

WILLOW G. MULLINS

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Lecturer, School of Celtic & Scottish Studies
University of Edinburgh
Scotland, UK

Nationality: USA and Ireland

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Humanities; Time; Material Culture; Heritage and Place; Folklore; Weatherlore

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Missouri

English, Program in Folklore, Oral Tradition and Culture Studies

Dissertation: "Philanthropic Tourism and Artistic Authenticity: Cultural Empathy and the Western Consumption of Kyrgyz Art." Directed by Dr. Elaine Lawless (chair)

M.S. University of Rhode Island

Textile History and Conservation

B.A. Brown University

Folklore

Certificate - Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies, Portland, Maine

IN PROGRESS

"Ghosts in the Archive." *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*. Accepted for special issue Sensing the Archive. Under revision. Forthcoming Winter 2026.

Earth Fellow: Cultural and environmental adaptations to new seasons. 2024-2025. Co-PI with Rachel Hunt, Geography. University Awarded Project Funding to set up research network. Article in process to be submitted December 2026.

"Haggis for Dinner." Invited epilogue. In *Addressing the Haggis*, Joy Fraser. Logan: Utah State University Press. Forthcoming January 2027.

"What's not in the archive: Absence, data, and inequality in the ethnology archives." In *Engaging with Big and Small Historical Data*, Pim Huijnen, ed. New York and London: Routledge. Forthcoming Spring 2027.

Splitting Seconds: Process, Resistance, and Vernacular Time Management. (monograph). Anticipated 2029.

What They Say: Wayfinding and Ways of Knowing in a Changing Environment. (co-written with Shelley Ingram). Anticipated 2028.

“Land and Lore.” A project on knowing the seasons with Forgan Arts Centre, Forgan, Scotland. 2026-2027.

“Stitching Community.” A project on place, craft, and community building with the Scottish Women’s Institute. 2026-2027.

PUBLICATIONS

“Cooking the Jam Books: Home jam making, inequality, and cultural sustainability in the UK and US.” *Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Studies*. December 2025.

“Tales from the Cabinet of Curiosities: Fetish, Tourism, and Resistance in Edinburgh.” *Western Folklore*, 82, 3/4.

Wait Five Minutes: Weatherlore in the Twenty-First Century. Editor with Shelley Ingram. Oxford: University of Mississippi Press. June 2023.

Editor and Introduction. *Journal of Folklore Research*: Special Issue: Building Intersections through the Work of Elaine J. Lawless, 59, 2 (May-August). 2022.

The Folklorist in the Marketplace: Conversations at the Crossroads of Vernacular Culture and Economics. Editor with Puja Batra-Wells and “Introduction.” Logan: Utah State University Press. 2019.

“Consuming Authenticities: An Economics of Folklorists.” In *The Folklorist in the Marketplace: Conversations at the Crossroads of Vernacular Culture and Economics*, Willow G. Mullins and Puja Batra-Wells, eds. Logan: Utah State University Press. 2019.

Implied Nowhere: Absence in Folklore Studies. In collaboration with Shelley Ingram and Todd Richardson. Oxford: University of Mississippi Press. 2019.

" 'Would you like a cup of tea?': Food, Home, and Mid-Century Anxiety in the Later Novels of Shirley Jackson." In collaboration with Shelley Ingram. In *The Routledge Companion to Food and Literature*, Lorna Piatti-Farnel and Donna Lee Brien, eds. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“ ‘All the people that should have lived here’: Haunting, the Economy, and Home in Tana French’s *Broken Harbor*.” In collaboration with Shelley Ingram. In *The Domestic to the Dominant: The New Face of Crime Fiction*, Laura Ellen Joyce and Henry Sutton, eds. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

“Exploring Dress, Exploring Identity: An Assignment in Learning to See Cultural Identity through Aspects of Dress.” *Journal of Folklore and Education*, Vol. 1. 2014.

“Memory and Tradition as a Postcolonial Response in the Films of Kyrgyzstan’s Aktan Abdykalykov.” In *Storytelling in World Cinemas*, ed. Lina Khatib. New York: Columbia. 2013.

Felt. In the series *Textiles that Changed the World*, ed. Ruth Barnes and Linda Welters. Oxford: Berg/Bloomsbury. 2009.

Assistant Editor, *Journal of American Folklore*. 2004-2005.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer/Assistant Professor. University of Edinburgh (UK). 2022 to present.

Conceptualizing Scotland

Material Culture

Sustaining Scotland

Museums & Representation: Nine Conversations around the National Museum of Scotland

Ethnographic Fieldwork Methods

Lecturer. Washington University in St. Louis. 2012 to 2021.

Cultural Sustainability

Vernacular Responses to Contagion

Irish Folklore

Necrofolklore: Folklore & Death

College Writing

Ethics and Ethnography

Blue Plate Special: Food and Culture

American Folklore in Context

Folk Music Cultures

Visiting Assistant Professor. The Ohio State University. 2012.

Topics in Folklore Genres – Folk Music Cultures (English 577).

American Regions in Transition (English 579).

Topics in Comparative Studies – Material and Visual Culture (Comparative Studies 677).

Introduction to Folklore Studies (English 270).

Instructor. Lindenwood University. 2010 – 2011.

Composition II (English 170).

Graduate Instructor. University of Missouri – Columbia. 2004 – 2010.

Introduction to American Literature (English 1310).

Topics in English – Pedagogy of Folklore (Anthropology 8150/ English 8001).

Introduction to Folklore – Ethnography (Anthropology 2150/ English 2700).

Introduction to Folklore – Folk Music and Folk Music Cultures (Anthropology 2150/ English 2700).

Introduction to Composition (English 1000).

Introduction to Folklore – Folklore in the Public Sector (Anthropology 2150/ English 2700).

SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

Ethics Committee, Lead for School of Language, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Edinburgh. Appointed May 2026.

Teaching & Learning Committee, Department Lead, University of Edinburgh. 2022-2025, interim 2026

Curriculum Change, Department Lead, University of Edinburgh. Appointed March 2026.
Head of Department, Celtic & Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. 2025-2026.

American Folklore Society
International Society for Ethnology and Folklore
International Society for Narrative Research
FRIED – University of Edinburgh Food Network
Earth Fellows – University of Edinburgh
Seasons Research Network, founder – University of Edinburgh

COMMUNITY

Board Member, The Focal Point, St. Louis Listening Room.
Panelist, Missouri Arts Council, Folk Arts Section.
Panelist, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, Missouri Folk Arts Program.
Tionól: The Mississippi River Celtic Music Festival. St. Louis, Missouri.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Contemporary Creation Stories: Creation/Destruction Where Sea Meets Shore.” International Society for Narrative Research. Reykjavik, 2026.

“The Taste of Summer: Domestic Food Practices, Vernacular Time, and a Changing Climate.” Nordic Ethnology & Folklore. Turku, 2025.

“Ghosts in the Archive.” SIEF (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore). Aberdeen, 2024.

“Steps and Missteps: Walking and the Limits of Knowledge in the Museum.” (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore. Brno, 2023.

“Travelling Both: Weaving and Walking, Narrative and Knowledge in the Modern Museum.” Folklore, Ethnology, and Ethnomusicology Conference Aberdeen. Aberdeen, 2023. Keynote.

“Canning Crisis: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Preserving Things in Jars.” RE:22 Nordic Ethnology. Reykjavik, 2022.

“Weatherlore and Belief in the Time of Climate Change.” SIEF (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore. Helsinki, 2021.

“Engaging with Discomfort: A Death Café on the Intersections between Folklore and Death.” American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2020.

“The Failed Joke: The Negative Space of Folklore.” American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Buffalo, New York, 2018.

“Deathly Things: The Materiality of Death in America.” American Folklore Society Annual Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2017.

“Touristic Philanthropy: Kyrgyz Crafts and Colonial Logic.” Central and Inner Asian Studies Conference. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. May 2008.

“At a Good Auction, Your Story Should Fetch Around \$10,000”: The Commodification of Narrative and the Narrativization of Things in the *Antiques Roadshow*.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Quebec City, Canada. October 2007.

“Issues of Ethical Representation in the Field of Museum Conservation: Creating an Interdisciplinary Dialogue.” American Folklore Society Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. October 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Teaching Award Nominee, 2025-2026, University of Edinburgh.

Ellsworth Huggins Fellowship, University of Missouri.

Superior Graduate Student Award, University of Missouri.

Mellon Fellowship for Conservation, National Museum of the American Indian.