATU 285B) at the Intersection of Folk Belief and Narrative Fiction', Irish Folklore Seminar Series, University College Dublin (Zoom).

2020. Invited speaker. ‘That Very Clever Man: Ulysses in Medieval Ireland’, Department of Classics, University of Washington, Seattle.

2019. Invited keynote speaker. ‘When You Swallow a Lizard: Oral Lore and Literature in the *Vision of Mac Conglinne*’, Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University.

## GRANTS AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative with Text-Mining and Phylogenetics

- Major grant awarded by the British and Irish national funding agencies, the UK’s Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Irish Research Council (AH/W001934/1 and IRC/W001934/1; funding period 2021-2024).
- Led by Dr Will Lamb, Edinburgh University, and Dr Brian Ó Raghallaigh, Dublin City University, combined funding c. \$784,000 (£398,992 in UK funding and €265,086 Irish)
- I am the only US-based Investigator in this major grant, working closely with the National Folklore Collection and the School of Scottish Studies in the digital analysis of international folktale types and the implementation of digital publicly accessible ATU type indexes.
- The grant provided funding for my doctoral student Monica Marion (dual PhD Folklore & Informatics) to spend two consecutive summers working in the Irish and Scottish archives and attending and presenting at conferences in Europe
- The results of our findings will be published in a book-length volume, *Computational Folkloristics*, edited by W. Lamb et al., to which I will be contributing three chapters as co-author (see publications).

### Robert Flaherty’s 1934 Gaelic-language Film *Oidhche Sheanchais* (‘A Night of Storytelling’)

In 2013, a pristine copy of Flaherty’s sound film *Oidhche Sheanchais* was discovered in Harvard’s Houghton Library. The film is the first ever Irish-language movie and was believed to have been lost; its discovery caused a stir in Ireland and in the US. In 2015, the newly restored and digitized film was launched at Harvard and a few months later in Ireland.

#### *Project-related Talks and Publication / Filmography:*

- Invited speaker at February 2015 Harvard launch of *Oidhche Sheanchais* (for a description of the talk at the launch see <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2015/02/flaherty-rediscovered> and <https://harvardfilmarchive.org/programs/folklore-and-flaherty-a-symposium-on-the-first-irish>)
- Invited speaker at July 2015 Dublin launch in the Irish Film Institute (<https://ifi.ie/film/from-the-vaults-oidhche-sheanchais/>)
- ‘A Night of Storytelling and Years in the Z-Closet: The Re-discovery of Robert Flaherty’s “Lost” Irish Folklore Film’, *Folklore* 126 (2015), 1-19 (with Natasha Sumner and Catherine McKenna)
- Kieran Concannon’s Irish-language documentary, *Oíche Chaillte an tSeanchaí* (‘The Lost Night of the Storyteller’, 2016) gives an account of the film’s making and its rediscovery (including interviews of my co-authors and myself).

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books in Preparation

*Computational Folkloristics: Decoding the Oral Traditions of Ireland and Scotland*, edited by W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, B. Hillers & T. Falzett, eds. W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, T. Falzett, & B. Hillers.

[Book proposal arising from AHRC/IRC grant project ‘Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative with Text-Mining and Phylogenetics’ (2021-2024), submitted to Edinburgh University Press, anticipated publication 2026.

I will serve as co-editor and will also be contributing as co-author to three chapters:

- ‘Opening and Closing Formulas in Irish and Scottish Magic Tales,’ Marion, Hillers, Palandri, Falzett & Lamb
- ‘Uncovering Gender-based Repertoire Differences,’ Marion, Hillers, Mac Cárthaigh, Palandri & Falzett
- ‘Digging into the Roots of Scottish and Irish Tale Traditions Using Phylogenetic and Population Genetic Methods,’ Tehrani, Marion, Meaney, Hillers, Lamb, Mac Cárthaigh & Falzett.

*The Stories of Bab Feiritéar* - Translation from the Irish of *Ó Bhéal an Bhab: Cnuas-scéalta Bhab Feiritéar*, eds. Bo Almqvist and Roibeard Ó Cathasaigh (2002). [Complete translation submitted for review to editor]

*Long 'go It Was: Irish Märchen from the Midlands Told by Annie Hagan* (with Dr Bairbre Ní Fhloinn)  
The repertoire of thirty tales collected from a county Longford storyteller, with a folkloristic discussion of the storyteller, her tales, and her county Longford background. [Complete text of the tales has been transcribed and edited for publication, and the introduction to the storyteller has been written]

### I. Books and Journals Edited

2025. *The Medieval Irish Odyssey* [Accepted and under contract for publication by Celtic Studies Publications, Aberystwyth, Wales; Final author manuscript submitted; expected publication 2025].
2019. *Charms, Charmers and Charming in Ireland: From the Medieval to the Modern* (Co-editor, with J. Carey, I. Tuomi, & C. Ó Gealbháin), University of Wales Press, 2019. [Shortlisted for the Katherine Briggs Folklore Award]
2012. *Child's Children: Ballad Study and its Legacies* (with Joseph Harris). *Ballads and Songs International Studies 7* (Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier).
1993. *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium*, vol. 13, with J. Hunter and P.S. Hopkins.

1992. *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium*, vol. 12, with J. Hunter.

## II. Web-based Textbook

2008. Buntús na Gaeilge: Irish for Adult Learners. Textbook for Introductory and Intermediate Modern Irish courses, Harvard University (with Bettina Kimpton), Part 1 & 2 (available online, see <http://pages.iu.edu/~bhillers/buntus.html>).

## III. Peer-reviewed Book Chapters and Journal Articles

*Accepted for Publication:*

‘Supernatural Healers and Traditional Charms: Míach’s Cure in *Cath Maige Tuired*’ [submitted and accepted for publication in a *Festschrift* for Professor John Carey, eds. Kevin Murray, Emma Nic Cárthaigh and Cairíona Ó Dochartaigh, Celtic Studies Publications, Aberystwyth, Wales; projected publication 2025].

‘Cathal and the *lon craís*: The Oral Roots of a Literary Tale’ [submitted & accepted for publication in volume of critical essays on *Aislinge Meic Conglinne: The Vision of Mac Conglinne*, ed. by Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha].

2024. ‘*Merugud Uilixis meic Leirtis*: Ulysses Between Book-Culture and Oral Tradition’, in *Classical Antiquity in Medieval Ireland: An Anthology of Texts and Interpretations*, ed. M. Clarke, E. Poppe and I. Torrance, 229-40. Bloomsbury: London.

‘*Sgél in Mínaduir*: Book-lore and Literary Creation in the Minotaur Legend,’ in *Classical Antiquity in Medieval Ireland: An Anthology of Texts and Interpretations*, ed. M. Clarke, E. Poppe and I. Torrance, 253-64. Bloomsbury: London.

2023. ‘The Portrayal of Jews in Irish Folk Tradition,’ in *Reimagining the Jews of Ireland*, eds. N. Wynn and Z. Rodgers, Peter Lang: Frankfurt, 117-148.

2022. ‘Cormac, Solomon, and One Shearing for Another’ (with John Carey). *Peritia: Journal of the Medieval Academy of Ireland* 33, 29-39.

“‘Peter Sat on a Marble Stone’”: The Oral Transmission of a Written Charm,’ in *The Language of Magic: From Antiquity to the Present Day*, eds. E. Cianci and N. Wolf. LED Edizioni: Milano, 103-22.

2019. ‘Lizards, Snakes and the Demon of Gluttony: Oral Lore and Literature in the *Vision of Mac Conglinne*’, *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 39 (2019; publication year 2021), 1-39.

‘The Emancipator in the Mirror of Folk Narrative: Projection and Prejudice in an Anecdote about

Daniel O’Connell,’ *Binneas an tSiansa / Life Lore and Song: Essays in Irish Tradition in Honour of Ríonach uí Ógáin*, eds. K. Fitzgerald, B. Ní Fhloinn, M. Ní Urdail, and A. O’Connor, Four Courts Press: Dublin, 2019, 202-213.

‘Towards a Typology of European Narrative Charms in Irish Oral Tradition,’ *Charms, Charmers and Charming in Ireland from the Medieval to the Modern*, eds. J. Carey et al. University of Wales Press: Cardiff, 79-102.

2016. “‘Bhí an saol aoibhinn ait’”: Cormac mac Airt in Oral Folk Tradition’, *Ollam: Studies in Gaelic and Related Traditions in Honor of Tomás Ó Cathasaigh*, ed. M. Boyd, Rowman & Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland, 141-159.

2015. ‘A Night of Storytelling and Years in the “Z-Closet”: The Re-discovery and Restoration of *Oidhche Sheanchais*, Robert Flaherty’s “Lost” Irish Folklore Film’, *Folklore* 126, 1-19 (with Natasha Sumner and Catherine McKenna).

2014. ‘The Medieval Irish *Wandering of Ulysses* Between Literacy and Orality,’ *Classical Literature and Learning in Medieval Irish Narrative*, ed. Ralph O’Connor. Boydell & Brewer: Rochester, New York, 83-100.

2011. ‘A Mixed Media Folklore Trove: Celtic Folklore in Harvard Libraries’ (with Sìm Innes), *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 31, 173-208.

‘The Knight of the Green Cloak and Other Irish Folklore Marvels,’ *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 31, 137-157.

2010. ‘The Reception and Assimilation of Continental Literature,’ *A Companion to Irish Literature* (vol. 1), ed. Julia M. Wright (Blackwell Publishing: Hoboken, NJ), 39-56.

‘Cleas a’ Choin Sholair: Aesop’s Dog Fable in the Poetry of Sileas na Ceapaich,’ *Bile ós Chrannaibh: A Festschrift for William Gillies*, eds. W. McLeod, A. Burnyeat, D. U. Stiùbhart, T.O. Clancy and R. Ó Maolalaigh (Clann Tuirc: Ceann Drochaid), 195-210.

2008. ‘The Middle Irish “Wanderings of Aeneas,”’ in *The Virgilian Tradition to 1500*, eds. Jan M. Ziolkowski and Michael C. J. Putnam (Yale University Press: New Haven and London), 608-616.

2007. ‘Cuckolds and Faithful Wives: The Genesis of the Gaelic Ballad of “Peigín and Peadar,”’ *Emily Lyle: The Persistent Scholar*, Ballads and Songs International Studies 5, eds. F.J. Fischer and S. Rieuwerts (Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier: Trier), 100-113.

‘Storytelling and the International Folktale in Scotland,’ *Scottish Life and Society: A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology*, Volume 10: Oral Literature and Performance Culture, ed. J. Beech et al. (John Donald: Edinburgh), 153-170.

2006. 'Dialogue or Monologue: Lullabies in Scottish Gaelic Tradition,' *Litreachas & Eachdraidh / Literature & History: Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 2 (2002), ed. Michel Byrne et al. (Roinn na Ceiltis Oilthigh Ghlaschu: Glasgow), 33-55.
2005. 'Poet or Magician: Mac Mhuirich Mór in Oral Tradition,' *Poetic Heroes and Heroic Poets*, CSANA Yearbook 3-4, ed. J. Nagy (Four Courts Press: Dublin), 141-157.
2001. 'Oidhche Rionnagach Reulagach - A Tale with a Sting,' *Northern Lights: Aistí in Adhnó do Bho Almqvist*, ed. Seamus Ó Catháin (University College Dublin Press: Dublin), 72-86.
1999. 'Ulysses and the Judge of Truth: Sources and Meanings in the Irish Odyssey,' *Peritia: Journal of the Medieval Academy of Ireland* 13, 194-223.
- 'Sgél in Mínaduir: Dädalus und der Minotaurus in Irland,' in E. Poppe and H. Tristram, Hgg., *Übersetzung, Adaptation und Akkulturation im insularen Mittelalter* (Nodus Publikationen: Münster), 131-144.
- 1996-1997. 'In fer fíamach fírglic: Ulysses in Medieval Irish Literature,' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 16-17, 15-38.
1995. 'The Abbot of Druimenaig: Genderbending in Gaelic Tradition,' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 15, 175-197.
1994. 'Music from the Otherworld: Modern Gaelic Legends about Fairy Music,' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 14, 58-75.
- 'The Heroes of the Ulster Cycle,' *Ulidia: Proceedings of the First International Conference on the Ulster Cycle of Tales*, ed. J. P. Mallory and G. Stockman (December Publications: Belfast), 99-106.
1993. 'Voyages between Heaven and Hell: Navigating the Early Irish *Immram* Tales,' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 13, 66-81.
1992. 'The Odyssey of a Folktale: *Merugud Uilix Meic Leirtis*,' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 12, 63-79.
1991. 'The Irish Historical Romance: A New Literary Development?' *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 11, 15-24.
- 'The Man Who Never Slept: A Survey of the Redactions and their Relation to the *Lai de Tydorel*,' *Béaloideas* 59, 91-105.
1990. 'Pay Me For My Story: the Etiquette of Storytelling' (with C. Mac Cárthaigh), *Sinsear* 6, 50-60.

#### IV. Entries in Encyclopedias; Online Web Blogs and Posts

2015. 'A Fond Farewell: In Praise of the Ediphone', <https://dasg.ac.uk/seanchas/blog> [Posted November 10, 2015.]
2006. *Celtic Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. John T. Koch (ABC-CLIO: Santa Barbara, California). Contributed entries on:
- Homer (p. 938-9)
  - *In cath catharda* (p. 960)
  - *Merugud Uilixis meic Leirtis* (p. 1292)
  - *Scéla Alaxandair* (p. 1567)
  - *Togail Troí* (p. 1679)
  - *Togail na Tebe* (p. 1679)
  - Vergil (p. 1733).
2004. 'Early and Medieval Irish Literature,' in *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture* (2 vols.), ed. J.S. Donnelly (Macmillan Reference USA: Detroit etc), 393-396.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2024. Invited speaker. ‘The Stories of Tomás Ó Cathasaigh (ed. Douglas Hyde): A Reassessment’, Annual Meeting of the Irish Texts Society, University College Cork (November 9).

Co-presenter, ‘Decoding Hidden Heritages: Exploring Gaelic Traditional Storytelling’, Harvard Celtic Colloquium (October 2024).

2023. Chair. The Bo Almqvist Memorial Lecture in Irish and International Folkloristics, delivered by Dr Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (Zoom, November 2023).

Presenter & Panel Chair. ‘Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative’ (with Monica Marion, Will Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh et al.), American Folklore Society Meeting, Portland, OR (November 2023).

Co-Presenter. ‘Mining the Celtic Folklore Archives: Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative’ (with Monica Marion, Will Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh et al.), International Congress of Celtic Studies XVII Utrecht (July 2023).

‘Enhancing Access to Scottish and Irish Traditional Narrative: Decoding Hidden Heritages’ (contributed to collaborative grant project, presented by Tiber Falzett & Monica Marion; with Will Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh et al.) Conference of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) Brno, Czech Republic (June 2023).

‘Providing full-text Access to Scottish and Irish Folklore Archives: Decoding Hidden Heritages’ (contributed to collaborative grant project, presented by Tiber Falzett & Monica Marion; with Will Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh et al.), International Council on Archives, Dublin, Ireland (June 2023).

Invited speaker and workshop participant. ‘Mining Irish Folk Memory: The Irish Schools’ Collection’, Workshop on Irish Folk History & Memory at Boston College (April 2023).

2022. Invited speaker. ‘Eastern Charms in the West? Narrative charms in Ireland’, The International Network on Charms, Charmers and Charming Web Seminar Series, International Society for Folk Narrative Research (May 2022).

Invited speaker. ‘The Wandering of Ulysses’ (*Merugud Uilixis meic Leirtis*) and ‘Daedalus, Icarus and the Minotaur’ (*Sgél in Mínaduir*), Conference on Classical Antiquity and Medieval Ireland, Aarhus University, Denmark (August 2022).

2021. Presenter & Panel Chair. ‘The Games We Play: Children’s Games in the Irish Schools’ Collection,’ American Folklore Society Meeting (Online, October 2021).

Presenter. “‘Eeny Meeny Miny Mo’: Catching Racism by the Toe,’ International Society for

Ethnology and Folklore (SIÉF) (Online, June 2021).

Invited speaker. 'An International Tale (ATU 285B) at the Intersection of Folk Belief and Narrative Fiction', Irish Folklore Seminar Series, University College Dublin (Zoom, Spring 2021).

2020. Invited speaker. 'That Very Clever Man: Ulysses in Medieval Ireland', Department of Classics, University of Washington, Seattle (February 2020).

Presenter. 'Defining our own search terms: Tradition archives and textual digitization', American Folklore Society Meeting 2020 (Online, October 2020).

2019. Presenter. 'The Validation of Prejudice: Narrative Portrayals of Jews in Irish Folk Tradition', American Folklore Society Meeting, Baltimore (October 2019).

Invited keynote speaker. 'When You Swallow a Lizard: Oral Lore and Literature in the *Vision of Mac Conglinne*', Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (October 2019).

Presenter. 'A European Narrative Charm in Gaelic Tradition', International Celtic Congress, Bangor, Wales (July 2019).

Presenter. 'The Irish Fortunes of the *Super petram* charm', The Language of Magic, Pescara, Italy (May 2019).

2018. Presenter. "'Joint to Joint and Sinew to Sinew": The Second Merseburg Charm in Gaelic Tradition,' International Conference on Charms, Harvard University (April 2018).

2017. Invited Speaker. 'Portrayals of Jews in Irish Folk Tradition,' Conference on Reimagining the Jews of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin (June 2017).

Presenter. 'Lessons from the Field and from the Classroom: The Irish Schools Collection 1937-38', Fallible Folklorists Conference, Tartu University, Estonia (June 2017).

Presenter. 'Digital Archives', The Future of American Folkloristics, Bloomington, Indiana (May 2017).

Presenter. 'Seeking Your Bread far from Home: Fiction and Reality in the Folktale', SIÉF Göttingen, Germany (March 2017).

2016. Invited speaker. 'Folktales and Reality', Folklife Studies Conference 2016, University College Dublin/Trinity College Dublin (Fall 2016).

Invited keynote speaker. 'Folktales Old & New,' New Crops, Old Fields: Reimagining Irish Folklore, The Queen's University Belfast (June 2016).

Presenter. 'Narrative Charms in Ireland's National Folklore Collection', Conference on Charms, Charmers & Charming, University College Cork (May 2016).

Invited speaker. 'Folklore und Philologie: mündliche Volksdichtung und mittelalterliche Schriftlichkeit in Irland' ('Folklore & Philology: oral folk tradition and medieval literature'), Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany (Spring 2016).

2015. Presenter. 'The "Demon of Gluttony" in *Aislinge meic Conglinne* and the "Alp Luachra" of Irish Folk Tradition', International Celtic Congress, Glasgow (Summer 2015).

Invited speaker. 'Robert Flaherty's 1934 "lost" Irish film', Irish Launch of *A Night of Storytelling (Oidhche Sheanchais)*, Irish Film Institute, Dublin (Spring 2015).

Invited speaker. 'Folklore and Medieval Literature', Centre for Antique, Medieval and Pre-Modern Studies, University College Galway (Spring 2015).

Invited speaker. 'The Gaelic Storyteller on Screen', Harvard launch of Flaherty's *Oidhche Sheanchais* ("A Night of Storytelling"), Harvard University, USA (Spring 2015).

Invited presentation. 'International Narrative Charms in Irish Tradition', Tartu University, Estonia (Fall 2015).

Invited delegate at Humanities European Research Area (HERA) meeting on "Uses of the Past" in Tallinn, Estonia (Fall 2015).

2014. Invited speaker. 'Healing Charms in Modern Irish Folk Tradition,' Second Symposium on Magic and Charms in Ireland, National University of Ireland, Maynooth (Spring 2014).

Invited speaker. 'Supernatural Healers in Irish and Norse Literature and Folklore,' Conference on Sagas, Legends and Trolls, Tartu University, Estonia (Fall 2014).

2013. Presenter. '*Amour Courtois* and *Discourtois* in the Poetry of Gearóid Iarla' (with William Gillies), 'Sex and Sexuality in Celtic Literature', Edinburgh University (Fall 2013).

Invited speaker. "'Joint to Joint and Sinew to Sinew:": An International Healing Charm in Medieval Irish Literature and Modern Folklore.' Symposium on Magic in Medieval Ireland, National University of Ireland, Maynooth (Spring 2013).

Presenter. 'Classical Learning and Irish Folklore in the Medieval Irish *Odyssey*,' Modern Language Association of America, Boston (Spring 2013).

2012. Invited speaker. 'Medieval Icelandic Writers and the 99%: *Hákonar þáttur Hárekssonar* and the Folktale of the Master's Good Counsels,' Collaborations: English Department Colloquium in Honor of Professor Joseph Harris, Harvard University (Cambridge Mass.).

Invited speaker. ‘*The Wanderings of Ulysses and the Makings of Early Irish Literature*,’ Celtic Languages and Literatures Seminar, Mahindra Center for the Humanities, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

2011. Invited speaker. ‘Gaelic-speaking Greeks and Trojans: Virgil Reception in Medieval Ireland,’ Colloquium on the Virgilian Tradition, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

Presenter. ‘The Medieval Irish *Odyssey* between Literacy and Orality,’ Fourteenth International Celtic Congress (Maynooth, Ireland).

Presenter. ‘A Mixed Media Folklore Trove: Celtic Folklore in Harvard Libraries’ (with Síim Innes and Margaret Harrison), Thirty-first Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

Presenter. ‘The Knight of the Green Cloak and Other Irish Folklore Marvels,’ Thirty-first Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

2010. Presenter. ‘In the wake of Ulysses and Aeneas: Irish Voyages and Their Classical Models,’ Celtic Studies Association of North America (University of Notre Dame, Indiana).

Presenter. ‘Celtic Analogues of the Second Merseburg Charm: Diffusion and Inheritance in the Distribution of an Ancient Healing Charm,’ International Association for Comparative Mythology, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

2009. Invited speaker. ‘Mining the Folklore Archives: Women’s Unwritten History,’ First Mondays’ Women’s History Seminar, The Queen’s University Belfast (N. Ireland).

Invited speaker. ‘An Litríocht Bhéil: Litríocht ar Leith’ (‘Oral Literature: Literature with a Difference’), Seimineár Litríochta, University College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland).

Presenter. ‘A Story of East and West: The Gifts of the Little People in Ireland and Japan,’ Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (Athens, Greece).

Presenter. ‘Form and Function of the Irish Classical Adaptations,’ International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, Michigan).

2008. Presenter. ‘Crossing Boundaries: A Scots Ballad in Gaelic Tradition,’ Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig, St Francis Xavier University (Antigonish, Canada).

Presenter. ‘The Ballad “Our Goodman” in Gaelic Scotland and Ireland,’ Child’s Children: Ballad Study and its Legacies, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

2007. Presenter. “‘Joint to Joint and Sinew to Sinew’”: Míach’s Cure in *Cath Maige Tuired*,’ Celtic Studies

Association of North America (Cincinnati, Ohio).

Presenter. 'Finery in Fact and Fiction: All Purple and Silver and Gold?' Thirteenth International Celtic Congress (Bonn, Germany).

2006. Invited speaker. 'Modern Folktales and Medieval Irish Literature,' Universiteit Utrecht (Utrecht, Netherlands).

Presenter. 'Cuckolds and Faithful Wives: The Genesis of the Gaelic Ballad of "Peigín and Peadar",' University of California Celtic Studies Conference at UCLA (Los Angeles, California).

Presenter. 'Two Countries, One Tradition? Folktale Contacts between Scotland and Ireland,' Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig (Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye, Scotland).

Presenter. 'The Gaelic and the not-so-Gaelic Storyteller,' Twenty-sixth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

2005. Presenter. 'Gaelic Storytelling and the Irish Literary Tradition,' University of California Celtic Studies Conference (Berkeley, California).

Invited panelist. Panel on Modern Irish language teaching, American Conference of Irish Studies (University of Notre Dame, Indiana).

2003. Presenter. 'The Fox and the Lover: *Amour Discourtois* in Gaelic Tradition' (with William Gillies), Twelfth International Celtic Congress (Aberystwyth, Wales).

2002. Presenter. 'Lullabies in Gaelic Tradition,' Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig (Glasgow, Scotland).

2001. Invited speaker. 'Medieval Gaelic Translations of Classical Literature' Glasgow Celtic Studies Centenary Seminar Series (Glasgow, Scotland).

2000. Presenter. 'Eun Tìr na hÒrachd: an Irish Hero-tale in the Repertoire of Joe Neil MacNeil,' Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig (Aberdeen, Scotland).

1999. Presenter. 'Story or History? The Reception of Classical Literature in Medieval Ireland,' Eleventh International Celtic Congress (Cork, Ireland).

Invited speaker. 'Perilous Waters: Christian Allegory in Some Early Irish Voyage Tales,' Celtic Seminar Series, Glasgow University (Glasgow, Scotland).

1998. Presenter. 'Ulysses and the Judge of Truth: Sources and Meanings in the Medieval Irish Odyssey,' Twelfth Irish Conference of Medievalists (Maynooth, Ireland).

Presenter. 'The Gift of the Little People: A Folk Legend in East and West,' A Century of Structure:

Conference of the Society for Traditional Cosmology (Edinburgh, Scotland).

Invited speaker. 'After the Battle is Over: The Anti-Nativist Wars and Early Irish Scholarship,' Celtic Seminar Series, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland).

1997. Presenter. 'Orality and Literacy in the Vernacular Irish Version of the *Odyssey*,' Thirtieth International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, Michigan).

1996. Presenter. 'Eye, Ear, and Memory: Textual Borrowing in an Early Irish Voyage Tale,' Thirty-first International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, Michigan).

Presenter. '*In fer fiamach fírglic*: Ulysses in Medieval Irish Literature,' Sixteenth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

1995. Presenter. 'Pagan Past or Christian Present: The Second Merseburg Charm in Britain and Ireland,' Tenth International Celtic Congress (Edinburgh, Scotland).

Presenter. 'The Abbot of Druimenaig: Genderbending in Gaelic Tradition,' Fifteenth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

1994. Presenter. 'Music from the Otherworld: Modern Gaelic Legends about Fairy Music,' Fourteenth Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

Presenter. 'The Heroes of the Ulster Cycle,' First International Conference on the Ulster Cycle of Tales (Belfast and Emain Macha, N. Ireland).

1993. Presenter. 'Voyages between Heaven and Hell: Navigating the Early Irish *Immram* Tales,' Thirteenth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

1992. Presenter. 'The Odyssey of a Folktale: *Merugud Uilix Meic Leirtis*,' Twelfth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

Presenter. '*Ní hé Cormac beus*: The Watchman Device in Early Irish Saga,' Fourth Annual Medievalist Conference (Maynooth, Ireland).

1991. Presenter. 'The Irish Historical Romance: A New Literary Development?' Eleventh Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).

1990. Presenter. 'The Heroic Icon in Early Irish Literature,' Second Annual Medievalist Conference (Maynooth, Ireland).

## **SERVICE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT, PEER REVIEWING & INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL BOARDS**

- External Examiner for the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Cork, Ireland (2021-2024)
- Peer-Reviewed articles for thirteen academic journals: *Journal of Folklore Research* (since 2014); *Western Folklore* (since 2020); *Cultural Analysis* (since 2012); *Folklore* (since 2014); *Estudios Irlandeses* (since 2017); *Studia Hibernica* (since 2017); *Béaloideas - The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society*; *Scottish Gaelic Studies* (since 2006); *Aiste: Studies in Gaelic Literature* (since 2009); *Scottish Studies*; *Classics Ireland* (since 2018); *North American Journal of Celtic Studies* (since 2020) and *Studia Celtica* (since 2022).
- Member of International Editorial Board, *Béaloideas: The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society* (since 2019)
- Member of International Editorial Board for *Scottish Studies*, Edinburgh (since 2017)
- Member of International Advisory Board for *Aiste: Studies in Gaelic Literature*, Glasgow (2007-)
- Member of Editorial Board for Special Publications series, Folklore Institute, Indiana University (2018-)
- Member of International Editorial Board, *Research Journal of Folklore*, Mymensingh, Bangladesh (since 2020)
- Co-Chair, Advisory Panel for International Conference of Irish Folklore & Ethnology (2015-)
- External Assessor for Harvard University faculty promotion case (2019);
- External Assessor for National University of Ireland tenure promotion case (2008)
- Served as consultant for *The Oxford English Dictionary* (2010)
- Senior Advisor for University of Amsterdam-based project 'Words of Power: Charms and charming in European folk tradition and literature' (2011-13)

### **CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR ORGANIZATION**

- Co-founder and organizer (with Ray Cashman), Irish Research Focus Group Seminar, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Indiana University (2021-)
- Co-organizer (with Bairbre Ní Fhloinn & Pascale Baker), Outlaws, Ballads and Bandits in Popular Tradition, National University of Ireland & University College Dublin (Dublin 2019)
- Co-founder / Organizer (with Bairbre Ní Fhloinn), Irish Conference of Folklore and Ethnology (2015-19)
- Co-founder / Organizer (with Bairbre Ní Fhloinn), Almqvist Memorial Lecture, Dublin (annual, since 2014)
- Co-organizer (with Joseph Harris) of international conference commemorating Francis James Child (Harvard 2008; selected papers published in *Child's Children: Ballad Study and Its Legacies*, eds. J. Harris and B. Hillers, WVT: Trier, 2012)
- Co-organizer of Seventh Annual Irish Studies Conference for Graduate Students (Boston College and Harvard University, 1993)
- Co-organizer of the Twelfth (in 1992) and the Thirteenth (in 1993) Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium (Cambridge, Mass.); see *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* vol. 12 and 13, ed. B. Hillers et al.

## **MEMBERSHIP IN LEARNED SOCIETIES**

- American Folklore Society
- An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann / The Folklore of Ireland Society (elected to Council, 2017-19 and 2023-24)
- Society for Folklife Studies (UK & Ireland; appointed to Council, 2016-18)
- International Society for Folk Narrative Research (elected member, 2001-)
- International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIÉF)
- Celtic Studies Association of North America

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

### ***Indiana University:***

- Reviewer, Traditional Arts Indiana Apprenticeship Program (2021)
- Adjudicator, Traditional Arts Indiana Heritage Fellowship Awards (2022)
- College Committee on Academic Fairness (2019-)
- DFE Committee for Diversity and Inclusion (Chair; 2019-22)
- DFE Special Projects: Dorson Memorial Library (2019-)
- DFE Awards Committee (2020/2021)
- DFE Merit Committee (2018 and 2019)
- DFE Undergraduate Committee (2018-19)
- DFE Colloquium Committee (2019-21)

### ***University College Dublin:***

- Served on College of Arts & Humanities Committee for Research, Innovation and Impact (2017-18)
- Service on several School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore school committees, including Research Committee and Plagiarism Committee.
- Advisor, digital cataloging of National Folklore Collection special collection and library (2017)

### ***Harvard University:***

- Member of Steering Committee for Undergraduate Program in Folklore and Mythology (2001-2009)
- Served on Search Committee for Margaret Brooks-Robinson Chair of Celtic (2003-04).
- Service in the Graduate Program in Celtic Languages and Literatures included graduate admissions, supervising foreign language requirements, and supporting Celtic language instruction



## **GRADUATE / UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING**

### **Ph.D. ADVISORY / EXAM COMMITTEES**

#### *Indiana University:*

Ben Storsved (Folklore) 2022- (**chair**)  
Connor Toole (Folklore) 2022-  
Gwyn Harris (Folklore) 2021-  
Olivia Phillips (Folklore) 2021-  
Katya Chomitzky (Folklore) 2020-

### **DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

#### *Indiana University:*

Fionnán Mac Gabhann (Folklore) 2020-2024  
Emily Bianchi (Folklore) 2020-  
Sarah Lawson (Folklore and Comparative Literature) 2020-2022  
Monica Marion (Folklore) 2019- (**chair**)  
Caroline Tatem (Folklore) 2019- (**co-chair**)  
Caroline Miller-VerMeulen (Folklore) 2018-  
Lydia Campbell-Maher (Ethnomusicology) 2018-  
Mathilde Lind (Folklore) 2018-2023  
Simran (Folklore), 2020-

#### *Harvard University:*

Natasha Sumner (Celtic Languages and Literatures) 2015  
Katharine Olson (Celtic Languages and Literatures) 2008  
Kathryn Izzo (Celtic Languages and Literatures) 2007  
Michael Linkletter (Celtic Languages and Literatures) 2006 (**chair**)  
Natalie Franz (Celtic Languages and Literatures) 2006

### **MASTERS THESIS / DIPLOMA COMMITTEES**

#### *Indiana University:*

Madison Cissell (MA Folklore / MLS Information Library Science) 2022 (**chair**)  
Heidi Yarger (MA Folklore / MLS Information Library Science) 2022 (**chair**)  
Janelle Azmy (MA Folklore) 2021

#### *University College Dublin:*

Fionnán Mac Gabhann (MLitt in Irish Folklore) 2018  
Aoiffe Kenny (MA in Irish Folklore) 2018 (**chair**)  
Liz Ryle (Diploma Thesis in Irish Folklore) 2017 (**co-chair**)  
Denis McArdle (Diploma Thesis in Irish Folklore) 2017 (**co-chair**)  
Carol Barron (Diploma Thesis in Irish Folklore) 2016 (**co-chair**)

## **UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESES**

Joelle Jackson (Folklore), Indiana University 2024 (**chair**)  
Arryngton Ladd (Folklore), Indiana University 2023 (**chair**)  
Margaret Harrison (Folklore and Mythology), Harvard University 2007 (**chair**)  
Anna Davies (Celtic), University of Edinburgh, 2000 (**chair**)

## **TEACHING AWARD**

Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award (2022)  
“Awarded to faculty who have demonstrated that they were the campus’ best teachers during the previous calendar year”

## **SELECT LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT**

### ***Indiana University***

Storytelling Around the World (2019-)  
Folklore and Gender (2018-)  
History of Folklore Studies (2020-)  
*Folklore / Information Library Science*  
Folklore Archives in the Digital Age (2019-)  
Fear, Anger, and the Internet (2019-)

### ***University College Dublin***

Traditional Storytelling in Ireland (2015-18)  
Folk Religion and Belief (2013-18)  
Material Culture (2013-18)  
The Life Cycle (2013-18)

### ***Harvard University***

The Folklore of Ireland (2001-2010)  
The Folklore of Women (2006-2009)  
Gaelic Women’s Poetry in Ireland and Scotland (2001-2003)  
Modern Irish Literature (2008-2009)  
Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced Modern Irish (2000-2007)  
Introductory and Intermediate Scottish Gaelic (2005-2007)  
Early Irish Manuscript Tradition (2003-2007)

### ***University of Edinburgh***

Early Irish Literature (1998)  
Celtic Literature (2000)  
Celtic Civilisation (1997-1999)  
Early Irish Texts (1999-2000)