

VIRGINIA STEVENS BLANKENHORN

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE

1. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011-present

Post-doctoral fellow, Celtic and Scottish Studies,
University of Edinburgh.

Research: Investigation of structure, character, and performance practice relating to Irish and Scottish Gaelic poetry and song.

2009-2010

Post-doctoral researcher, Acadamh na hOllscolaiocta Gaeilge (NUI Galway) / *Editor*,
www.joeheaney.org.

Research: Selection of audio and video materials from The Joe Heaney Collection, University of Washington (Seattle); sound-editing of selections and preparation of detailed transcripts, translations, notes, background material and resources for website devoted to the singing tradition of Connemara, Co. Galway.

2009 January-June

Occasional Lecturer (Folklore), School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics,
University College Dublin

Teaching: Apart from the years 1988-91, all teaching experience has been at third level institutions. Duties included development of course materials (*ab initio* in some cases) as well as the planning and implementation of syllabi in the following subject areas:

- Traditional song, singing, and Irish identity (UCD)
- Collectors of Song and Music (UCD)
- Anglo-Irish literature (Madonna University)
- English literature of the 18th & 19th centuries (Wayne State U)
- Irish literature in translation (Madonna University)
- Welsh and Old Irish saga literature in translation (Madonna U.)
- Non-profit program development, fund development, and proposal writing (OU)

2000-2002

Adjunct Faculty, Master's Degree in Public Administration, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan

Administration: Participation in departmental and faculty committees; supervision and advising of students; administration of examinations.

1991-92

Adjunct Assistant Professor of English, Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan
Adjunct Faculty, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

1988-91

Teacher, Dept. of English, Detroit Country Day School, Birmingham, Michigan

1981-88

Lecturer in Irish Studies, University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

Teaching: As above. Note that all instruction at the University of Ulster was conducted in Irish.

1984-86

Co-presenter (with Tom Munnely), Workshops in traditional singing, Willie Clancy Summer School, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare

- Introduction to Scottish Gaelic language and literature (UU)
- Irish folklore and traditional song (UU, WCSS)
- Oral literature and popular tradition (EU)
- Scottish Gaelic poetry and song (EU)
- Spoken and written Irish (UU)
- The art of translation (UU)
- Welsh and Old Irish saga literature in translation (EU)

1978-81

Lecturer in Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Administration: As above.

1973-75

Teaching Fellow, Department of English, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Teaching: As above.

- Survey: history of western music
- English grammar and composition

1969-71

Teaching Fellow, Department of Music, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Administration: As above.

2. WORK WITH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

2005-2007

Grants Manager, United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Program development: Assisted non-profit clients in developing and refining strategically-sound, concrete, and realistic programs capable of attracting financial support from major foundations and corporations.

1997-2005

Principal, ProsWrite, Financial Development Consultant

Fund Development Campaigns: Participated in developing financial support for major capital and annual fundraising campaigns that helped charitable organizations win over \$30 million over a 10-year period.

*Instructor**, Nonprofit Enterprise At Work (NEW) Center, Ann Arbor (2000-02)

Responsibilities included:

- development of case for support
- writing and design of campaign publications, video scripts, and individual solicitation materials
- writing and submission of grant proposals to foundations, corporations, and government
- donor research
- training and support of volunteer major gift solicitors

Board member, * Furniture Bank of Oakland County, Pontiac, Michigan (1998-2000)

Co-Chair, * Professional Advancement Committee, National Society of Fund-Raising Executives, Greater Detroit (1998-99)

1993-97

Development Officer (Major Gifts), American Red Cross, Southeastern Michigan Chapter

Board Training and Support: Calling upon experience as a volunteer solicitor in three capital campaigns, helped clients develop the potential of their board members as participants in the fund development process.

1986-88

Secretary/ founding member,* Board of Governors, Mill Strand Integrated Primary School, Portrush, Northern Ireland.

Administration: Duties included:

- direct supervision and assessment of staff
 - budget planning and financial management
 - development and implementation of strategic systems for maintaining records and fostering strong long-term relationships with donors
 - maintenance of archival records to support organizational memory
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* volunteer positions

EDUCATION

DEGREES

1. BA (1969) Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
2. MA (1975) Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
3. PhD (1987) University of Edinburgh

FIELDS OF STUDY

1. Music (history and theory)
2. Celtic Languages and Literature
3. Celtic Studies
Thesis: Irish Versification. *Supervisor:* Prof. William Gillies

ADDITIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDY

4. (1975-76) Non-matriculated student, University College Galway
4. Independent study, spoken Irish; fieldwork and research on song repertoire and performance style in Connemara Gaeltacht
5. (1976-78) Research Scholar, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Celtic Studies
5. Fieldwork-based study of intonation in the Irish of Connemara, Co. Galway, subsequently published in *Studia Celtica*; initial research on Irish poetic meter also began at this time.
Supervisors: Professors Brian Ó Cuív and James Carney.

PUBLICATIONS

1. 'Ó Chalaforina go Connemara ar lorg an tSean-Nóis'. Proceedings of conference "Dhá Leagan Déag": Comhdháil faoin Amhránaíocht ar an Sean-nós held at University of Galway, June 2015 (forthcoming).
2. REVIEW: A. Doyle and K. Murray (eds), *In Dialogue with the Agallamh: Essays in Honour of Seán Ó Coileáin*. *Scottish Studies* 38 (forthcoming).
3. 'Songs of the Hebrides and the Critics.' *Scottish Studies* 38 (forthcoming).
4. 'A new taxonomy of Gaelic song.' *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 7 (forthcoming).
5. *Craobh nan Ubhal: A Festschrift for John MacInnes*. Edited by Virginia Blankenhorn. *Scottish Studies* 37 (2014).
6. 'John MacInnes: A Biographical Note.' in V. Blankenhorn (ed.), *Craobh nan Ubhal: A Festschrift for John MacInnes*. *Scottish Studies* 37 (2014), x–xxiii.
7. 'Griogal Cridhe: Aspects of transmission in the Lament for Griogair Ruadh Mac Griogair of Glen Strae'. in V. Blankenhorn (ed.), *Craobh nan Ubhal: A Festschrift for John MacInnes*. *Scottish Studies* 37 (2014), 6-36.
8. 'Verse structure and performance in Scottish Gaelic vernacular poetry.' *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 6 (2013), 53-92.
9. 'The Rev. William Matheson and the performance of Scottish Gaelic "strophic" verse.' *Scottish Studies* 36 (2013), 15-44.
10. REVIEW: Maighread A. Challan, *Air Bilean an t-Sluaigh: Sealladh air Leantalachd Beul-Aithris Ghaidhlig Uibhist a Tuath*. *Scottish Studies* 36 (2013), 140-44.
11. 'Observations on the the performance of Irish syllabic verse.' *Studia Celtica* (2011), 135-54.
12. www.joeheaney.org. Website including a full edition of song-texts from the repertoire of Connemara singer Seosamh Ó hÉanaí, with translations, notes, and extensive critical apparatus. Texts are linked to audio and video excerpts from archive materials held at the University of Washington, Seattle, and elsewhere. Also includes a four-part essay, 'Joe Heaney and his Tradition', summarizing the life and musical legacy of the singer, and discussing the aesthetic values of his tradition as interpreted by himself (2010).
13. Commercial recording (CD): *Virginia Stevens: Ómós don Amhrán*. Shinywhistle Music (2007).
14. *Irish Song-Craft and Metrical Practice Since 1600*. Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston, NY and Lampeter, Wales (2003), 519 pp. A systematic analysis and classification of Irish accentual verse-meters, including discussion of their linguistic basis, historical background and musical context.
15. 'The Connemara Sean-Nós since the gramophone.' *Bulletin of the International Council for Traditional Music*, UK Chapter, No. 18 (Autumn 1987), 6-16.
16. *Calum and Annie Johnston: Songs, Stories and Piping from Barra*. School of Scottish Studies 'Scottish Tradition' Series #13 (1981). Reissued as Greentrax CDTRAX 9013 (2010).
17. REVIEW: 'J. L. Campbell and Francis Collinson, *Hebridean Folksongs III*'. *Celtica* XV (1983), 181-184.
18. 'Intonation in Connemara Irish: A preliminary study of kinetic glides'. *Studia Celtica* 16/17 (1981-82), 259-79. A fieldwork-based study examining common intonation patterns and their semantic content for native speakers of Irish in western Co. Galway.
19. 'Pitch, quantity and stress in Munster Irish'. *Éigse* 18/2 (1981), 225-50. An examination of the phenomenon of non-initial stress in Munster Irish in light of previously-unconsidered phonological factors.
20. REVIEW: 'Ethel Bassin, *The Old Songs of Skye: Frances Tolmie and Her Circle*'. *Yearbook For Traditional Music* (1981), 117-118.
21. REVIEW: 'Margaret Fay Shaw, *Folksongs and Folklore of South Uist* and J. L. Campbell and Francis Collinson, *Hebridean Folksongs II*'. *Celtica* XIV (1981), 164-166.
22. REVIEW: D. A. Fergusson et al. (Eds.), *From the Farthest Hebrides / Bho na h-Innse Gall as Iomallaiche*. *The Scottish Review: Arts and Environment*, vol 16 (November 1979), 53-55 and 'A Gaelic Stir' vol. 18 (May 1980), 33-37.

23. 'Traditional and bogus elements in 'MacCrimmon's Lament''. *Scottish Studies* 22 (1978), 45-67.
24. Commercial recording (LP): *Virginia Stevens: Tíocfaidh an Samhradh*. Mulligan Records, Dublin (1978). Performance of ten Irish songs sung in the traditional unaccompanied style of Connemara, Co. Galway.

NOTE: Additional reviews and collaborative contributions appeared in the late 1970s and early 1980s in the (now defunct) magazine *Folk Review* and in the School of Scottish Studies' own publication, *Tocher*.

PUBLIC LECTURES

1. 'Airs and Metres, Metres and Tunes: Metrical guidance for editors of Gaelic accentual verse.' Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conference 9, University of the Highlands and Islands, Sabhal Mór Ostaig, Skye (June 2016).
2. 'Who owns the music, when the music's gone? A response to the critics of Marjory Kennedy-Fraser.' International Congress of Celtic Studies XV, University of Glasgow (July 2015).
3. 'Lost Horizon or Living Landscape? Place, Time, and People in Gaelic Tradition.' Alan Bruford Memorial Lecture, University of Edinburgh / Scottish Storytelling Centre (October 2014).
4. 'Marjory Kennedy-Fraser and *Songs of the Hebrides*.' Conference, The Celtic Revival in Scotland, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (May 2014).
5. 'Sean(n)-Nós (-Nòs) Singing: What it is, What it isn't, and Why.' Seminar, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (2 March 2014).
6. 'The Lamentation of Noble Women: Female rhetoric of lamentation in Gaelic Scotland and Ireland.' Seminar Series, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (October 2013).
7. 'Caoineadh na mBan Uasal: *Caoineadh Áirt Uí Laoghaire* agus "Cumha Ghriogair MhicGriogair Ghlinn Sreatha"'. Seminar Series, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics, University College Dublin (November 2012).
8. 'Is there such a thing as "expository song" in Gaelic?' Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conference 7, Glasgow University (August 2012).
9. 'Thoughts on the performance of Scottish Gaelic "strophic" verse.' International Congress of Celtic Studies XIV, National University of Ireland, Maynooth (August 2011).
10. 'Verse structure and performance in Scottish Gaelic vernacular poetry.' Plenary lecture, Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conference 6, Aberdeen University (August 2010).
11. 'Revisiting the performance of *dán díreach*.' *Beyond Text*: Experimental workshops comparing the music performance of vernacular bardic poetry in medieval Wales, Ireland and Scotland, Workshop 2 (Ireland and Wales), Bangor (May 2009)
12. 'Tuar guil, a cholaim, do cheol!' : The performance of *rainn agus amhrán* verse. *Beyond Text*: Experimental workshops comparing the music performance of vernacular bardic poetry in medieval Wales, Ireland and Scotland, Workshop 1 (Scotland and Ireland), Edinburgh (April 2009)
13. 'Structural Layering in Scottish Gaelic Song.' Celtic Studies Association of North America, Toronto (2004)
14. 'Irish Verse-Practice Since 1600.' U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2004)
15. 'Accentual Versification: The Primary Irish Model?' U. of Freiburg, Germany (1988)
16. 'The Connemara Sean-Nós Since the Gramophone.' International Committee on Traditional Music, U. of Durham (1987)
17. 'Teaching About Singing.' Trinity College, Dublin (1986)
18. 'The Irish Sean-Nós: Does it have to be 'oriental'?' Willie Clancy Memorial Lecture, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare (1985)
19. 'How does it go?': Musical contributions to the process of oral versification.' 7th International Congress of Celtic Studies, Oxford (1983)
20. 'A New Approach to Irish Accentual Metres.' Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies Tionól (1980)

21. 'The Measurement of Language and the Language of Verse.' Colloquium of British Academic Phoneticians, U. of Leeds (1980)
22. 'Pitch-Accent and Stress in Munster Irish.' 6th International Congress of Celtic Studies, Galway (1979)
23. 'Intonation Patterns in Connemara Irish.' Celtic Linguistics Conference, U. of Ulster, Coleraine (1977).