**Tiziana Soverino**

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**LinkedIn Profile:** <https://ie.linkedin.com/in/tizianasoverino>

**CAREER GOAL/PROFILE**

Scholar fluent in three languages (Italian, English and Irish), with a variety of skills and awards, including eight years’ tutoring experience, and the award of a substantial postgraduate scholarship. Interested in medieval Irish literature; in inequality and storytelling; in creative industries; in place-lore; in calendar custom; and in folk medicine. Active Volunteer in social justice, artistic, cultural and community-engagement events

**FUNDING**

- John Hume Ad Astra Scholarship, 2009-2014 (PhD)

- Máire MacNeill Scholarship for Folklore, 2007-2008 (MLitt)

**OTHER PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

 - Undergraduate Scholarships: earned three years in a row, in 2005, 2006 and 2007, based on academic performance

 - Patrick Semple Medal for Irish Folklore, 2006

**EDUCATION**

**2009-2015** PhD in **Early Irish** and Folklore, University College Dublin (UCD). Dissertation: “’Inscribed in the Landscape’: an Exploration of Irish Place-lore in medieval written sources and modern oral tradition”.

Supervisors: Professor Patricia Kelly and Dr. Bairbre Ní Fhloinn.

External Examiner: Professor Ruairí Ó hUiginn.

Areas of study: medieval literature; modern oral tradition; onomastics; aetiology; inundation

**2007-2009** MLitt in Irish Folklore, UCD.

Dissertation: “‘Bonfire Night’—Exploring Aspects of Saint John’s Feast in Ireland”.

Supervisor: Professor Patricia Lysaght.

External Examiner: Dr. Juliette Wood.

Areas of study: calendar custom; festivals; bonfires; celebrations; holy wells

**2004-2007** B.A. in Celtic Studies, UCD. Subjects: Irish Folklore, Early Irish, Archaeology, and Celtic Civilisation. Grade: **1st Class Honours**

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**May 2017-Present Postdoctoral Researcher in Folk Medicine, School of Nursing, DCU.**  - Analysing and interpreting primary sources about Irish folk medicine
- Presenting findings at seminars and conferences
- Writing academic articles in conjunction with others

**November 2016-April 2017 Content Reviewer, Arvato, East Point Business Park.**

- Reviewing web-based ads, in Italian and English, according to specific company regulations

**July-August 2016 Tour Guide, Abbey Ireland, Dublin**.
- Preparing in-depth research on cities, monuments, and visitor attractions throughout Ireland

- Managing tourists’ stay in the country, making them feel welcome

**January 2015-August 2016; September 2007-April 2013 Teaching Assistant in Celtic Civilisation and Irish Folklore, UCD.**

- Facilitating discussions and understanding of interdisciplinary topics
- Encouraging students’ critical thinking and nurturing transferable skills

**July-October 2015 Volunteer at the Little Museum of Dublin.**

- Engaging guests in conversation about artefacts, visitor attractions, traditional Irish music

**June 2015-Present Manager of Community Engagement Project, ‘Share a Story, Meet your Neighbours’.** I designed and delivered a project, which brings together people through stories and songs. The project is part of the Ideas Collective, a programme for young people wishing to make a positive change in the world.

- Actively seeking and collecting oral history and folklore

- Event management: organising evenings of exchange storytelling. Two events took place in Portobello, Dublin, in August 2015 and in February 2016

**March 2015** **Lecturer in Celtic Studies, UCD**: ‘Women and Place-lore in medieval Irish literature and modern Irish folklore’, based on original research from PhD dissertation.

- Summarising medieval and modern tales and scholarly interpretations of them

- Preparing handouts

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

**Italian** Native proficiency

**English** Excellent knowledge and command. *FIRST* Certificate of English (Cambridge Examination) awarded in 2003, mark A

**Irish** Intermediate level. Exam *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge* A2 level awarded in 2012, ‘Pass with Distinction’. I feature in a short video, in Irish, promoting Irish language courses in UCD (http://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/coursesservices/coursesforthepublic/)

**French** Elementary knowledge

**Early Irish** Reading comprehension of Old and Middle Irish texts

**PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

1. ‘Midsummer (Saint John’s Feast) in Ireland: the Old and the New’, *Revista Română de Sociologie*. *The Transformation of Traditional Rituals*. Year XXVII, Nos. 1-2, 2016, 5-24 (**Peer-reviewed journal**)
2. ‘Three Times Round the Donkey: Whooping cough and folkloric cures in 19th and early 20th Century Ireland’, November 2017, Irish Conference of Folklore and Ethnology, The Humanities Institute, UCD, Dublin (in conjunction with Dr. Carol Barron)
3. “‘When you meet a man on a white horse ask him for the cure’: Lay cures for *Bordetella Pertussis* (Whooping Cough) in 19th and early 20th century Ireland”, October 2017, Lunchtime Seminar, H206, School of Nursing, DCU, Dublin (in collaboration with Dr. Barron)
4. **“**’This is the end, my friend’: end-of-the-world prophecies in Irish tradition”, September 2017, ‘Predictive Texts: Imagining the Future’, Anthropological Association of Ireland Annual Conference, Queen’s University, **Belfast**
5. “’Well, the lake stopped red that way for weeks…and they called it The Red Lake’. Place-lore in water-monster legends from Irish Folklore”, November 2016, Irish Conference of Folklore and Ethnology, The Humanities Institute, UCD, Dublin
6. “’Here, Finn…Take this and give him a lick of it’: Two Place-lore Stories about Fionn Mac Cumhaill in Medieval Irish Literature and Modern Oral Tradition”, Proceedings of the Landscape and Myth in North-Western Europe Symposium, **Munich, Germany,** held in April 2016 (publication forthcoming)
7. “’*Bid Glondáth a ainm co bráth’:* place-lore in Cú Chulainn’s heroic biography”, March 2016, Ulidia 5, Maynooth University
8. ‘Midsummer/Saint John’s Feast in Ireland: the old and the new’, June 2015, 12th International SIEF Congress, **Zagreb, Croatia**
9. “’Words about Fords’: place-lore about fords in medieval literature and in modern oral tradition”, April 2013, Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore, UCD, Dublin
10. ‘Inscribed in the Landscape’, May 2010, John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies, UCD, Dublin
11. ‘Researcher as Collector—Contributing to the National Folklore Collection’, November 2009, Humanities Institute of Ireland, UCD, Dublin

**OTHER SKILLS**

**2017 Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Course**, Mindfulness.ie, 8-week course

**2016 FETAC Level 6 Certificate in Global Development and Social Justice**, LYCS. Passed with **Merit**

**2016 Dyslexia and Foreign Language Teaching Course**, offered online by Lancaster University (FutureLearn)
**2016 Food as Medicine Course**, offered online by Monash University (FutureLearn)

**Microsoft Word, Excel and Microsoft Power Point** Intermediate to advanced skills

**APPENDIX 1: PHD SYNOPSIS**

**‘Inscribed in the Landscape’: an Exploration of Irish place-lore in Medieval Written Sources and in Modern Oral Tradition.**

Irish culture, reflected in both early medieval literature and modern folklore, is often said to be imbued with a sense of place.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Irish sense of place is examined through an exploration of place-lore episodes. Those episodes are found in selected narratives from all four Cycles of Early Irish literature, and in three specific legend-types from modern oral tradition. Suggestions are made with regard to similarities and differences in the way in which place-lore appears in medieval literature and modern oral tradition, with specific reference to the content, form and function of place-lore in the two bodies of material.

With regard to the latter, special emphasis is paid to the functions that place-lore plays in both corpora. In medieval literature, it can reinforce the way characters are depicted (e.g. in the *Táin*), strengthen and reiterate the themes of the main narratives (e.g. in *Cath Maige Mucrama*),[[2]](#footnote-2) or reflect the intimate topographical knowledge of particular areas possessed by the *literati* (again, in the *Táin*).[[3]](#footnote-3) In modern oral tradition, onomastic legends often give expression to the unique relationship between people and their local surroundings.[[4]](#footnote-4) Such legends—and place-lore in general—have an invaluable contribution to make to the formation of identity, to local pride, and to the expression of a sense of place.

**APPENDIX 2: LINK TO PODCAST**As an example of **community engagement**, in July 2015, I discussed ideas about poetry and poets in Celtic tradition, and read some original poems I wrote, on the radio. My interview and reading featured in the programme, ‘Writer’s Block’, which was broadcast on Near FM. The podcast is available online: <http://nearfm.ie/podcast/?p=16132>

**APPENDIX 3: ARTICLE ON VOLUNTEERING**

Among my collaborations with NGOs, I wrote an article on a workcamp led and organised by Voluntary Service International (VSI). The workcamp’s aim was for volunteers to create toys, tailor-made for disabled children. The article is available here: https://www.vsi.ie/experience/ivp/toyzone-a-project-ahead-of-its-time/

1. See, for example, Hughes, K. 1979 (1972) *Early Christian Ireland. Introduction to the sources.* Cambridge, 166; Ó hÓgáin, D. (2006) *The Lore of Ireland*. Cork, 424; and Sheeran, P. (1988) ‘Genius Fabulae: The Irish Sense of Place’, *Irish University Review* 18.2 (Autumn), 191-206. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. One of the themes the tale is woven around is *lommrad*, ‘laying bare’; Ó Cathasaigh, T. (1981) ‘The Theme of Lommrad in Cath Maige Mucrama’, *Éigse* 17, 137-155. The important theme is reiterated in onomastic episodes within the tale. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Carney, J. 2008 (2005) ‘Language and Literature to 1169’, in D. Ó Cróinín (Ed.) *A New History of Ireland*, Vol. I. Oxford, 477. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hughes, for example, argues that the love of place-name legends in contemporary Irish-speaking areas of the country is as alive as ever: Hughes, A. J. (1991) ‘Irish Place-Names: Some Perspectives, Pitfalls, Procedures and Potential’, *Seanchas Ard Mhacha* 14.2, 116-148 (145). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)