

January 10, 2018

***Tok Freeland Thompson, Ph.D.***  
**Associate Professor of Teaching, Anthropology & Communication**  
**The Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism**  
**& The Department of Anthropology, Dornsife College**  
**University of Southern California**  
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### ***Higher Education***

University of California, Berkeley, Ph.D. 2002. Anthropology.

Dissertation: *The Story of The Coming of the Celts and its Place in Modern Irish Discourse.*

University of California, Berkeley, M.A. 1999. Folklore.

Thesis: *The Fairy Folk and the Dead in Western Ireland.*

Harvard College, A.B. *cum laude*. 1988. Anthropology.

Thesis: *Individualism and Community in Cook Inlet, Alaska.*

### ***Teaching Interests***

Folk beliefs, narratives, & cyber culture. Language, communication, & performance. Fieldwork methods.

### ***Current Theoretical Interests***

Posthumanism. Mythology. Identity. Minority languages. Global Digital Performances.

### ***Area Interests***

Ireland/Northern Ireland (especially the Donegal *Gaeltacht*).

Native Americans (especially Dena'ina Athabascans).

The Internet (especially user-generated cultural activity).

### ***Editorships***

*Western Folklore: The Journal of the Western States Folklore Society*. 2013-2017.

*Cultural Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Forum on Folklore and Popular Culture*, co-founder and editor, 1999-2014, since 2013 associated with the *Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore* (SIEF).

*World Mythologies in Theory and in Everyday Life*, co-editor. Book series, Oxford University Press: forthcoming in 2018.

### ***Active member in the following professional organizations***

American Folklore Society (AFS) (Secretary, Nordic Section 2002-2008)(International Committee 2008-2012)

*Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore* (SIEF) (Member, Working Group on Cultural Heritage)

International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR). (Member, Belief Narrative Network)

Western States Folklore Society (WSFS). (Executive Board Member 2009-2012)

*An Cumann le Béaloideas Éireann!* The Folklore of Ireland Society

### ***Languages***

Irish. Fluent.

Scottish Gaelic. Moderate reading & conversational ability.

French. Reading ability, limited conversational ability.

Amharic (Ethiopia). Moderate conversational ability.

Dena'ina (Athabascan). Moderate familiarity.

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**Scholarly Publications**

**Books**

Forthcoming

*The Truth of Myth: World Mythologies in Theory and Everyday Life*. With Prof. Gregory Schrempp. Contracted with Oxford University Press, written, expected publication 2018.

*Where The Banshee Dwells: Stories, Stones, & Six Thousand Years*. Accepted, pending revision, with University of Notre Dame Press.

*Posthuman Folklore*. Contracted with University of Mississippi Press, expected publication 2018.

2006

*Ireland's Pre-Celtic Archaeological and Anthropological Heritage*. Edwin Mellen Press.

*The Presence of the Past: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach*. Co-edited with Fabio Mugnaini and Pádraig Ó Héalaí. Edit Press.

**Research Articles, Chapters, and Reviews**

Accepted, forthcoming in 2018

"Folklore Beyond the Human: Towards a Trans-Special Understanding of Culture, Communication, and Aesthetics." *Journal of Folklore Research*.

"What Does it Mean To Be An Earthling? Aliens, and the Category of Us". *Narrative Culture*.

2017

"Green-Skinned Troublemakers Versus the Humans: Trolls, Aliens, and other Others in the Cyber World" in *Race and Ethnicity in Digital Culture: Our Changing Traditions, Impressions, and Expressions in a Mediated World*. Anthony Buccitelli, ed. 2 Volumes, Praeger.

Review. *Ireland's Immortals: A History of the Gods of Irish Myth*. By Mark Williams (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016). *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* (JFRR).

2016

"Memes, Mashups, and the Battle for the Future of Human Culture" in *Images and Human Rights: Local and Global Perspectives through the creation and distribution of the visual*. Nancy Stein and Alison Renteln, eds. Cambridge Scholars.

"A Tale of Two Archives, Two Eras: The UC Berkeley Folklore Archives & the USC Digital Folklore Archives" *Estudis de Literatura Oral Popular / Studies in Oral Folk Literature*. 5.

"Folklore, *Western Folklore*, and the Passage of Time: an Editorial Introduction" with Paul Jordan-Smith. *Western Folklore* 75: 123-131.

Review. *Small Language Fates and Prospects*. By Nancy C. Dorian (Boston: Brill, 2014). *American Anthropologist* 118: 423-424.

2015

Review. *The Dancing Goddesses: Folklore, Archaeology, and the Origins of European Dance*. By Elizabeth Wayland Barber (New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2013). *Journal of Anthropological Research* 72.

2013

"Trajectories of Tradition: Following Tradition into a New Epoch of Human Culture" In *Tradition in the 21st Century: Locating the Role of the Past in the Present*. Trevor Blank and Robert Glenn Howard, eds. Utah State University Press: Logan.

Review. *The Origins of the World's Mythology* by E. J. Michael Witzel. Oxford University Press: Oxford. *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* (JFRR).

Review. *The Ancient Mythology of Modern Science. A Mythologist looks (Seriously) at Popular Science Writing*. Gregory Schrempp. McGill: Queen's University Press. *Western Folklore* 71: 311-315

**Scholarly Publications, Cont'd**

**Research Articles, Chapters, and Reviews, cont'd**

2012

"Netizens, Revolutionaries, and the Inalienable Right to the Internet " in *Folk Culture in the Digital Age: The Emergent Dynamics of Human Interaction*. Edited by Trevor J. Blank. Utah State University Press: Logan. 45-69.

"The Spiritual Life of the Seite and the Implied Cosmological View of the Traditional Sámi" In *News From The Other Worlds*. Merrill Kaplan and Timothy R. Tangherlini, eds. Pinehurst Press.

Review. In *The Blood: Cape Breton Conversations on Culture*. Burt Feintuch. *Western Folklore* 71: 188-189.

2011

"Beatboxing, Mashups, and More: Folk Music for the 21st Century" *Western Folklore* 70: 71-193

2010

"The Ape that Captured Time: Folklore, Narrative, and the Human-Animal Divide". *Western Folklore* 69: 395-420.

2009

"Getting Ahead in Ethiopia: Amharic Proverbs on Wealth." *Proverbium*. 26: 367-386.

Review. *Sedna: The Sea Woman in Inuit Shamanism and Art in the Eastern Arctic*. by Frederic Laugrand and Jarich Oosten. *Journal of Folklore Research*.

2008

"Gone Native: Immigrants, Natives, and the Quest for the Real Alaskan. " *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.

"Memory: Introduction." Co-authored with Anthony Bak Buccitelli. *Cultural Analysis* 7.

2007

"Something Fishy Going On: An Analysis of the Role of Fish in American Folk Speech" *Columbia Journal of American Studies* 8. 111-122.

2006

"Heritage Versus the Past" in *The Presence of the Past, A Multidisciplinary Approach*. Ó hÉalaí, P., Mugnaini, F., and Thompson, T., eds. 197-208.

"Theory/Policy: Introduction" with Valdimar Hafstein. in *Cultural Analysis* 5. 1-5

Review. *Tradition through Modernity: Postmodernism and the Nation-State in Folklore Scholarship*. by Pertti J. Anttonen. *Cultural Analysis* 5. R4-7.

2005

"Clocha Geala/Clocha Uaisle: White Quartz in Irish Tradition." *Béaloideas: Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society* 73. 111-33.

"Ierse Folklore." *Kelten* 27. 5-7.

"Thanatopic Aspects of the Irish Sí" in *Communicating with the Spirits*. Gabor Klaniczay and Eva Pocs, eds. 193-203.

2004

"The Irish Sí Tradition: Connections Between Disciplines, and What's in a Word?" *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 11 (4). 335-368.

"The Return of the Fairy Folk: A View from the Tourist Shops of Ireland" *Tautosakos Darbai (Folklore Studies)* 21. 198-208.

"Translation and Postcoloniality in Ireland: The Particular and Peculiar Relationship Between Irish Gaelic and English." *Linguistica Antverpiensia* NS 2. 219-231.

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***Scholarly Publications, Cont'd***

**Research Articles, Chapters, and Reviews, cont'd**

2003

"'Ladies and Gentlemen, the North Road Pounders:' An Inquiry into Identity, Aesthetics, and New Authenticities in Rural Alaska" *Journal of Folklore Research* 40 (3). 270-288.

2002

"The Thirteenth Number: Then /There, Here and Now." *Studia Mythologica Slavica* 5. 145-159.

2000

"Reports from the Archives: Obscene Games of American Male Children" *Journal of Midwestern Folklore* 26. 11-17 (awarded honorable mention for the American Folklore Society's W.W. Newell Prize in Children's Folklore, 2001).

***Media Presentations***

**Television**

2010. Discovery Channel. *Real Story of Halloween*.

2010-2017. Several episodes. History Channel. *Ancient Aliens*. Various folkloric topics.

2017. KTLA. Discussing eclipse folklore in a global perspective.

**Radio**

Assorted radio interviews, including LA talk radio, and NPR's "All Things Considered."

**Press and Online**

Assorted interviews and quotes for various local and national print media, web blogs, video projects, etc.

***Major awards and grants***

*Fulbright Core Specialist Award* for teaching and research in Iceland. 2015.

*Phi Kappa Phi* membership in recognition of outstanding teaching and scholarship. 2010.

*Innovative Undergraduate Teaching Award*, University of Southern California. 2008. A competitive award sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching

*Iomairt Cholm Cille*. International research grant for independent ethnographic research on the role of translation in Gaelic-speaking communities in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. 2003-4.

*University of California Chancellor's Dissertation-Year Award*. 2001-2002. One of thirteen such fellowships awarded at U.C. Berkeley.

*Outstanding Instructor Award*. U.C. Berkeley 2001.

*Foreign Language Area Specialist Awards*. Two years: 2000, 2001. For immersion language study of Irish at *Oideas Gael*. Glencolmcille, County Donegal.

*Ford Foundation Young Scholars Program*. 1988. For ethnographic research in Cook Inlet, Alaska.

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***Academic Employment***

2015: Distinguished Fulbright Professor, Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, University of Iceland.

2009-2010: Intensive Winter Break Session: Visiting Professor of Folklore, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

2006-Present: University of Southern California, Department of Anthropology

Associate Professor of Teaching, Anthropology and Communication, 2015-present

Associate Professor of Teaching, Anthropology. 2012-present

Assistant Professor of Teaching, Anthropology. 2009-2012

Lecturer, Anthropology. 2008-2009

Visiting Assistant Professor. 2006-2008

*Courses Developed and Taught at USC:*

Anthropology 205: *Introduction to Global Studies and Overseas Research*

Anthropology 325: *Global Studies Research Methods*

Anthropology 333: *Forms of Folklore*

Anthropology 372: *Non-Western Mythology*

Anthropology 315: *North American Indians in American Public Life*

Anthropology 316: *North American Indians*

Anthropology 409: *Indigenous Languages in Ireland/Northern Ireland*

Anthropology 602: *Anthropology of Popular Culture*

Arts and Letters 105: *In Their Own Words: Native North Americans*

Arts & Letters 105: *Ghost Stories Throughout Time and Around the World*

Liberal Studies 500: *Introduction to the Masters of Liberal Studies*

Liberal Studies 550: *Languages in a Globalizing World*

Liberal Studies 570: *Tradition and Modernity*

*Major Institutional Accomplishments:*

Organized and instituted a new interdisciplinary minor in Folklore and Popular Culture.

Organized and instituted a new multimedia digital folklore archives for USC: *folklore.usc.edu*

Organized and chaired the 70th Western States Folklore Society conference at USC, 2011.

Co-organized and instituted the USC Native American Workshop series, 2009-2012.

Assisted in the implementation of the Master of Liberal Studies program.

Organized the lecture series "Folklore in the Digital Age" for the 2009 USC College Commons series.

*Major Institutional Service:*

Masters' committee member, 2008-present. Eighteen matriculations, chaired twelve.

Doctoral dissertation committee member: 2016, 2017.

Elected to Faculty Council. Elected to Caucus on Undergraduate Academic Programs. 2010-2012.

Caucus Chair, 2011-2012.

Anthropology Departmental Curriculum Coordinator. 2010-2012.

Faculty sponsor, Irish Cultural Club 2010-present.

Faculty sponsor, Native American Student Association, 2011-2015.

Fulbright selection committee: 2014, 2017.

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- 2005: Visiting Lecturer, University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland.  
Graduate Course, co-taught: *Culture, Equality and Difference in Northern Ireland*.
- 2004: Research Fellow, Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, Magee, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland. On behalf of the Fermanagh District Council, I researched, composed, and presented recommendations to the council for an effective program in support of the Irish language in County Fermanagh.
- 2004: Visiting Lecturer, University of Iceland. Intensive course, winter session.  
Course: *Folklore and Archaeology*. This self-designed course explored the roles that folklore and archaeology play in creating the past, and how these two disciplines could possibly be interpolated.
- 2003-2005: Research Fellow, Centre for Irish-Scottish Studies, Trinity College, Dublin University.  
Assisted in the creation and implementation of the M.Phil. in Literary Translation, undertook research on the role of translation in bilingual (English/Gaelic) communities in Ireland, and supported the development of the Centre.
- 1998-2000: Head Archivist, University of California Folklore Archives.  
Oversaw and instructed apprentice archivists and staff in the operation of the archives. Organized events such as lectures, public outreach programs, and more. Assisted various research.
- 2000-2001: Instructor, University of California, Berkeley.  
Sociology 5: *Introduction to Method in Social Research*  
Anthropology 3: *Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology*
- 1998-2001. Reader, University of California, Berkeley.  
Anthropology 160: *Forms of Folklore*. Prof. Alan Dundes. Fall 1998, 1999, 2000.  
Anthropology 123A: *Life in Ice Age Europe as Seen Through Fiction*. Prof Margaret Conkey. Spring 2000.  
Anthropology 154: *Social Inequality*. Prof. Gerald Berreman. Spring 2000, 2001.  
Anthropology 162: *The Supernatural in the Modern World*. Prof Sabina Magliocco. Summer, 1999.

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***Conference Presentations, Keynote Presentations, & Invited Talks***

- 2017: "Ghost Stories from the Uncanny Valley" Western States Folklore Society, U. Oregon.
- 2016: "Green-Skinned Troublemakers versus the Humans: Trolls, Aliens, and other Others in a Globalizing World". Western States Folklore Society, UC Berkeley; American Folklore Society, Miami.  
"Stars, Cosmology, and Cosmonauts" Invited lecture for the USC Polymathic Society.
- 2015: "Indigenous Lives and Natural Resources in the 21st Century: A view from Alaska"  
Trans-Arctic Agenda, Reykjavik, Iceland.  
"Don't Feed the Trolls: New Ancient Wisdom for the Postmodern Age"  
Invited talk, Folklore Society of Iceland, Reykjavik  
Western States Folklore Society, UCLA
- 2014: "Don't Feed The Trolls: Internet Proverbs and the Re-Imagining of a Discipline"  
Invited Keynote, "We Are The Folk" conference, Lisbon, Portugal.  
"Towards a Study of Non-Hominid Cultures"  
American Folklore Society, Santa Fe, New Mexico.  
"Mythology in Past and Future Tenses"  
Invited talk, University of Indiana, Bloomington.  
"Trouble in Paradise: Harvard's Association for Comparative Mythological Research"  
Invited talk, University of Indiana, Bloomington.  
Western States Folklore Society, Utah State University, Utah.  
"The Monster Inside"  
Invited talk for the event *What Makes a Monster?* USC, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013: "Folklore Before The Story: Towards An Evolutionary Understanding of Folklore, Aesthetics, and Non-Hominid Culture".  
Western States Folklore Society. UC San Diego, California.
- 2012: "Animal Lovers"  
Western States Folklore Society. UC Davis, California.  
American Folklore Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

***Conference Presentations & Invited Talks, Cont'd***

- 2011: "Do Animals Have Souls?"  
Invited talk, USC Dornsife Conversations at Sunset.  
American Folklore Society, Bloomington, Indiana  
"Qadafi sings Zenga Zenga: Netizens, Revolutionaries, and the Postnational Aesthetic."  
Western States Folklore Society: University of Southern California, CA.
- 2010: "What's the Story, Here? Folklore, Storytelling, and the State of the Discipline in North America"  
Invited lecture, International Conference on Popular (Folk) Narratives. Grosseto, Italy.  
"Performing Ethnographic Research on Internet Cultures"  
Invited lecture, University of Siena.  
"Talking with the Elder Brothers: Interspecies Communications in Native American Traditions"  
USC Native American Workshop Series  
Western States Folklore Society: Willamette, OR
- 2009: "Folklore, Narrative, and the Human-Animal Divide"  
Western States Folklore Society. Los Angeles, CA  
American Folklore Society, Boise, ID

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- "Mashups and Cyborg Identity"  
College Commons Lecture Series, University of Southern California.
- 2008: "Getting Ahead in Ethiopia: Amharic Proverbs about Wealth and Poverty"  
Western States Folklore Society. Davis, California  
American Folklore Society. Louisville, Kentucky.
- "Future Folklore"  
Conference on Reflecting on the Production of Knowledge. Tartu, Estonia
- "Folklore from the First Nations"  
Invited Lecture, Pasadena Senior Curricula
- 2007: "Folklore: The Human Universal"  
Invited Lecture, Pasadena Senior Curricula
- "Entering The Third Age of Information: Folklore, Literature, and the emerging Digital Realm"  
Invited Lecture, California Institute of Technology (Caltech), International Week
- "The Folklore of Blood and Culture"  
Invited Lecture. Unruh Institute of Politics, University of Southern California
- 2006: "The Embedded Past"  
Western States Folklore Society. Berkeley, California
- "The Banshee"  
Invited Lecture. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- "Folklore and the Canon of Ethnicity"  
American Folklore Society. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2005: "Something Fishy Going On: An Analysis of the Role of Fish in American Discourse"  
American Folklore Society. Atlanta, Georgia.
- "Utilizing Folklore for Inter-Cultural Understanding."  
Invited Lecture. University of Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- "Exploring the Contours of Heritage"  
Invited Lecture. University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- "Formulating a Language Policy in County Fermanagh"  
Invited Public Lecture. Academy of Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster.

*Conference Presentations & Invited Talks, Cont'd*

- 2004: "The Sí and the Dead in Irish Tradition."  
Invited Lecture. Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway.
- "Heritage Versus the Past."  
COIMBRA Group, Culture Task Force. National University, of Ireland, Galway.
- "The Return of the Fairy Folk: A View From the Tourist Shops of Ireland."  
Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages. Space, Text, Time. U. of Ulster, Derry.  
International Society for Ethnology and Folklore. Marseilles.  
American Folklore Society. Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2003: "Inter-Cultural, Intra-National. Irish and English Translation in Ireland"  
Royal Irish Academy Conference. Intercultural Spaces. Dublin.
- 2002: "The Absence of Color: The Symbolic Role of the Color White in Irish Folklore"  
American Folklore Society. Rochester, New York.
- 2001: "The Irish Sí Tradition and the (Pre-)Historic Importance of the Dead in Ireland."  
Theoretical Archaeology Group. Dublin, Ireland.



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- "Immigrants and Native Folklore in Alaska."  
American Folklore Society. Anchorage, Alaska.
- "Tory Island: Tourism and Preservation."  
California Celtic Conference. Berkeley, California.
- 2000: "The Sí and the Dead"  
American Folklore Society. Columbus, Ohio.
- "Ladies and Gentlemen, The North Road Pounders."  
Popular Culture Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
California Folklore Society. Berkeley, California.
- 1999: "'Celtic Ireland;' A Re-Appraisal of the Evidence. "California Celtic Conference. Berkeley, California.  
"Reports from the Archives: Sexual Games of American Male Children" American Folklore Society.  
Memphis, Tennessee.
- "Lower Mythology"  
California Folklore Society. Los Angeles, California.
- 1998: "The Mysterious Case of the Number Thirteen"  
American Folklore Society. Portland, Oregon.
- "Thanatopic Aspects of the Irish Sí"  
International Symposium on Demons, Witches, Spirits. Budapest.