

VIRGINIA STEVENS BLANKENHORN

E-mail: virginia.blankenhorn@ed.ac.uk

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE

1. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022–present Editor, <i>Scottish Studies</i>. 2019–present <i>Honorary Fellow</i>, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. 2011–18 <i>Post-doctoral fellow</i>, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh. 2009–10 <i>Post-doctoral researcher</i>, Acadamh na hOllscolaíocta Gaeilge (NUI Galway) / <i>Editor</i>, www.joeheaney.org. 2009 January–June <i>Occasional Lecturer (Folklore)</i>, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, University College Dublin 2000–02 <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>, Master's Degree in Public Administration, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 1991–92 <i>Adjunct Assistant Professor of English</i>, Madonna University, Livonia, Michigan <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>, Department of English, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 1988–91 <i>Teacher</i>, Dept. of English, Detroit Country Day School, Birmingham, Michigan	<i>Research</i>: Investigation of structure, character, and performance practice relating to Irish and Scottish Gaelic poetry and song. <i>Research</i>: 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. <i>Teaching</i>: Apart from the years 1988-91, all teaching experience has been at third level institutions. Duties included development of course materials (<i>ab initio</i> 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) <i>Administration</i>: Participation in departmental and faculty committees; supervision and advising of students; administration of examinations.
1981–88 <i>Lecturer in Irish Studies</i>, University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland 1984–86 <i>Co-presenter</i> (with Tom Munnely), Workshops in traditional singing, Willie Clancy Summer School, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare 1978–81 <i>Lecturer in Scottish Studies</i>, University of Edinburgh, Scotland	<i>Teaching</i>: As above. Note that all instruction at the University of Ulster was conducted in Irish. • 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) <i>Administration</i>: As above.

1973–75 <i>Teaching Fellow</i>, Department of English, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1969–71 <i>Teaching Fellow</i>, Department of Music, Chinese University of Hong Kong	<i>Teaching:</i> As above. • Survey: history of western music • English grammar and composition <i>Administration:</i> As above.
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2. WORK WITH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

2005–2007 <i>Grants Manager</i>, United Way for Southeastern Michigan 1997–2005 <i>Principal</i>, ProsWrite, Financial Development Consultant <i>Instructor*</i>, Nonprofit Enterprise At Work (NEW) Center, Ann Arbor (2000-02) <i>Board member</i>, * Furniture Bank of Oakland County, Pontiac, Michigan (1998-2000) <i>Co-Chair</i>, * Professional Advancement Committee, National Society of Fund-Raising Executives, Greater Detroit (1998-99) 1993–97 <i>Development Officer (Major Gifts)</i>, American Red Cross, Southeastern Michigan Chapter 1986–88 <i>Secretary/ founding member</i>, * Board of Governors, Mill Strand Integrated Primary School, Portrush, Northern Ireland. * volunteer positions	<i>Program development:</i> Assisted non-profit clients in developing and refining strategically-sound, concrete, and realistic programs capable of attracting financial support from major foundations and corporations. <i>Fund Development Campaigns:</i> 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. <i>Responsibilities included:</i> • 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 <i>Board Training and Support:</i> 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. <i>Administration:</i> 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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EDUCATION

DEGREES	FIELDS OF STUDY
1. BA (1969) Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 2. MA (1975) Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 3. PhD (1987) University of Edinburgh	1. Music (history and theory) 2. Celtic Languages and Literature 3. Celtic Studies <i>Thesis:</i> Irish Versification. <i>Supervisor:</i> Prof. William Gillies
ADDITIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDY	
4. (1975-76) Non-matriculated student, University College Galway 5. (1976-78) Research Scholar, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Celtic Studies	4. Independent study, spoken Irish; fieldwork and research on song repertoire and performance style in Connemara Gaeltacht 5. Fieldwork-based study of intonation in the Irish of Connemara, Co. Galway, subsequently published in <i>Studia Celtica</i>; initial research on Irish poetic meter also began at this time. <i>Supervisors:</i> Professors Brian Ó Cuív and James Carney.

PUBLICATIONS

1. *A Festschrift for John Shaw.*, ed. Virginia Blankenhorn, Robert Dunbar and Tiber Falzett. *Scottish Studies* vol. 42/2 (2026). <https://open.journals.ed.ac.uk/ScottishStudies/issue/view/50/10>.
2. 'John William Shaw: A Biographical Note'. In *A Festschrift for John Shaw*, ed. Virginia Blankenhorn, Robert Dunbar and Tiber Falzett. *Scottish Studies* 42/2 (2026), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.2218/sjgg8b44>
3. 'From Farm to Fork in South Uist'. In *A Festschrift for John Shaw*, ed. Virginia Blankenhorn, Robert Dunbar and Tiber Falzett. *Scottish Studies* 42/2 (2026), 42–55. <https://doi.org/10.2218/abmhnj96>
4. REVIEW ARTICLE: Kenna Campbell and Ainsley Hamill, eds, *Gun Sireadh, gun Iarraidh: The Tolmie Collection*. *Scottish Studies* 42/1 (2026), 114–119. <https://doi.org/10.2218/3x5bm818>
5. *Scottish Studies*, vol. 42/1, as editor (2024).
6. REVIEW ARTICLE: 'John Dewar's Islay, Jura and Colonsay: A Bird's Eye View'. A review of Ronald Black and Christopher Dracup, eds, *John Dewar's Islay, Jura and Colonsay*. *Scottish Studies* 41 (2025), 103–109. <https://doi.org/10.2218/avbfwk38>
7. REVIEW: Susanne Barding, *Beàrnaraigh na Hearadh: 'Tis Fifty Years Since. A Study of Life in a Hebridean Island Community*. *Scottish Studies* 41 (2025), 125–127. <https://doi.org/10.2218/a37ry20>
8. *Scottish Studies*, vol. 41, as editor (2025).
9. *Scottish Studies: Index to Volumes 1–40*. <https://open.journals.ed.ac.uk/ScottishStudies/issue/view/48.2024>.
10. REVIEW: Wilson McLeod, Anja Gunderloch and Rob Dunbar (eds), *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 10. *Scottish Studies* 40 (2024), 125–127. <https://doi.org/10.2218/r9437g60>
11. REVIEW: Seán Mac Giollarnáth, *Conamara Chronicles*, trans. Liam Mac Con Iomaire and Tim Robinson. *Scottish Studies* 40 (2024), 138–139. <https://doi.org/10.2218/r9437g60>
12. REVIEW: Ríonach uí Ógáin, Colm Ó Caodháin: *An Irish Singer and his World*. *Scottish Studies* 40 (2024), 139–141. <https://doi.org/10.2218/r9437g60>
13. *Scottish Studies*, vol. 40, as editor (2024).
14. 'Reitrici Philíocht na mBan i nGaeilge na hÉireann agus na hAlban'. In Triona Ní Shíocháin and Máire Ní Annracháin (eag.), *Léachtaí Cholm Cille 53: Léann Feimineach agus Inscne na Gaeilge* (Maynooth: An Sagart (2023), 12–40.
15. 'Ó Chalifornia go Conamara ar lorg an tsean-nóis.' In Philip Fogarty, Tiber Falzett agus Lillis Ó Laoire (eag.), *Dhá Leagan Déag: Léargais Nua ar an Sean-Nós* (Indreabhán: Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2022), 213–28.
16. 'Irish song and the idea of tradition.' In Moyra Haslett, Conor Caldwell and Lillis Ó Laoire (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Irish Song from the Earliest Beginnings to 1850*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2021). DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190859671.001.0001.
17. "Joe Heaney and His Tradition". https://www.academia.edu/60674188/Joe_Heaney_and_His_Tradition. Revised and updated 2021 following its original appearance on the website devoted to Joe Heaney (see no. 18 below).
18. 'From ritual to rhetoric, from rhetoric to art: Women's poetry of lamentation in the Gaelic world.' In Virginia Blankenhorn, *Tradition, Transmission, Transformation: Essays on Gaelic Poetry and Song*. Oxford: Peter Lang, Ltd. (2019), 279–362.
19. *Tradition, Transmission, Transformation: Essays on Gaelic Poetry and Song*. Oxford: Peter Lang, Ltd. (2019).
20. REVIEW: Dòmhnall Eachann Meek, *Seol mo Bheatha*. *University of Edinburgh Journal* 49/2 (Winter 2019), 145–146.
21. 'Airs and Graces: Metrical guidance for editors of Gaelic accentual verse.' Meg Bateman and Richard A. V. Cox (eds), *Cànan is Cultar / Language & Culture: Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 9 (Skye: Clò Ostaig, 2019), 21–36.
22. REVIEW: A. Doyle and K. Murray (eds), *In Dialogue with the Agallamh: Essays in Honour of Seán Ó Coileáin*. *Scottish Studies* 38 (2018), 116–20.
23. 'Songs of the Hebrides and the Critics.' *Scottish Studies* 38 (2018), 1–53.
24. 'A new approach to the classification of Gaelic song'. *Oral Tradition* 32/1 (2018), 71–140.
25. *Craobh nan Ubhal: A Festschrift for John MacInnes*. Edited by Virginia Blankenhorn. *Scottish Studies* 37 (2014).

26. 'John MacInnes: A Biographical Note.' in V. Blankenhorn (ed.), *Craobh nan Ubhal: A Festschrift for John MacInnes*. *Scottish Studies* 37 (2014), x–xxiii.
27. '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.
28. 'Verse structure and performance in Scottish Gaelic vernacular poetry.' Nancy R. McGuire and Colm Ó Baoill (eds), *Rannachadh na Gàidhlig 6: Papers read at Rannachadh na Gàidhlig 6 held at the University of Aberdeen 23–26 August 2010* (Aberdeen: An Clò Gaidhealach, 2013), 53–92.
29. 'The Rev. William Matheson and the performance of Scottish Gaelic "strophic" verse.' *Scottish Studies* 36 (2013), 15–44.
30. REVIEW: Maighread A. Challan, *Air Bilean an t-Sluaigh: Sealladh air Leantailachd Beul-Aithris Ghaidhlig Uibhist a Tuath*. *Scottish Studies* 36 (2013), 140–44.
31. 'Observations on the the performance of Irish syllabic verse.' *Studia Celtica* (2011), 135–54.
32. 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.
33. Commercial recording (CD): *Virginia Stevens: Ómós don Amhrán*. Shinywhistle Music (2007).
34. *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.
35. 'The Connemara Sean-Nós since the gramophone.' *Bulletin of the International Council for Traditional Music*, UK Chapter, No. 18 (Autumn 1987), 6–16.
36. *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).
37. REVIEW: 'J. L. Campbell and Francis Collinson, *Hebridean Folksongs III*'. *Celtica* XV (1983), 181–184.
38. '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.
39. '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.
40. REVIEW: 'Ethel Bassin, *The Old Songs of Skye: Frances Tolmie and Her Circle*'. *Yearbook For Traditional Music* (1981), 117–118.
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. 'Traditional and bogus elements in 'MacCrimmon's Lament''. *Scottish Studies* 22 (1978), 45–67.
44. Commercial recording (LP): *Virginia Stevens: Tiocfaidh 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. 'Cadail cha déan mi – a link with Burns's *Ay Waukin-O*?' Rannachadh na Gàidhlig 11, University of Glasgow (2026).
2. 'Lost Horizon or Living Landscape? Nature and Narrative in Gaelic Tradition'. International Society for Folk Narrative Research Interim Conference, University of Reykjavík, Iceland (2026).
3. 'Gender and Rhetorical Coding in Gaelic Poetry'. Gaelic Society of Inverness (2025).

4. 'Changing the Subject: Metalinguistic Framing in Scottish Gaelic'. Poznań Conference of Celtic Studies, Centre for Celtic Studies, Faculty of English Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland (2024).
5. 'Bunting and Beyond: Unlocking the Nineteenth Century Collections of Irish Music'. International Congress of Celtic Studies XVII, Utrecht (2023).
6. 'Transforming Meaning: Joe Heaney in America'. British Forum for Ethnomusicology, Edinburgh (2023).
7. 'Reitricí Philíocht na mBan i nGaeilge agus i nGaeilge na hAlban.' Leachtáí Cholm Cille, Má Nuad (2022).
8. 'The Legacy of Marjory Kennedy Fraser.' Royal Celtic Society, Edinburgh (2022).
9. 'From "Bogus" to "Trad": The Strange Trajectory of "MacCrimmon's Lament"'. Seminar, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (December 2021).
10. 'At the Fulcrum: Joe Heaney and the Folk Revival.' Seminar, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (April 2018).
11. 'The Art, the Artist, or the Artefact?'. *Amhrán : Arrane : Òran - A Conference on Gaelic Song*. University College Cork (August 2017).
12. 'Airs and Metres, Metres and Tunes: Metrical guidance for editors of Gaelic accentual verse.' *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 9, University of the Highlands and Islands, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye (June 2016).
13. '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).
14. 'Ó Chalafornia go Conamara ar Lorg an tSean-Nóis'. Conference at NUI Galway (September 2015).
15. 'Lost Horizon or Living Landscape? Place, Time, and People in Gaelic Tradition.' Alan Bruford Memorial Lecture, University of Edinburgh / Scottish Storytelling Centre (October 2014).
16. 'Marjory Kennedy-Fraser and *Songs of the Hebrides*.' Conference, The Celtic Revival in Scotland, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (May 2014).
17. 'Sean(n)-Nós (-Nòs) Singing: What it is, What it isn't, and Why.' Seminar, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (March 2014).
18. '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).
19. 'Caoineadh na mBan Uasal: *Caoineadh Áirt Uí Laoghair* agus "Cumha Ghriogair MhicGriogair Ghlinn Sreatha"'. Seminar Series, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore & Linguistics, University College Dublin (November 2012).
20. 'Is there such a thing as "expository song" in Gaelic?' *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 7, Glasgow University (August 2012).
21. 'Thoughts on the performance of Scottish Gaelic "strophic" verse.' International Congress of Celtic Studies XIV, National University of Ireland, Maynooth (August 2011).
22. 'Verse structure and performance in Scottish Gaelic vernacular poetry.' Plenary lecture, *Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig* 6, Aberdeen University (August 2010).
23. '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)
24. '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)
25. 'Structural Layering in Scottish Gaelic Song.' Celtic Studies Association of North America, Toronto (2004)
26. 'Irish Verse-Practice Since 1600.' U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2004)
27. 'Accentual Versification: The Primary Irish Model?' U. of Freiburg, Germany (1988)
28. 'The Connemara Sean-Nós Since the Gramophone.' International Committee on Traditional Music, U. of Durham (1987)
29. 'Teaching About Singing.' Trinity College, Dublin (1986)
30. 'The Irish Sean-Nós: Does it have to be 'oriental'?' Willie Clancy Memorial Lecture, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare

(1985)

31. 'How does it go?': Musical contributions to the process of oral versification.' 7th International Congress of Celtic Studies, Oxford (1983)
32. 'A New Approach to Irish Accentual Metres.' Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies Tionól (1980)
33. 'The Measurement of Language and the Language of Verse.' Colloquium of British Academic Phoneticians, U. of Leeds (1980)
34. 'Pitch-Accent and Stress in Munster Irish.' 6th International Congress of Celtic Studies, Galway (1979)
35. 'Intonation Patterns in Connemara Irish.' Celtic Linguistics Conference, U. of Ulster, Coleraine (1977).