

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph Falaky Nagy

Henry L. Shattuck Professor of Irish Studies, Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, 2016-

Professor Emeritus of English, University of California, Los Angeles, 2016-

Professor of English, University of California, Los Angeles, 1978-2016

Date and Place of Birth: October 24, 1954, Bloomington, Indiana

Degrees Received:

Ph.D. in Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, 1978

A.B. in Folklore and Mythology, Harvard College, 1974

A Positions Held:

Acting Chair, Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, Spring 2017

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, 2016-

Acting Director, Center for the Study of Comparative Folklore and Mythology, University of California, Los Angeles, 1991-94

Chair, Folklore and Mythology Program, University of California, Los Angeles, 1986-93

Professional Activities:

Member, Celtic Studies Association of North America, 1979-; Vice-President, 1989-91; President (1991-93).

Executive Bibliographer, On-Line Bibliography of Celtic Studies of the Celtic Studies Association of North America (1995-).

Monographs

The Wisdom of the Outlaw: The Boyhood Deeds of Finn in Gaelic Narrative Tradition (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1985: University of California Press). Awarded the Chicago Folklore Prize (third place), 1986.

Conversing with Angels and Ancients: The Literary Myths of Medieval Ireland (Ithaca and London/Dublin, 1997: Cornell University Press/Four Courts Press). Awarded the Katharine Briggs Prize, Folklore Society, 1998.

Edited Books

Writing Down the Myths (Turnhout, 2013: Brepols, 2013).

Editor of the series *CSANA Yearbook* (Dublin, 2000-2007: Four Courts Press):

1: *The Individual in Celtic Literatures* (2001); "Introduction," pp. 7-14.

2: *Identifying the 'Celtic'* (2002); "Introduction," pp. 7-9

3-4: *Heroic Poets and Poetic Heroes in Celtic Tradition: Studies in Honor of Patrick K. Ford*, co-ed. Leslie Jones (2005); "Introduction: The Singing Warrior," pp. 13-18.

- 5: *Memory and the Modern in Celtic Literatures* (2006); "Introduction," pp. 7-14.
6. *Myth in Celtic Literatures* (2007); "Introduction," pp. 7-10.

Editorial Work

Co-Editor (with Donald J. Ward), *Western Folklore* (California Folklore Society), 1996-2000.

Ed., *Models of Performance in Oral Traditions of Epic, Ballad, and Song*, special issue of *Western Folklore*, 62.1/2 (2003).

Ed., *Folklore on the Border: The Legacy of Américo Paredes*, special issue of *Western Folklore*, 64.1/2 (2006).

Member, Editorial Board, *Oral Tradition* (1984-); *Béaloideas: Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society* (2006-); *Celtic Studies Association of North America Yearbook* (2007-); *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* (2007-); *Aiste* (2008-); *Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion* (2009-); New Approaches to Celtic Religion and Mythology Series, University of Wales Press.

Editor for Celtic Religion entries in *Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, ed. Lindsay Jones, vol. 3 (Detroit: Thomas Gale, 2005).

Celtic Book Review Editor, *Speculum* (2008-2014).

Reader (article submissions) for *Aiste*, *Cambridge Medieval Celtic Studies*, *Éigse*, *Ériu*, *Oral Tradition*, *Peritia*, *Speculum*, *Viator*, and others, and (book submissions) for Cambridge University Press, Four Courts Press, Oxford University Press, Syracuse University Press, University of California Press, University of Notre Dame Press, and others.

Articles and Contributions (in chronological order)

1. "The Paradoxes of Robin Hood," *Folklore* 91 (1980), 198-210. Reprinted in *Robin Hood: Anthology of Scholarship and Criticism*, ed. Stephen Knight (Cambridge, 1999: D. S. Brewer), pp. 411-25.
2. "Intervention and Disruption in the Myths of Finn and Sigurd," *Ériu* 31 (1980), 123-31.
3. "Shamanic Aspects of the *Bruidhean* Tale," *History of Religions* 20 (1981), 301-22.
4. "The Deceptive Gift in Greek Mythology," *Arethusa* 14 (1981), 191-204.
5. "Demne Mael," *Celtica* 14 (1981), 8-14.
6. "The Wisdom of the *Geilt*," *Éigse* 19 (1982), 44-60.
7. "Rites of Passage in 'The Juniper Tree'," *Southern Folklore Quarterly* 43 (1979), 253-65.
8. "Beowulf and Fergus: Heroes of their Tribes?" *Connections between Old English and Medieval Celtic Literature*, ed. P. Ford and K. Borst, UC Berkeley, Old English Colloquium Series, 2 (Berkeley, 1983), pp. 31-44.
9. "Close Encounters of the Traditional Kind in Medieval Irish Literature," *Celtic Folklore and Christianity: Studies in Memory of William W. Heist*, ed. Patrick K. Ford (Santa Barbara, 1983: McNally and Luftin), pp. 129-49.
10. "Liminality and Knowledge in Irish Tradition," *Studia Celtica* 16-17 (1981-82),

134-43.

11. "Heroic Destinies in the *Macgnímrada* of Finn and Cú Chulainn," *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* 40 (1984), 23-39.
12. "Vengeful Music in Traditional Narrative," *Folklore* 95 (1984), 182-90.
13. "Fenian Poetry," *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Joseph R. Strayer, vol. 5 (New York, 1985: Scribner's), pp. 43-47.
14. "Orality in Medieval Irish Literature: An Overview," *Oral Tradition* 1 (1986), 272-301.
15. "Otter, Salmon, Eel, and Serpent in Traditional Gaelic Narrative," *Studia Celtica* 20-21 (1985-86), 123-44.
16. "Fenian Heroes and their Rites of Passage," *The Heroic Process: Form, Function, and Fantasy in Folk Epic*, ed. Bo Almqvist and others (Dublin, 1987: Glendale Press), pp. 161-82.
17. "The Sign of the Outlaw: Multiformity in Fenian Narrative," *Comparative Research on Oral Traditions. A Memorial for Milman Parry*, ed. John Foley. (Columbus, 1987: Slavica Press), pp. 465-92.
18. "In Defense of *Rómánsaíocht*," *Ériu* 38 (1987), 9-26.
19. "Compositional Concerns in the *Acallam na Senórach*," *Sages, Saints and Storytellers: Celtic Studies in Honour of Professor James Carney*, ed. Donnchadh Ó Corráin and others (Maynooth, 1988: An Sagart Press), pp. 149-58.
20. "Oral Life and Literary Death in Medieval Irish Tradition," *Oral Tradition* 3 (1988), 368-80.
21. "Representations of Oral Tradition in Medieval Irish Literature," *Language and Communication* 9 (1989), 143-58.
22. "Hierarchy, Heroes and Heads: Indo-European Structures in Greek Myth," *Approaches to Greek Myth*, ed. Lowell Edmunds (Baltimore and London, 1990: Johns Hopkins Press), pp. 200-38. (Updated for new edition, 2014.)
23. "Sword as *Audacht*," *Celtic Language, Celtic Culture (Festschrift in Honor of Eric P. Hamp)*, ed. A. Matonis and D. Melia (Van Nuys, 1990: Ford and Bailie), pp. 131-36.
24. "The Herons of Druim Ceat Revisiting, and Revisited," *Celtica* 21 (1990), 368-76.
25. "Reflections," *Text and Tradition: The Hebrew Bible and Folklore*, ed. Susan Niditch (Atlanta, 1990: Scholars Press), pp. 221-24.
26. "Oral Tradition in the *Acallam na Senórach*," *Oral Tradition in the Middle Ages*, ed. W. F. H. Nicolaisen (Binghamton, NY, 1990: MRTS), pp. 77-95.
27. Introduction to the reissue of J. G. O'Keefe's edition/translation of *Buile Shuibhne (Sweeney's Madness)*, Irish Texts Society, 12 (London, 1996: Irish Texts Society), pp. 1-32.
28. "The Rising of the Cronn," *Celtica Helsingiensia*, ed. Anders Ahlqvist, *Commentationes Humanarum Litterarum*, 107 (Helsinki, 1996: Societas Scientiarum Fennica), pp. 129-48
29. "Daring Young Men in Their Chariots," *A Celtic Florilegium: Studies in Memory of Brendan O Hehir*, ed. Kathryn A. Klar and others (Lawrence, MA, 1996: Celtic Studies Publications), pp. 144-51.

30. "How the *Táin* was Lost," *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* 49-50 (1997), 603-609.
31. Introduction to the reissue of R. A. S. Macalister's edition/translation *Two Arthurian Romances*, Irish Texts Society, 10 (London, 1998: Irish Texts Society), pp. 1-9.
32. "The Middle-Aged Life of Adomnán," *Telling Tales: Medieval Narratives and the Folk Tradition*, ed. Francesca Canadé Sautman and others (New York, 1998: St. Martin's Press), pp. 209-28.
33. "Psalm as Praise Poem in Medieval Celtic Tradition," *The Place of the Psalms in the Intellectual Culture of the Middle Ages*, ed. Nancy Van Deusen (Albany, 1999: SUNY Press), pp. 25-42.
34. "Esyllt Observed," *Celtic Connections: Proceedings of the Tenth International Congress of Celtic Studies*, vol. 1, ed. Ronald Black and others (East Linton, Scotland, 1999: Tuckwell Press), pp. 222-32.
35. "The Irish Herald," *Ildánach, Ildírech: A Festschrift for Proinsias Mac Cana*, ed. John Carey and others (Aberystwyth, 1999: Celtic Studies Publications), pp. 121-30.
36. "Irish Tradition," *Encyclopedia of Medieval Folklore*, ed. J. McNamara and C. Lindahl (Santa Barbara, 2000: ABC-CLIO Press), pp. 517-27.
37. "The Reproductions of Irish Saints," *Studies in Irish Hagiography*, ed. Pádraig Ó Riain and others (Dublin, 2001: Four Courts Press), pp. 278-88.
38. "Folklore Studies and the *Mabinogion*," *150 Jahre 'Mabinogion'. Deutsch-Walisische Kulturbeziehungen*, ed. B. Maier and S. Zimmer (Tübingen, 2001: Niemeyer), pp. 91-100.
39. "The Ossianesque in Medieval Irish Literature and Modern Irish Folklore," *Journal of American Folklore* 114 (2001), 436-46.
40. "Myth and *Legendum* in Medieval and Modern Ireland," *Myth: A New Symposium*, ed. G. Schrempf and W. Hansen (Bloomington, IN, 2002: Indiana University Press), pp. 124-38.
41. "A Pig for Samhain?" *Chaucer and the Challenges of Medievalism*, ed. D. Minkova and T. Tinkle (Frankfurt, 2003: Peter Lang), pp. 311-25.
42. "The Poetics of Absence in Celtic Tradition," Sir Thomas Parry-Williams Memorial Lecture (Aberystwyth, 2003: Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies).
43. "The Significance of the *Duanaire Finn*," pp. 39-50 in *Duanaire Finn: Reassessments*, ed. John Carey (London, 2003: Irish Texts Society).
44. "Rache" [Revenge], *Enzyklopädie des Märchens*, ed. Rolf Brednich, vol. 11 (Berlin, 2003: Walter de Gruyter), pp. 144-48.
45. "Not the Practice of Games," *A Companion in Linguistics: A Festschrift for Anders Ahlqvist*, ed. Bernadette Smelik and others (Nijmegen, 2005: Stichting Uitgeverij de Keltische Draak), pp. 121-26.
46. "Life in the Fast Lane: the *Acallam na Senórach*," *Medieval Celtic Literature and Society*, ed. Helen Fulton (Dublin, 2005: Four Courts Press), pp. 117-31.
47. "A Celtic Religion: History of Study," *Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, ed. Lindsay Jones (Detroit, 2005: Thomas Gale), vol. 3, pp. 1497-1501.

48. "A Leash and an *Englyn* in a Medieval Welsh Tale Arthurian Tale," in *New Directions in Oral Theory*, ed. Mark Amodio (Tempe, 2005: ACMRS), pp. 237-53.

49-51. "*Acallam na Senórach*," "*Fíán*," "*Fiannaíocht*," *Celtic Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. John Koch (Santa Barbara, 2006: ABC-CLIO), vol. 1, pp. 8-9; vol. 2, pp. 743-46.

52. "Robin Hood, het verminkte paard en een 'Iers mes'," *Kelten* 32 (november 2006), 2-4; 33 (februari 2007), 2-4.

53. "Hearing and Hunting in Medieval Celtic Tradition," in *Myth in Early Northwest Europe*, ed. Stephen O. Gloeckel (Tempe/Turnhout, 2007: ACMRS/Brepols), pp. 121-51.

54. "*Acallam na Senórach*, a 'Tri-Cycle'?" in *Essays on the Early Irish King Tales*

Festschrift for Gearóid Mac Eoin, ed. D. Ó Baoill and others (Dublin, 2013: Four Courts Press), pp. 181-89.

69. "Are Myths in the Text or Outside the Box?" *Writing Down the Myths*, ed. J. F. Nagy (Turnhout, 2013: Brepols), pp. 1-17.

70. "Introduction," *The Language of Gender, Power and Agency in Celtic Studies*, ed. Amber Handy and Brian Ó Conchubhair (Dublin, 2014: Arlen Press), pp. 13-23.

71-72. "Seán Ó Coileáin: Scholar," and "Some Strands and Strains in *Acallam na Senórach*," *In Dialogue with the Agallamh: Essays in Honour of Seán Ó Coileáin*, ed. Aidan Doyle and Kevin Murray (Dublin, 2014, Four Courts Press), pp. 4-5, 90-108.

73. "Writing from the 'Other Shore' and the Beginnings of Vernacular Literature in Ireland," *A Companion to British Literature: Volume I: Medieval Literature, 700–1450*, ed. Robert DeMaria, Jr., Heesok Chang, and Samantha Zacher (Chichester, 2014: John Wiley & Sons), pp. 324-36.

74. "Death by Pillow," *Rhetoric and Reality in Medieval Celtic Literature: Studies in Honor of Daniel F. Melia: CSANA Yearbook 11-12*, ed. Georgia Henley and Paul Russell, with Joseph F. Eska (Hamilton, NY, 2014: Colgate University Press), pp. 128-36.

75. "The 'Conqueror Worm' in Irish and Persian Literature," *Erin and Iran: Cultural Encounters between the Irish and the Iranians*, ed. H. E. Chehabi and Grace Neville (Boston, 2015: Ilex Foundation), pp. 3-13.

76. "The Celtic 'Love Triangle' Revisited," *Proceedings [of the] XIV International Congress of Celtic Studies*, ed. Liam Breatnach and others (Dublin, 2015: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies), pp. 221-44.

77. "Staging the Otherworld in Medieval Irish Tradition," *Understanding Celtic Religion: Revisiting the Pagan Past*, ed. Katja Ritari and Alexandra Bergholm (Cardiff, 2015: University of Wales Press), pp. 69-82.

78. "Finn's Student Days," *Ollam: Studies in Gaelic and Related Traditions in Honor of Tomás Ó Cathasaigh*, ed. Matthieu Boyd (Madison, 2016: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press), pp. 237-41.

Reviews

In *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*, *Éigse*, *Folklore*, *Journal of American Folklore*, *Journal of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society*, *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, *Peritia*, *Speculum*, *Studia Hibernica*, *University of Toronto Quarterly*, *Western Folklore*.

Presentations and Conference Organization (2005-)

"Branwen in the Tristan Legend?" keynote lecture, Twenty-Seventh Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UC Berkeley, March '05.

"Cael and Créde Again," paper, annual meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, University of Georgia, Athens, April '05.

"Looking Backward, Forward, and Sideways in Irish Literary Tradition," 2005 Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Lecture, Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, National University of Ireland, Dublin, April '05.

“Nostalgia in the Medieval Irish Tradition,” invited lecture, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge, April '05.

Organizer, “The Study of Legend, Custom, and Folktale: A Conference in Memory of Donald J. Ward,” Colloquium for Oral and Popular Tradition Studies, UCLA, May '05.

“The Heroic Leap in the Ulster Cycle,” keynote lecture, Ulidia 2: Conference on the Ulster Cycle, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, June '05.

“Identity Theft in the Robin Hood Ballads and Some Celtic Analogues,” invited lecture, conference on “Robin Hood, Medieval and Modern,” Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, October '05.

“Tristan’s Leap,” keynote lecture, Annual Conference of the School of Irish, National University of Ireland, Galway, October '05.

Organizer, Twenty-Eighth Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, sponsored by the Celtic Colloquium, UCLA, and held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, March '06.

Invited director, seminar on “Kings and Outlaws in Celtic Tradition,” University of Utrecht, May '06.

“Outlaws in Irish and Other Northwest European Traditions,” invited lecture, A.G. Van Hamel Society, Utrecht, Holland, May '06.

“Robin Hood’s Irish Knife,” invited lecture, Folklore and Mythology Program, Harvard University, May '06.

“The Recyclable Hero in Celtic Tradition,” John V. Kelleher Annual Lecture, Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, October '06.

“The Commercial Hero in Medieval Celtic Literature,” John Strachan Annual Lecture, University of Aberdeen, March '07.

“Manannán the *Cennaige Amra*,” paper, annual meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, University of Cincinnati, April '07.

“‘Mercantile’ Lug,” paper, International Congress of Celtic Studies, University of Bonn, July '07.

“Fenian Female Food,” invited lecture, Harvard Celtic Colloquium conference, Harvard University, October '07.

“Living with the *Bantrocht* in the Fenian and Ulster Cycles,” invited lecture, Old and Middle Irish Department, NUI Maynooth, October '07.

Organizer, Thirtieth Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, sponsored by the Celtic Colloquium, UCLA, and held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, March '08

“Celtic Otherworlds,” invited lecture, Department of Religious Studies, University of Helsinki, September '08.

“The Popularity of Fionn mac Cumhaill,” invited lecture, Department of Irish Language and Literature, University of Notre Dame, September '08.

“The Colloquy of the Ancients,” invited lecture, University of Toronto, February, 2009.

Organizer, “Writing Down the Myths,” Ahmanson Foundation conference on mythography, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, May '09.

“Fenian Foreign Relations,” invited lecture, conference on *Fianaigeacht*, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge, May '09.

Organizer, Thirty-Second Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, sponsored by the Celtic Colloquium, UCLA, March '10.

“Merchants of Myth in Celtic Traditions,” H.M. Chadwick Lecture, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge, March '10.

Organizer, “Mythic Heroes of the Middle Ages,” conference sponsored by the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, April '10.

Invited organizer and director, seminar on the Middle Welsh text *Breudwyd Maxen Wledic*, annual meeting of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, University of Notre Dame, April '10.

“On Editing Celtic Scholarship,” invited lecture, Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, May '10.

“Snakes of the Heart in Celtic and Serbo-Croatian Traditions,” invited lecture, conference “Singers and Tales in the 21st Century: The Legacies of Milman Parry and Albert Lord,” Harvard University, December '10.

“‘Talking Myth’ in Medieval Celtic Literature,” Robert T. Farrell Lecture, ASIMS, 46th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May '11.

“The Love Triangle in Medieval Celtic Literatures Revisited,” plenary lecture, 14th International Congress of Celtic Studies, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, August '11.

“The Tyrannical Worm in Irish and Persian Tradition,” invited paper, conference on “Ireland/Iran,” University College, Cork, October '11.

“A Beloved Pig, a Monstrous Cat, and a Grumpy Bard in a Medieval Irish Tale,” Converse-Yates-Cate Lecture, Oklahoma State University, September '12

“Strands and Strains in the *Acallam*,” opening address, conference on the *Agallam na Senórach*, held in honor of Professor Seán Ó Coileáin’s retirement, University College, Cork, September '12.

“What Women (and Poets) Crave in Medieval Irish Tradition,” invited lecture, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, November '12.

“Some Notable ‘Troublemakers’ in Medieval Celtic Literature,” Seventh Annual William Matheson Lecture, University of Glasgow, December '12.

“Sedition, Sex, and the Sea,” invited lecture, 35th Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, UC Berkeley, March '13.

“The Odyssey of St Brendan,” opening address, conference on St Brendan, Tralee, Co. Kerry, sponsored by the University College, Cork, and the Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society May '13.

“Vermin Gone Bad in Norse and Other Indo-European Traditions,” invited paper, conference on Nordic Mythology, sponsored by Harvard University, October/November '13.

Organizer, Thirty-Sixth Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, sponsored by the Celtic Colloquium, UCLA, March '14.

“How We Identify Myths, and How Myths Identify Us,” keynote lecture, Conference on

Myth, National Identity, and Literature, Third Annual Busan International Literature Festival, Pukyong National University, Busan, So. Korea, October '14.

“‘The Celtic Dragon Myth’ Revisited,” keynote lecture, Second Annual Conference on Celtic Mythology, University of Edinburgh, November '14.

“Tristan, A Dragon, and a Love Potion,” invited lecture to the Medieval Studies Graduate Interest Group (MSGIG), University of Washington, November '14.

“Dragons in the Medieval Irish ‘Transitional Text’,” invited (opening) lecture in the “Oral Literature/Literate Orality” Workshop, Stanford University, November '14.

Organizer, “Dragons from East to West,” conference sponsored by the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, May '15.

“Mythical Pigs from Calydon to Caledonia,” Annual Medieval Studies Lecture, National University of Galway, February '16.

"Boundaries from the Spatial to the Textual in the *Acallam na Senórach*," keynote lecture, conference on National University of Galway, February '16.

Organizer, Thirty-Eighth Annual University of California Celtic Studies Conference, sponsored by the Celtic Colloquium, UCLA, March '16.

"A Dog, a Pig, and the Pride of Irish Saga Heroes," Fifth Annual Anders Ahlqvist Lecture at the University of Helsinki, August '16.