

John Shaw

Honorary Fellow, Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh 2009-2012; 2013-2025.

Qualifications: BA, MA, PhD Harvard University

Background:

Training in Linguistics and Celtic Studies; extensive fieldwork on Gaelic oral tradition/folklore on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia; Gaelic language instructor; civil servant and Gaelic Development Officer in the Highlands and Islands; Lecturer in Celtic, King's College, University of Aberdeen: Senior Lecturer in Scottish Ethnology, University of Edinburgh 1996-2013.

Research Interests:

Gaelic ethnology (oral narrative, song and traditional music); social contexts of storytelling and song; history and prehistory of oral narrative(s); native taxonomies; Scottish emigrant traditions; comparative Indo-European mythology, the interface between academic research and language/culture maintenance and development; applications of digital technology to folklore materials.

Courses Taught:

- Traditional narrative sections of courses offered at all levels
- Traditional Narrative Honours
- Scottish Emigrant Traditions

PhD/MPhil/MScR Dissertation Areas Supervised:

- Gaelic music and song
- Oral narrative
- Custom and belief
- Oral history
- Gaelic and education (Celtic)

Additional Teaching:

Lecture presentations on request for C&SS Honours courses and Friday seminars.

Bruford Memorial Lecture *John Francis Campbell and 'This New Science of "Storyology"'* delivered October 2023

Teaching of intensive workshops in Gaelic oral tradition in their ethnological context held at Highland Village Museum (Nova Scotia Provincial Museums), Iona, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. 2009-2022. Teaching included extensive online sessions during the covid pandemic over the winters of 2020 and 2021. Summer sessions resumed in 2022.

Archival:

Contribution (from 2019) to the School of Scottish Sound Archive of my personal collection of Gaelic ethnology field recordings made in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia during the years 1963-64, 1969, 1975-76, 1983-87, 1988-89. With listed contents.

Selected Publications:

(See publications section on website)

Editorial:

Editor *Scottish Studies* (2000-2024.). Gaelic Editor for vol. 37 (2014), 2024-.

Major Research Projects:

Principal Investigator: 'A Searchable, Standards Based Catalogue of the Calum Maclean Collection of Gaelic Oral Narrative'. A research project funded by AHRC 2006-2009. Funding: £306,000.

Principal Investigator: 'Reconnecting with Gaelic Scotland's Community Traditions: The Legacy of Calum Iain Maclean's Collecting'. 2012- 2013. AHRC Follow on Funding £95,792.

Other Projects:

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o' Riches Project. Steering Committee and Advisory Board (a national digitisation project to provide wider access to Gaelic and Scots archived sound recordings. Funding: £2.8 m). 2004-

Community Development & Ethnographic Research Consultant, "Gaelic Language & Culture in Nova Scotia: A Social, Cultural and Economic Impact Study", Provincial Museum of Nova Scotia 2022 – Present

Publications Currently in Preparation:

An edition of the Rhind Lectures on stories and storytelling in Scotland delivered by the late Donald Archie MacFonald in 1994.

A journal article on the origin(s) of the name of the pre-Christian Irish god *Dian Cécht* following on an earlier article published in *Journal of Indo-European Studies* 34.

