

Dr. Michael Newton



Assistant Professor – Dept of Celtic Studies
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EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh, Ph.D. in Celtic Studies **1998**

Dissertation, *The Tree in Scottish Gaelic Literature and Tradition*, an examination of tree symbolism in Scottish Gaelic poetry, oral narrative and other folklore genres.

University of California, San Diego, B.A. (Magna cum Laude) **1990**

Major in Computer Science, minors in Music and Psychology.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Warriors of the Word nominated for 2009 Katharine Briggs award from Folklore Society (London, England)

2009 StFX University Council for Research grant

2007 National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Humanities initiative funding award for the *Finding the Celtic* project.

Dùthchas nan Gàidheal won 2006 Research Book of the Year award from the Saltire Society (Edinburgh, Scotland).

Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland 2004: funds for travel to Scotland to edit book.

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities 2003: Conference Grant-writer and Coordinator, *Highland Settlers: Scottish Highland Immigrants in North America*, 6-8 November 2003, hosted by Virginia Historical Society and University of Richmond.

Coralys Award 2003 for outstanding work towards the preservation and promotion of Celtic languages and cultures, Fellowship for Celtic Tradition.

Coralys Award 2002, Fellowship for Celtic Tradition.

Best New Gaelic Song of the Year award, 1999.

Clan Donald Educational Trust Scholarship 1996-1998.

Overseas Research Scholarship, 1995-1997.

University of Edinburgh, Richard Brown Scholarship, 1995.

UCSD Undergraduate Research Scholar Award, 1990.

COURSES TAUGHT

St Francis Xavier University, 2009-10: CELT 100 (First year Scottish Gaelic), 340 (Scottish Gaelic Poetry Survey).

St Francis Xavier University, 2008-9: CELT 100 (First year Scottish Gaelic), 420 (Fourth year Scottish Gaelic), 430 (Irish Gaelic Poetry).

Virginia Commonwealth University, 2004: FRLG 2004 (Language Groups in the US: Scottish Highlanders).

University of Richmond, 2003-4: ANTH 398U (Gaelic Folklore), HIST 398U (Gaelic Diaspora).

Lees-McRae College, Summer 2004: Scottish Folklore.

University of Edinburgh, 1997-8: Taught course on 17th century Gaelic poetry; led Celtic Civilisation tutorial.

LANGUAGE WORKSHOPS TAUGHT

Slighe nan Gàidheal, Seattle: Week-long classes at Féis 2004; Intensive two-day Gaelic courses, August 2002, November 2002, August 2003.

An Comunn Gàidhealach, America, June 2001: Gaelic Immersion Weekend.

Toronto, February 2001 and February 2003: Intensive one-day Gaelic courses.

BOOKS

- Warriors of the Word: The World of the Scottish Highlanders* (Birlinn, 2009).
Sgeulachdan an Dà Shaoibhail (Sandstone Press, 2007).
 (with Rhiannon Giddens) *Calum and Catriona's Welcome to the Highlands* (Saorsa Media, 2006).
 "We're Indians Sure Enough": *The Legacy of the Scottish Highlanders in the United States* (Saorsa Media, 2001).
A Handbook of the Scottish Gaelic World (Four Courts Press, 2000).

EDITED BOOKS AND VOLUMES

- Dùthchas nan Gàidheal: Selected Essays of John MacInnes* (Birlinn, 2006).
Scotia 27 (2003): Proceedings of *Highland Settlers* conference.
Bho Chluaidh gu Calasraid / From the Clyde to Callander: Gaelic Tales, Songs and Traditions from the Lennox and Menteith (Acair, 1999); revised edition (Grimsay Press, 2010).

BOOK ESSAYS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROCEEDINGS

- "Gaelic Folk Drama," *Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Drama*, ed. Ian Brown (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).
 "Celtic Cousins or White Settlers? Scottish Highlanders and First Nations," *Proceedings of Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2008*, ed. Kenneth Nilsen (University of Cape Breton Press, forthcoming).
 "Scottish Gaelic Literature in the Twentieth Century," *Scottish Traditional Literatures*, eds. Sarah Dunnigan and Suzanne Gilbert (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).
 "Paying for the Plaid: Scottish Gaelic Identity Politics in Nineteenth-Century North America," *New Perspectives on Tartan*, ed. Ian Brown (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).
 "Chi Mi Cuimhneachan Sgrìobhte Nach Gabh Leughadh Le Coigreach," *Dualchas agus an Àrainneachd: sin am fearann caoin*, ed. Richard Cox (Clò Ostaig, 2009): 83-112.
 "Gaelic Literature and the Diaspora," *Edinburgh History of Scottish Literature*, ed. Susan Manning (Edinburgh University Press, 2007): 353-9.
 "'Bha mi 's a' chnoc': Creativity in Scottish Gaelic Tradition," *Proceedings of the 1999 Harvard Celtic Colloquium* (2006): 312-39.
 "Dancing with the Dead: A Highland Wake Custom," *Cànan & Cultar / Language & Culture: Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2003*, eds. Wilson McLeod, James Fraser and Anja Gunderloch (Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press, 2006): 215-234.
 Foreword to proceedings of Highland Settlers conference, *Scotia 27* (2003): 1-5.
 "Coille Mhòr Chailleann ann am Beulaithris nan Gàidheal," *Cruth na Tìre*, eds. Wilson McLeod and Máire Ní Annracháin (Coiscéim, 2003): 180-194.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- "Have you heard about the Gaelic-Speaking African? : Gaelic Folklore about Race," *Comparative American Studies* (forthcoming).
 "The Macs meet the Micmacs: First Encounter Narratives in Scottish Gaelic from Nova Scotia," *Journal of Irish and Scottish Studies* (forthcoming).
 "Prophecy and Cultural Conflict in Scottish Gaelic Tradition," *Scottish Studies* (forthcoming).
 (with Hugh Cheape) "'The Keening of Women and the Roar of the Pipe': From Clàrsach to Bagpipe (c. 1600 – 1782)," *Ars Lyrica* (forthcoming).
 "Celticity in the Old South," *CrossRoads: A Journal of Southern Culture* (2006): 137-49.
 "Hitting Below the Belt: A Review Essay of 'Born Fighting'," *History Scotland* (Sep/Oct 2006): 46-49.
 "'This Could Have Been Mine': Scottish Gaelic Learners in modern North America," *eKeltioi* 1 (2005): 1-37
http://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/ekeltioi/volumes/vol1/1_1/newton_1_1.pdf
 "The Fiery Cross: Folklore, Literature and Fakelore," *History Scotland* (May/June 2005): 34-39.

- “Afro-Gaelic Music in America,” *History Scotland* (March/April 2005): 43-47.
- “Scotland and America: Forever Tartan?” *History Scotland* (Sep/Oct 2004): 46-51.
- “More Early MacGregor Poetry,” *Scottish Gaelic Studies* 21 (2003): 47-58.
- “‘Becoming Cold-Hearted Like the Gentiles Around Them’: Scottish Gaelic in the United States 1872-1912,” *eKeltoi* 2 (2003): 63-131 http://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/ekeltoi/volumes/vol2/2_3/newton_2_3.pdf
- “Jacobite Past, Loyalist Present,” *eKeltoi* 5 (2003): 31-62 http://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/ekeltoi/volumes/vol5/5_2/newton_5_2.pdf
- “In Their Own Words: Gaelic Literature in North Carolina,” *Scotia* 25 (2001): 1-28.
- “Gaelic sources for Ruaig Beinn Todhaig,” *Scottish Gaelic Studies* 20 (2000): 156-164.
- “Recent Work on Scottish Gaelic Studies,” *Scotia* 24 (2000): 15-22.
- “Border Disputes: Gaelic Cultural Identity and Interaction in the Lennox and Menteith,” *Celtic Cultural Studies* 2 (1999): <http://www.celtic-cultural-studies.com/papers/02/newton-01.html>

NON-REFEREED PAPERS

- “My Bard is in the Highlands: Burns 2009 and a National Scottish Literature,” *The Bottle Imp* 5 (Spring 2009): <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ScotLit/ASLS/SWE/TBI/TBIIssue5/Bard.html>
- Review essay of *How Celtic Culture Invented Southern Literature*, *eKeltoi* 1 (2006): 10-16, <http://www4.uwm.edu/celtic/ekeltoi/bookreviews/vol01/pdf/newton03.pdf>
- “‘Vain, hurtful, lying, worldly tales’: Creed, belief, and practice in the life of Argyll Highlanders, in Scotland and America,” *Argyll Colony Plus* 17: 1 (2003): 25-42.
- “Major Donald MacGregor’s MS of Perthshire MacGregor Traditions,” *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness* 56 (2000): 280-305.
- “A Seventeenth-Century MacGregor Poem?” *Clan Gregor Society Newsletter* 49 (2000): 16-17.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED (SINCE 2005)

- Migrating Minds, Centre for Scottish and Irish Studies, University of Aberdeen, May 2009: “Macs and Micmacs: First Encounter Narratives in Scottish Gaelic from Nova Scotia.”
- Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 2008, Antigonish, July 2008: “White Settlers or Celtic Cousins? Scottish Highland Immigrants and First-Nations.”
- Celtic Studies Association of North America, Colgate University, April 2008: “Celts in Cyberspace: Digital Humanities and Celtic Studies.”
- Heritage and the Environment, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (Scotland), June 2007: “Landscape as Authority in Scottish Gaelic Tradition.”
- African-Americans in the Celtic World, Swansea, 28-30 March 2007: “‘Did you hear about the Gaelic-speaking African?’: Gaelic Folklore about Race.”
- Modern Language Association conference, Scottish Literature Panel, 27 December 2005: “Exile and Exegesis: Scottish Gaels, Language and Poetry in North America.”

SELECTED LECTURES AND PERFORMANCES

- Swannanoa Gathering 2008, Celtic Week: Classes on Scottish Gaelic song and Scottish Folklore.
- “Night of Renewal,” drama/dance/music performance with 2NearTheEdge of Durham, North Carolina: First Night, Raleigh, 31 December 2006
- African-Americans in the Celtic World, Swansea, 28-30 March 2007: “Lost Voices of the Afro-Celts.”
- Swannanoa Gathering 2006, Celtic Week: Classes on Scottish Gaelic song and Scottish Folklore.
- “Lost Voices of the Afro-Celts: Africans and Scottish Highlanders in the old American South”: University of North Carolina, Centering the American South series, 17 November 2005; University of Milwaukee, Celtic Studies program, 8 November 2005; Virginia Commonwealth University, Border Crossings lecture series, 3 February 2005.

Library of Congress, 3 December 2004: "Scottish Gaelic in America, with an Emphasis on the Cape Fear."

Smithsonian Institute, 26 April 2003: "Life between Loch, Glen and Moor."

University of Toronto, Department of Celtic Studies, 1 February 2001: "The Solitary Reaper: Reclaiming the Silenced Voices from Scotland's southernmost Gàidhealtachd."

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Highland Settlers, University of Richmond, 6-7 November 2003: sole conference coordinator.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Scottish Gaelic immigrant literature, traditions and history in North America; Identity formation and politics of race and ethnicity

Literary analysis of Scottish Gaelic literature

Human ecology in Scottish Gaelic culture

Dance traditions in Scottish Gaelic culture (in Scotland and North America)

Scottish Gaelic literature and tradition in Highland Perthshire

PROJECTS

Planning *Celts in the Americas* conference for summer 2011

Locating and indexing primary texts in Scottish Gaelic in North America, taking special attention to under-researched communities in Ontario, British Columbia, and the Carolinas

Editing and contextualizing Scottish Gaelic texts from North America for future volume

Recording native Gaelic speakers in Nova Scotia

Finding the Celtic digital humanities on-line collaboratory (2007-8), funded by National Endowment for the Humanities (USA)

ACADEMIC COMMITTEES

Worked on Committee on Academic Discipline (2008-9)

Participated in evaluation of fellow member of faculty (November 2008)

DEPARTMENTAL WORK AT STFX

Take notes for departmental meetings

Created new departmental website; constantly updating it and creating new content for it (such as end of year videos)

Designed new course CELT 353 (Gaelic Music and Dance)

Taught at Féis Antigonish (Gaelic Weekend) (8-10 May 2009)

Taught at Latha Gàidhlig (21 March 2009)

Taught at Latha Gàidhlig (1 November 2008)

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SINCE COMING TO STFX)

Attended Humanities Colloquium dinner celebration (25 March 2009)

Attended discussion about "Today's Student" (16 March 2009)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SINCE COMING TO STFX)

Attended *Cruinneachadh nan Taoitearan* (Seminar for Gaelic teachers) (1-3 May 2009)

Attended Service Learning workshop (20 March 2009)

Attended workshop on engaging students in classroom (4 March 2009)

Attended meeting about mentoring programme (16 January 2009)

Attended Service Learning seminar (26 September 2008)

Attended faculty seminar based on book *New Faculty* (28 August 2008)

Attended new faculty orientation

AS SPEAKER/WRITER IN COMMUNITY (SINCE COMING TO STFX)

Wrote Gaelic column for *Casket* (October 2009)

Spoke to monthly Gaelic seminar in Antigonish *Ith 's Ionnsaich* (8 October 2009)

Spoke to Elderhostel about history of Celts (30 July 2009)

Gave talk as part of book launch at Antigonish Highland Games (18 July 2009)

Held book launch at School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (3 June 2009)

Wrote Gaelic column for *Casket* (15 May 2009)

Speaker for annual Culloden commemoration in Knoydart (18 April 2009)

Taught workshop for Gaelic Society at Truro CEC High School (12 December 2008)

Speaker for Antigonish Highland Society's St Andrew's Dinner (30 November 2008)

Scholar in residence at Celtic Colours/CBU (October 2008)

Spoke to Elderhostel about history of Celts (14 August 2008)

OTHER GAELIC COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SINCE COMING TO STFX)

Participated in Antigonish Highland Society Cultural Roundtable in support of community cultural development (January and April 2009)

Participated in workshop on Gaelic Community Development sponsored by the Strategies and Initiatives Section of the Department of Economic Development (21 November 2008)

FORMAL LANGUAGE TRAINING

Modern Scottish Gaelic (University of Glasgow and University of Edinburgh): native fluency in oral and written forms.

Modern Irish Gaelic (University of Edinburgh): 1 year, functionally literate.

Classical Gaelic (University of Edinburgh): 1 year, literate.

Old Gaelic (University of Edinburgh): 2 years, literate.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Celtic Studies Association of North America

Scottish Gaelic Texts Society

Gaelic Society of Inverness

North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (The American Gaelic Society)