# The Department of Folklore

DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 2

The year 2024 was socially enriching and intellectually productive for the Department of Folklore



In the summer of 2024, the folklore professors gathered for their second annual, day-long Faculty Retreat. The main goal of the retreat was to review and approve Calendar Change proposals for both our graduate and undergraduate programs. We are grateful to the Department's Graduate and Undergraduate Committees for their hard work over the past year in preparing thorough drafts of the proposed changes, which aim to streamline outdated aspects of the programs and reflect recent developments in the field.

Photo: 2024 Faculty Retreat. Standing (L to R): Drs. J. Gould (Graduate Officer), D. Peretti (Undergraduate Liaison), M. Lesiv (Head of Department), C. Thorne Gutiérrez, and S. Gordon. Sitting (L to R): Drs. H. Everett and K. Totten. Missing: Dr. H. Berger, Canada Research Chair in Ethnomusicology, Professor of Music and Folklore, Director of the Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media, and Place.



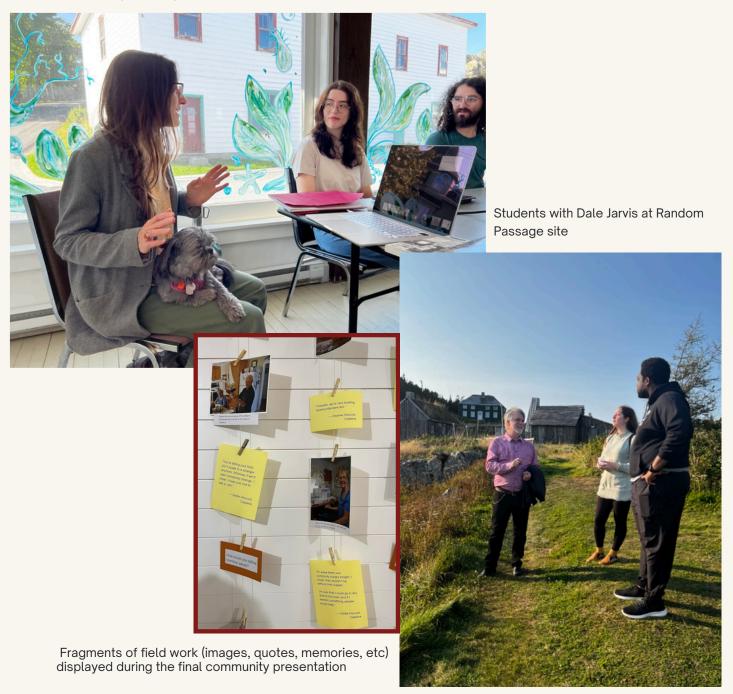
In September, this year's cohort of first-year Department of Folklore graduate students set off for Port Union, Newfoundland, where we took part in an ethnographic field school for three weeks. Though we were not the first cohort to make this journey to Port Union, nothing could have prepared us for the adventure ahead.

Besides its heritage as Canada's only union-built town, Port Union has so many unique things to offer—fossils, interpretive sites, hikes, beautiful views, and communities with rich traditions, customs, and rhythms of everyday life. After spending the first week learning from Dr. Kelley Totten and visiting lecturer Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger, we were sent out into the broader Bonavista Peninsula community to conduct ethnographic field work in small groups. The work was hands-on—more than just observing, we were participating, getting to know the people, the landscape, and the rhythms of everyday life in this beautiful bay.

One group focused on how communication travels in the community, another focused on the intersection of regional crafters and artisans, and the third studied local customs and narratives around the historic seal fishery. We were so grateful for the generosity and kindness we encountered—people shared their stories with us over muffins and tea, on couches and at maker's nights, at the harbour and in the forge, in shops and stores.

At the end of our fieldwork and our time in Port Union, we held a community event where we displayed our work in an interactive exhibit titled, "Some Day on Clothes," modelled after clotheslines, a practice we saw as symbolic of our work by drawing attention to the community's artifacts of everyday life. We invited attendees to add something to the line—thoughts, questions, comments, recipes, and memories. This collaborative evening offered a glimpse into our time in Port Union and the people and places that we had the privilege to know and experience.

Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger During her Guest Lecture At Field School



Special thanks to the following: the Coaker Foundation, Edith Samson and all of the wonderful staff who hosted us in the Union Electric Building and provided student housing; Union House Arts who hosted Makers' Nights; and the Women's Institute who treated us to an incredible home-cooked potluck dinner that kept us fed for days!

#### **Heritage NL Scanning Party**

On Friday, September 13, the Field School students joined Heritage NL in New Bonaventure to assist in a scanning party. Students helped collect stories and scan photographs from community members as part of Heritage NL's efforts to promote historic and cultural documentation in the province. Following the scanning party, Dale Jarvis led the students on a tour of the Random Passage film site, sharing valuable advice and tips for conducting fieldwork in the province.





Photos: Gerald Ibe (Chukky) (top) and Adam Strong (bottom) helping community members with the scanning project.

## Printing Press Workshop at the FPU Factory



Mallory Cotter holding her Nan's recipe.

On September 22, 2024, the Field School hosted a Community Drop-in Printing Press Workshop at The Factory. Funded by the Harris Centre's Community Scholar Award (Dr. Totten) the event allowed participants to print from existing blocks, set their own type, run prints, and learn all of the tedious and thrilling steps to running a press using some of the same printed machines that The Fisherman's Advocate, the FPU's (Fisherman's Protective Union) newspaper that ran in Port Union from the 1920s - 1980s. MA Student Georgia Morris Catanho organized the event, coming up with the idea while completing her summer co-op position with Union House Arts. The well event included Catalina/Melrose attended local, Mallory Cotter, who completed her BA in Folklore in 2024.



## "Some Day on Clothes" Community Presentation



Community members attending the public presentation.

#### The Field School is Undergoing Renovations

SUBMITTED BY DR. KELLEY TOTTEN

The Folklore Field School was established at Memorial University in 2012 by Dr. Jerry Pocius. Modelled after the American Folklife Center's Field Schools, Dr. Pocius took the 2012 cohort of incoming graduate students to Keels on the Bonavista Peninsula to teach folklore fieldwork methods immersed in community. The program has continued since, always taught as a required course, Folk6020, for all first-year graduate students. Dr. Pocius also led programs in the following years in Quidi Vidi and Witless Bay. Dr. Cory Thorne led the 2015 Field School in Change Islands. In 2016, Dr. Diane Tye and Dr. Jillian Gould took over leading the field schools together for four years, taking students to Cupids, Bay Roberts, and then within St. John's in the Georgestown neighbourhood and at the Community Farmer's Market. In 2020, Dr. Gould continued to lead the program alongside Dr. Kelley Totten; their 2020 program in collaboration with New Perlican was forced to shift to a remote Field School due to the Covid pandemic. They resumed the in-person program in 2021, holding Field School at the Rabbittown Community Centre for two consecutive years. In 2023, Dr. Totten took the school back to the Bonavista peninsula to Port Union, where it has been held for the past two years in collaboration with the Coaker Foundation, Union House Arts, and the Women's Institute.

Over the years, the Field School has hosted an impressive array of visiting lecturers who have helped train our cohorts of folklorists and expanded their opportunities to meet esteemed researchers and practitioners in the field, including Guha Shankar, Tom Carter, Ed Shappell, Kent Ryden, Bonnie Sunstein, David Taylor, Hanna Griff-Sleven, Pravina Shukla, and Gabrielle Berlinger.

The Field School has always been grateful for its annual support from MUNFLA, as well as Heritage NL, led by Dale Jarvis and a stellar team of Memorial Folklore graduates – Andrea O'Brien, Lara Maynard, and Terra Barrett (graduate of the Witless Bay Field School).

2024 marked the last year of Field School in this format, as part of the required FOLK 6020 Research Methods class. Unfortunately, in light of ongoing budget cuts, this format is no longer sustainable. However, with funding from the Harris Centre's Community Scholar Award, Dr. Totten is working with individuals in Port Union and the Bonavista Peninsula to develop a future field school format and seek additional funding that will continue to provide students with the invaluable experiences of immersive fieldwork opportunities within communities. Working with our partners at Heritage NL, we are looking to create a community field school that could expand the program to related disciplines in addition to offering training and deeper engagement with local community members. Stay tuned for more information as change is inevitable – and contact Dr. Totten (ktotten@mun.ca) if you have ideas for outside funding opportunities!

## **Updates from the Faculty**



Dr. Mariya Lesiv delivering the 2024 Medwidsky Memorial Lecture titled "Folklore of Anger: Systemic Vernacular Imperialism and Ukrainian Responses to the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine by Russia." Screenshot from <u>a video recording of the lecture</u>. Edmonton, April 5, 2024.

#### DR. MARIYA LESIV

Much of my time is taken up with administrative work required for the operation of our Department, especially in light of increasing budget cuts. However, I am still happy to devote some time to research. The article "Cursed Russians and Armed Saints: 'Angry Folklore' and the Ethics of Precarity in Response to the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine," which I co-wrote with Robert Glenn Howard, is forthcoming in Journal of American Folklore. Invited by Simon Bronner, I prepared and submitted an article manuscript on the concepts of nationalism, transnationalism, and borders as understood from a folkloristic perspective for Bronner's edited volume in honour of Dan Ben-Amos. I also wrote an In Memoriam dedicated to renowned Ukrainian Canadian folklorist Robert Klymasz (1936–2024) for Folklore (Journal of the Folklore Society, UK). I was humbled and honoured to be invited to deliver the 2024 Annual Bohdan Medwidsky Memorial Lecture in Edmonton, Alberta. Bohdan Medwidsky (1936–2021) was the founder of the Kule Folklore Centre and the Ukrainian Folklore Archives at the University of Alberta. The annual lectures, co-sponsored by the Kule Folklore Centre and the Alberta Society for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies, are organized to commemorate his legacy.

In 2024, I also completed my second and last term as President of the Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Folklore Association.

#### DR. KELLEY TOTTEN

Folk School, Field School, and the Archives! These three things take up the bulk of my time, teaching, and research. I'm continuing work at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. I travelled back to Brasstown in May 2024 and will return for 3 months in 2025 during my sabbatical to work on two projects. I have been working with the school to curate the two exhibit spaces in their newly refurbished log cabin museum, which should open up in fall 2025 to coincide with the school's 100-year anniversary celebrations. I am also working on my book, The Folk School Experiment – Adaptations to Radical Education in the Mountain South, under contract with the University of North Carolina Press.

In May 2024, I was invited by the Folklore and Mythology Program at Harvard University to participate in their spring symposium, "Appalachia Betwixt and Between: Folkloristic Perspectices on a Region in Flux," where I presented a paper, "Defining and Redefining Appalachian Craft: The John C. Campbell Folk School's Legacies of Making." I also had an article published in *The Journal of Modern Craft*, "Craft Knowledge and Performance Through Fiber Arts at the John C. Campbell Folk School."

In the summer 2025, I received a Community Scholar Award from the Harris Centre to fund a residency in Port Union and continue our ongoing collaborations with the Coaker Foundation, the Women's Institute, and Union House Arts.

And finally, this December, I finished my tenure as the Exhibits and Events Editor for the Journal of American Folklore.



#### DR. SARAH GORDON

It's been a quiet-ish year for me. I attended the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting and presented a paper called "'Where the f\*\*k did all these lesbians come from?': Finding Queer Joy." I also joined the board of directors of Odds and Ends, St. John's queer curling league. I'm not a good curler, but I have lots of fun. I have two forthcoming publications in early 2025. The first one, titled "'This needs more time!': Navigating Community-Institutional Partnerships," is co-written by Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth and me, with support from Junious Brickhouse, Ashley Minner Jones, and Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe, and will appear in Journal of American Folklore 138 (548). This is the outcome of a well-received three-year series of panels at AFS on the challenges of doing folklore work in partnerships between communities and institutions, particularly (though not exclusively) universities. The second piece, "Queer Temporality and the Performance of Self in Ethnography," will be published in Emerging Perspectives in the Study of Folklore and Performance, edited by Solimar Otero and Anthony Bak Buccitelli, forthcoming from Indiana University Press. In 2024, I also published a book review of Canada at a Crossroads: Boundaries, Bridges, and Laissez-Faire Racism in Indigenous-Settler Relations in Journal of Folklore Research Reviews

#### DR. DANIEL PERETTI

My most time-consuming project has been reducing the number of books I have checked out of the library. My goal remains getting that number below 200, but during the past two years this has proven to be beyond my abilities. In the coming months, I hope to accomplish this by writing things that need to be written so that I no longer need the books that will inspire the writing. Also, I'm out of shelf space. The things that need to be written: an entry on folklore and popular culture for the Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and Folklore, a book on mythologies and how folklore as both a type of culture and a methodology can help us understand them, introductions to the chapters of a volume on Bloody Mary, a syllabus on holidays and festivals (maybe two of those), an article on fan theories, and an article about mythology and literature. Will any of these be finished in the coming year? There is no way of knowing. Most of the rest of my time is spent getting and remaining organized. Reducing the number of books in my office will help with that.



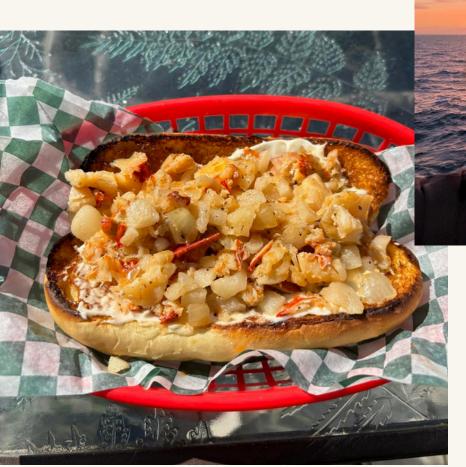
Dr. Holly Everett and Folklore PhD candidate, Madhi Khaksar in Montreal

#### DR. HOLLY EVERETT

In March, I returned to Texas to document roadside memorials and burial sites in Austin and Houston. I also helped my mom and my sister plant their gardens. At the annual meeting of the Folklore Studies Association of Canada/ACEF in Montreal, I presented a paper based on this fieldwork, "Ephemerality, Memory and the Commons." I was also very pleased to meet up with Folklore PhD candidate, Madhi Khaksar in Montreal. My article concerning a red light district operating on the Texas/Louisiana border during WWII, "Baptists, Catholics, and the Silver Strip: Prosperity, Religion, and Leisure on the Texas-Louisiana Border" was accepted for an anthology on Vernacular Catholicisms in June. At the end of August, I was thrilled to attend the successful thesis defence of Dr. Ben Staples.

#### DR. JILLIAN GOULD

Over the summer I joined Adventure Canada as a Researcher-in-Residence on their Newfoundland Circumnavigation tour. It was my first time experiencing the island by boat, and I feel like I have a deeper and more meaningful understanding of this place I've called home for the past 17 years. I was invited to conduct foodways-related research to tie into their "Taste of Place" program, which showcases regional foods. I paid attention to dishes that were labelled "traditional" and/ or "Newfoundland" both on board and off. We ate moose stew prepared by members of Miawpukek First Nation, enjoyed fish and brewis and a "kitchen party" with residents of Francois, and devoured lobster rolls—warm, with scrunchions!—at the Back Room Café in Woody Point. For the final supper on board, the chef made Jiggs' Dinner for 200 guests, and now I can't stop thinking about the many layers and meanings of this special meal. Continuing with a food theme, I am guest editing a thematic "foodways" issue of Newfoundland and Labrador Studies journal, and just wrapped up teaching the grad course Food and Culture. In addition, I taught the undergrad course Critical Reading and Writing in N.L. Studies, and I continue to enjoy my work as Graduate Officer.



Dr. Jillian Gould on the Adventure Canada boat.

Lobster Roll from the Backwood Cafe in Woody Point.

#### DR. CORY THORNE GUTIÉRREZ

Following our publications on developing the concept of gueer folkloristics, Guillermo De Los Reyes (University of Houston) and I have been working on an anthology for Indiana University Press. This is an expansion of our 2023 special issue "Queer Intersectionalities / Queer Folkloristics" of Journal of Folklore Research (60.2-3). In addition to bringing in additional authors, we are expanding the introduction to more deeply explore the intersections of queer theory and folklore theories and methodologies. Similarly, I've continued to work on aspects of death, dying, and queer ritual, based in the work that I began with Mickey Weems while he was preparing his medically-assisted suicide party (March 20, 2023). I've also continued to work on themes of Newfoundland folklore and the Black Atlantic, particularly in relation to NL screech-in ceremonies. I'm writing a response to Pat Byrne's 1997 article "Booze, Ritual, and the Invention of Tradition", that looks at how screech (and other elements of NL folklore) reveals intimate connections between NL and the Caribbean while complicating popular notions of NL isolation and insularity. This work is focused on helping us better understand historical diversity and erasure through collective memory, a tool for combating increasing xenophobia within our province. It likewise parallels my work with the Canadian Labour Congress human rights committees (and solidarity and pride working group), which focus on education within labour associations across Canada to stifle the rise of hate groups across the country.

I'll be on sabbatical this winter, aiming to spend some time with my friend/collaborator Giorge Michel Milian Maura. Michel now lives in Miami, and continues to paint surrealist, queer, sexual histories. We are planning a collaborative book using his paintings to tell stories of queer, underground economies in Havana. In March, I'll be moving to Europe for 6 months where I'll be a visiting professor at the University of Göttingen (home of Jacob and Wilhem Grimms!). I'll be teaching courses on queer folkloristics and ICH place making. Likewise, I'll be running a research methodology practicum where students will meet some of the people who I first began working with in Cuba 15 years ago. Students will meet and interview Cubans living in Europe, while learning ethnographic skills and assisting me with the next stage of this project (informal queer migration).

#### DR. SARAH SHULTZ



This October I was honored to take on the role of Inaugural Herbert and Violetta Halpert Postdoctoral Research Fellow in MUNFLA. I graduated with my PhD in Folklore from Memorial in 2023, and I am ecstatic to be back in the Department! I spent the last year living in New York City, where I taught sections of Supernatural Folklore online, served as the Folklore Consultant for the Museum at Eldridge Street's 24th Annual Egg Rolls, Egg Creams, and Empanadas Street Festival, and guest edited an upcoming special issue of Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore dedicated to the foodways of New York State.

In my role as postdoctoral fellow, I am working on several exciting initiatives. I am researching best practices for archival policy and revising MUNFLA's collections policy and archival mandate, and implementing the 100th Anniversary Funded project "Collecting for the Future: Revisiting and Expanding Newfoundland and Labrador's Cultural Documentation at the Folklore and Language Archive", beginning with assisting to put on two exciting upcoming public facing roundtable events hosted by MUNFLA in the new year.

In partnership with MUN's Indigenous Archivist Michaela Doucette, I am creating a finding aid for the Herbert Halpert Research Collection (HHRC), an unprocessed collection of Dr. Halpert's research and academic correspondence. These materials are an incredibly rich scholarly and historical resource, and the finding aid will make them accessible to students, faculty, and visiting scholars for the first time. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to work with this fascinating material, and am excited to help bring it to the widespread audience it deserves.

With the help of the Archive Committee, in November I applied for a Digital Museums Canada Community Stories Grant to fund the creation of "Building a Foundation of Folklore: The Halpert's Legacy of Public Service to Newfoundland and Labrador", a digital exhibit commemorating Herbert and Violetta Halpert's research and public scholarship during their time at MUN. If our application is successful, we will begin building this exhibit in April of 2025. Next semester I am looking forward to supervising two graduate students. I will be working with Rebecca Howie on the HHRC finding aid and projects related to the 100th Anniversary Fund, and assisting Lo Lundrigan with their exciting artist residency program, which will be hosted in MUNFLA.

I am conducting independent research on foodways in MUNFLA on the folklore of pregnancy and pregnancy cravings. I will be giving a public talk on this research the Viktor Wynd Museum in London in March of 2025, and I am currently putting together another research project on food scarcity and commercial versus home baking practices in Newfoundland.

## Welcoming New Administrator

In early 2024, we were pleased to welcome Susan Flynn as our new Intermediate Clerk Stenographer. She has already become an important member of the Department's team.



Photo: Susan Flynn (L) and Administrative Secretary, Renée Clowe. Renée and Susan are the driving forces behind the Department's operational structure.

#### **Updates from Graduate Students**

The year 2024 was exceptionally productive for our graduate students!

Below are just a few highlights.



#### **LO LUNDRIGAN**

MA Students, Mercy Williams and Lo Lundrigan at Petroglyph National Monument in Albuquerque, NM

This fall Lo completed an artist residency with the Grand Falls-Windsor Theatre Company at the Gordon Pinsett Centre for the Arts, was a featured artist in Rewild hosted by Ayatana's Biophilium, and contributed the essay "Rare beasts: the young women, the rug hunters, and the unlikely existence of the Smith mat" to Root Words: An anthology of New Brunswick arts writing, ed. Amy Ash, which will be published in spring 2025. They received the Archie Green Award (Public Folklore section) and David R. Buchan Award to present at AFS in Albuquerque, NM, alongside fellow sheep herders Mercy Williams and Georgia Morris-Catanho, and a Professional Projects Grant from ArtsNL to develop an installation of site-specific camouflage patterns from botanical samples. In collaboration with Dr. Sarah Shultz and Dr. Kelley Totten they were granted Quick Start funding from the Office of Public Engagement to pilot a creative research program hosted in MUNFLA. The residency will culminate in an exhibition of works in progress alongside material from the MUNFLA collection curated by Lo, Sarah, and Kelley in September 2025.



MA Student Jessica Quaw

#### **JESSICA QUAW**

I am thrilled to share that I am preparing to begin writing my thesis, having successfully completed the oral presentation stage. My research focuses on the Ghanaian community here in St. John's, where I have been deeply engaged as both a member and a researcher. I have been exploring how Ghanaian folktales are being retold in the diaspora, in this case, in St. John's, Newfoundland, which Dr. Sarah Gordon will supervise. During the latter part of the summer, I immersed myself in fieldwork, listening to captivating stories and connecting with fellow community members. This journey has been a profound experience of personal growth and learning, and I am excited to take the next step in bringing this knowledge to life through my thesis.

#### **Stitching Story**

#### Doctoral Student Enzina Marrari Reflects on a Recent Scholarship, Artist Residency and Grant, and Upcoming Service

Second-year Doctoral student Enzina Marrari was selected as a recipient of the Albert George (AG) Hatcher Memorial Scholarship, awarded in recognition of excellence in graduate studies and research. The AG Hatcher Memorial Scholarship supports one year of studies: Fall term 2024 and Winter and Summer 2025. In her statement of research, Marrari shared her interest in the folklore of loss and grief, death and dying, and creative mourning – a concept she has identified as the performance of grief through making and through an "exchange of energy, emotion, and material" (Kapchan 133, 2010). Marrari noted the importance of intersections of disability, creativity, and identity in her research. Further, she shared that personal narratives, the act of grief performed through creative making, and individual creative expressions are of particular interest to her work

Marrari headed to Listowel, Ireland, in December to begin her month-long artist residency at the Olive Stack Gallery in County Kerry, Ireland. Only two international artists are welcomed each month to serve as resident artists. She will work beside mosaic artist, Julie Mazzoni. While there, Marrari will develop a fiber-art-based series, "The Lost Biancheria: a lost/found linen project." This work will explore loss, grief, tradition, and identity. Marrari uses Biancheria – the Italian tradition of creating a corredo (collection) of handmade needlework and linens passed from matriarchs to daughters as a rite of passage – in a literal and figurative way. She will explore the loss of this cultural practice as a first-generation daughter of Italian immigrants. She uses Biancheria as a metaphor for loss, grief, and identity, expressed materially through lost or discarded linens and verbally through shared stories.



Above: First embroidery on lost linen: "Hand Busy Body Mind" an excerpt of an interview with Rachelle Dowdy done first for her paper by the same name in the Spring 2024 Material Culture course. Marrari will hand make a pillow out of cotton and sew on the linen to make a memory pillow. Olive Stack Gallery, Listowel, Ireland. 2024

At the residency, Marrari will begin a new body of work: hand- stitched soft-sculpture pillows made from collected, lost, or discarded linens embroidered with the excerpts of participant stories. While on residency, she will interview project participants in the area of the residency (Kerry, Ireland) and friends, colleagues, and family on grief, loss, and identity as related to the project. The interviews and the artwork created while on her residency may inform Marrari's forthcoming dissertation. In December, Marrari learned she received a Professional Artist Grant through ArtsNL, which last year invested \$3.2 million to foster and promote the creation and enjoyment of the arts for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. This funding will cover Marrari's travel and lodging costs, costs of materials, stipends for project participants, and her artist fees.

Marrari has also joined new working group, "Exchange on Critical Disability Studies" through NILCAHR (Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research). This working group "analyzes the idea of "disability" from cultural, historical, social, and political vantage points and places the disabled at its centre. Critical Disability Studies views disability as both a lived reality in which the experiences of people with disabilities are central to interpreting their place in the world, and also looks at what we mean by disability, as a social and political definition based on societal power relations" ("Critical Disability Studies | Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research," n.d.). Convening experts in the field, this forum will exchange knowledge and learn about the perspectives of others. The group participants are multidisciplinary and reflect healthcare workers, patients/persons with lived experiences, caregivers, community organizations, university partners, and government partners. Marrari will serve as a person with lived experience as disabled and chronically ill, and as a folklorist and artist. The working group will discuss research and practice knowledge, and share lived experience and community knowledge. Together they will build capacity for collaboration and partnerships to support action towards change on various levels (NILCAHR).



Work table in process. Olive Stack Gallery, Listowel, Ireland. 2024



Enzina and Julie Mazzoni take a selfie in front of the Listowel castle on their day off from the studio. Sunday, December 8, 2024.



Photo: The Folklore Department's faculty, students, and alumni attending the 2024 FSAC/ACEF Annual Meeting. Kneeling: Dr. I. Brodie (Cape Breton University); Standing, 1st Row L to R: Dr. V. T. Tran (Université du Québec à Montréal, conference organizer), J. Priegnitz, Dr. L. Sanchini (Canadian Museum of History), M. Williams, I. Lipa, Dr. K. Totten, Dr. M. Lesiv, R. Samokovlija Baruh; 2nd Row: L. Mark, M. Collins, E. McGreeghan, A. Del Piero, E. Marrari, and R. Horeth.

Our graduate students made us very proud at the 2024 Folklore Studies Association of Canada/L'Association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore (FSAC/ACEF) Annual Conference which was part of the Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Montreal. Eleven students presented their research papers. Ruzhica Samokovlija Baruh presented two papers, one at FSAC/ACEF and another one at the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) Annual Meeting.

A very special proud moment involved a moving round-table discussion by our recent graduates who now implement their knowledge and skills at various Canadian cultural and government institutions: Dr. Laura Sanchini, Manager of Research, History, and Cultural Expression at the Canadian Museum of History; Dr. Shamus MacDonald, Manager of Culture and Language at the Baile nan Gàidheal (Highland Village Museum), Saeede Niktab, Researcher at the Canadian Museum of History; and Terra Barrett, Intangible Cultural Heritage Researcher with Heritage NL.

Masters students (a.k.a Sheepherders), Lo Lundrigran, Mercy Williams and Georgia Morris Catanho also attended this year's annual American Folklore Society meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to present research conducted in collaboration with Heritage NL on Newfoundland's wool industry. The presentation was a baaa-lmy success!



L to R: Dr. Yves Bergeron (moderator) and the Folklore Department's alumni Dr. Laura Sanchini, Saeede Niktab, Dr. Shamus MacDonald, and Terra Barrett (on screen) at their FSAC/ACEF roundtable.



Mercy, Lo, and Georgia Presenting "Shawl to Sheep" at AFS 2024.

#### Congratulations to New Graduates!



Dr. Ben Staple's family, friends, and mentors attending his defense on Aug 5, 2025.

## We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the recent PhD graduates who have successfully defended their dissertations:

**Dr. Benjamin Staple**, "Crack and Release: A Study of Pirate Culture, Community, and Folklore" (supervisor: Dr. Holly Everett)

**Dr. Ceallaigh MacCath-Moran**, "Voices for the Voiceless: Animal Rights Activism in Canada" (supervisor: Dr. Mariya Lesiv)

**Dr. Marissa Farahbod**, "Being and Belonging: The Construction of Filipino Spaces in Newfoundland" (supervisor: Dr. Mariya Lesiv)



Dr. Ben Staple and his supervisor Dr. Holly Everett

## We also congratulate our recent MA graduates who have successfully passed the examination of their Master's theses:

**Avery Carr**, "An Examination of the Parking Goddess and Gendered Vulnerability on the US West Coast" (supervisors: Drs. Sarah Gordon and Mariya Lesiv)

**Rebecca Horeth**, "'In Our Own Way': Tradition and Transmission Among Later-generation Transylvanian Saxons in Canada" (supervisor: Dr. Jillian Gould)

**Wyatt Hirschfeld Shibley**, "Domestic Ethnicity: The Lebanese Diaspora in Newfoundland" (supervisor: Dr. Mariya Lesiv)

Jade Visos-Ely, "Transformative Narratives: Resisting and Reinforcing Patriarchy in Reimagined Fairy Tales" (supervisor: Dr. Daniel Peretti)

**Alexa Nicolle** has successfully completed her MA (Co-operative Route) under the supervision of Dr. Cory Thorne. Her work is featured in *The Gazette* 

Mariana Ramirez and Felicia Somolu have successfully completed their MA degrees in the Courses and Comprehensive Exams route.



Wyatt Hirschfeld Shibley after his convocation ceremony captured by Amber-Lynn Thorne.
May 31, 2024.



Dr. Ceallaigh MacCath-Moran (L) and Rebecca Horeth (R) stopped by at the Department following their convocation ceremony on October 17, 2024.



A small departmental celebration of Dr. Ceallaigh MacCath-Moran's and Rebecca Horeth's achievements following their convocation ceremony on October 17, 2024.



After Dr. Marissa Farahbod's defense. L to R: Drs. Kelley Totten and Holly Everett (members of supervisory committee), Dr. Mariya Lesiv (supervisor), Dr. Marissa Farahbod; on screen: Dr. Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn (external examiner); and Drs. Jillian Gould and Daniel Peretti (internal examiners).

## **Student-Led Initiatives**



Photo: 2024 Halloween Bake sale organized by the Undergraduate Folklore Society.

#### The Folklore Society is BACK

## ...or rather, the Graduate Society for Folklore and Ethnomusicology (GSFE)!

Over the month of November, society members have conducted two meetings to gauge interest from graduate students in both departments (November 13th) and to elect several executive officers (November 18th). These meetings indicated that there is interest from both Folklore and Ethnomusicology graduate students in a joint society. The GSFE aims to improve communication, support career and academic development, and (hopefully) host social events for Folklore and Ethnomusicology graduate students. Any students who would like to receive updates from GSFE are encouraged to reach out using our email (mun.gsfe@gmail.com) to be added to our mailing list!

The November 18th GSFE election results are as follows:

President - Adrianna O'Quinn, first-year MA, Folklore

Vice President - Linus Glaesemer, first-year MA, Ethnomusicology

Treasurer - Emmy\* McGreeghan, second-year MA, Folklore

Secretary - Charlotte Peters, second-year MA, Folklore

Communications Officer - Adam Strong, first-year MA, Folklore

### **Undergraduate Folklore Society**

The MUN Folklore Society wants you to join us!

We offer peer help with assignments and host events to meet fellow students.

Our first meeting in the winter semester will be:

Friday, January 10, 2025 in ED4051 from 4-5pm





Students and others mingle and discuss posters during the postpresentation mixer

## **Cultural Explorations**

**An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Humanity** 

Over the course of the semester, PhD student Laszlo Mark was part of an interdisciplinary team alongside PhD students Jordan Hollahan (Archaeology), Jared Hogan (Archaeology), and MA student Sadie Mees (Anthropology). Led by Jordan, they came up with and planned an HSS interdisciplinary Grad Student Conference at MUN in alignment with the Interdisciplinary Speaker Series and Jamming Disciplines Colloquia. A call for abstracts for both presentations and articles was sent out in late September with a submission deadline of October 25th. While primarily centered in Folklore, Archaeology, and Anthropology, we opened the conference up to other fields including the English and Gender Studies departments with a topic emphasis on relation to "cultural studies".

Hosted on Tuesday, November 26th, the interdisciplinary conference ran from 9:30 AM to approximately 3:00 PM, during which 21 of our 31 scheduled participants gave presentations on a wide range of topics across several fields of study. Among the presenters representing the Folklore department were: Ainjel Stephens, Nadia Sarwar, Laszlo Mark, Georgia Morris-Catanho, Lo Lundrigan, and Mercy Williams!

Following our successful five hours of presenting, a social mixer was held in the great hall of Queens College where 12 participants displayed research posters from ~3:00 to 6:00 PM. Drinks and snacks were provided by the undergrad societies of Anthropology and Archaeology. Several non-presenters attended both the conference presentations and the Poster socializing event afterward.

Due to the overall success of the event, the Cultural Explorations team plans to assemble and host this interdisciplinary conference again next year!



#### What's New with Culture & Tradition?

In June 2024, after a six-year hiatus, *Culture & Tradition*, The Canadian Student Journal of Folklore and Ethnology, successfully relaunched. The journal - Canada's longest-running graduate-run bilingual journal publishing in French and English - emerged as a digital volume with limited print copies. The 2024 issue, Vol. 35: "Ré[inventée] | Re[Invented]" explored concepts of emergence, reinvention, identity, and creative expression. Creative works, such as poetry and visual art, were included for the first time in the journal's history. Recent Folklore Masters graduate Rebecca Horeth and current Doctoral Candidate Roshni Caputo Nimbark were instrumental in bringing the journal back to life and spearheading its direction. Two launch parties celebrated the release of Vol. 35 Ré[inventée] | Re[Invented].

First, the journal held a launch party in Montréal during the FSAC Annual Meeting, "Common Spaces" on June 12 at à l'Idéal (wine bar) as part of the conference programming. Then, in October, the journal's current Editorial Board held a Launch Party & Meet and Greet at Bitters Pub & Restaurant on Memorial's Campus. Bitters Pub & Restaurant was a delight to work with; the staff went above and beyond to make the event successful and created two signature beverages that synced with the journal's theme. Their reinvented libations included a "Screech & Stormy," a local twist on a classic cocktail featuring Screech, Newfoundland's signature alcohol, and an alcohol-free "Partridge Berry & Lime Spritzer" made with berries foraged right in St. John's. Both events were well attended and celebrated and the hard work of breathing air into the sleeping publication. The October Launch Party also welcomed new Editorial Board members. For Volume 36, the journal welcomes Enzina Marrari and Laszlo Mark, who serve as Co-Editors in Chief; Meaghan Collins and Ainjel Stephens as Associate Editors; and Collins as Creative Editor. Chukky Ibe has stepped into the role of Treasurer, and Emma Gauthier as French Language Editor. Kelsey Yandura, Denielle Hill, and Austen Clayton round out the Editorial Board. Hill, Stephens, and Yandura will serve as Book Review Editors. Dr. Cory Thorne serves as the journal's faculty advisor.

Photo: C&T Team at the October Launch Party. L to R: Austen Clayton, Adam Strong, Kelsey Yandura, Mahina Graham-Laidlaw, Ainjel Stephens, Karin Murray-Bergquist, Dr. Cory Thorne Gutiérrez, Enzina Marrari, Laszlo Mark. Front: Denielle Hill.

The journal's Editorial Board proudly announces the "Call for Submissions" for Vol. 36: [In]visibility | [In]visibilité. For its 2025 issue, Culture & Tradition is seeking academic essays, reviews, research, and creative submissions addressing the theme of [In]visibility from undergraduate and graduate students and emerging professionals (within the first five years of their career post-graduation). Submissions exploring the context of invisibility and visibility in scholarship and/or culture more broadly, specifically through the lens of culture and tradition, are invited. Topics might explore questions such as: What has historically (or remains) out of view n our field, customs, and cultures? Why is it important to pay attention to what is "too hard to see" or has gone systematically unnoticed? How have (or haven't) traditions, groups, and perspectives changed due to invisibility? The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2025.

Further information and submission guidelines can be found at: <a href="https://culturetraditionjournal.wordpress.com/">https://culturetraditionjournal.wordpress.com/</a>. The journal welcomes questions through email <a href="mailto:culturetraditionjournal@gmail.com">culturetraditionjournal@gmail.com</a>. Manuscripts and creative works must be emailed following the submission guidelines for consideration. The journal also seeks peer reviewers for Vol. 36 and future publications. Those interested in serving as a peer reviewer may communicate their interest by emailing <a href="mailto:culturetraditionjournal@gmail.com">culturetraditionjournal@gmail.com</a>.



Faculty Advisor, Dr. Cory Thorne Gutiérrez, and Co-Editors, Enzina Marrari and Laszlo Mark.



## Culture & Tradition Journal

Vol. 36: [In]visibility | [In]visibilité

Invisibility (noun):

"The state of being impossible to see or notice"

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Seeking academic essays, reviews, research, and creative submissions

What lives or has lived out of view in our field, customs, and cultures?

Why is it important to pay attention to what is hard to see?

How have (or haven't) traditions, groups, and perspectives changed as a result of invisibility?

Submissions/Inquiries: CultureTraditionJournal @gmail.com

For guidelines and complete submission information, please visit our website: CultureTraditionJournal.Wordpress.com

Submit by: January 15



#### The Year 2024 was Rich in Visitors



On February 27, we hosted Dr. Laura Sanchini, a graduate of our department, who is the Manager of Research, History, and Cultural Expression at the Canadian Museum of History. Dr. Sanchini delivered a stimulating talk about her training in folkloristics and how it has shaped her work at this important Canadian institution.

Dr. Laura Sanchini during her talk

In September 2024, thanks to the support of the Scholarship in the Arts Fund, the Folklore Department welcomed Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger, an Associate Professor of American Studies and Folklore and the Babette S. and Bernard J. Tanenbaum Scholar in Jewish History and Culture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While the main purpose of Dr. Berlinger's visit was to deliver a series of quest lectures for the 2024 Folklore Field School, she also entitled a public talk presented "Architecture of Belonging: Jewish Expressions of Change."



Phyllis Helping Dr. Gabrielle Berlinger Prepare for her talk



Dale Jarvis visited Dr. Mariya Lesiv's Supernatural Folklore undergraduate class in November 2024. Mr. Jarvis is a public folklorist and the Executive Director of Heritage NL. He is also a storyteller, author, and the owner of St. John's Haunted Hike, a local ghost tour. In the class, he discussed the intersections of vernacular belief, storytelling, and entrepreneurship. Two students stayed after class to have their books signed by the author.

Dr. Diane Tye, Professor Emerita of Folklore, visited Dr. Gould's Food and Culture graduate seminar to discuss her book *Baking as Biography: A Life Story in Recipes* with the students.



L to R: N. Sarwar, E. Mcgreeghan, G. Morris Catanho, A. Del Piero, J. Quaw, M. Williams, Dr. D. Tye, E. Marrari, A. Elgar, Dr. J. Gould, M. Haque. Front: L. Lundrigan, C. Peters

Dr. Neil Rosenberg, Professor Emeritus of Folklore, visited the Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Folklore and Language Archive MUNFLA During the Open House.



L to R: P. Cox, A. Del Piero, M. Williams, Dr. N. Rosenberg, G. Morris Catanho

#### **MUNFLA**

## Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Folklore and Language Archive



The MUNFLA team with Dr. Neil Rosenberg. L to R: Chris Mouland (Archival Assistant), Pauline Cox (Archivist), Dr. Neil Rosenberg (Professor Emeritus of Folklore), Nicole Penney (Assistant Archivist), and Renee Lawrence (Administrative Program Assistant). Missing: Dr. Sarah Shultz (Herbert and Violetta Halpert Postdoctoral Research Fellow).

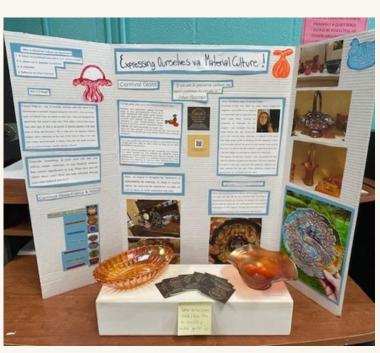
### What's Going on at MUNFLA?

#### This year at MUNFLA has been a whirlwind!

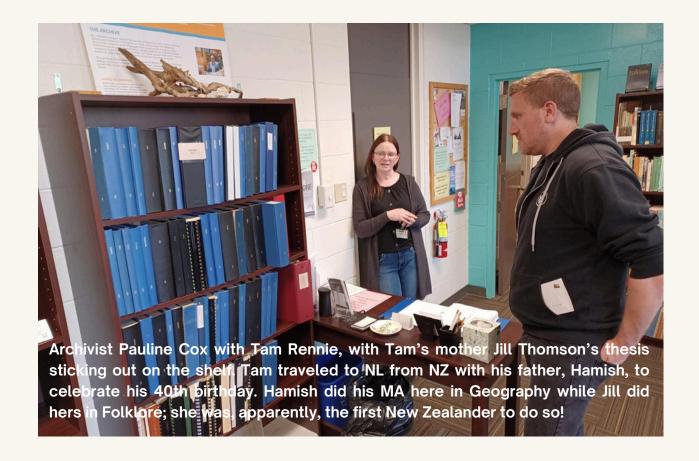
Our Reading Room hosted pop-up exhibits from Dr. Kelley Totten's Folklore 3850/Material Culture class (Flickr library available <a href="here">here</a>), class tours to undergrads in both History and Folklore, as well as students enrolled in Records and Information Management programs at the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), Prince Philip Drive campus. Most recently, on Monday, November 25th, we held an Open House as part of this year's <a href="Research Week">Research Week</a> activities.

MUNFLA has been featured in numerous media pieces by various CBC programs including Atlantic Voice and Weekend AM, and podcasts such as Paranormal NL and Wayne Jones' Newfoundland Boy. Our popular #MissusMonday social media campaign was also highlighted on CBC News NL, and in publications from The Globe and Mail and The Canadian Press. For more detail, visit here.





Two students' projects from Dr. Kelley Totten's undergraduate Material Culture class's pop-up exhibit in the archive.



We've had researchers, including alumni, visit us from as far away as Lausanne, Switzerland; Augsburg, Germany; Tartu, Estonia; the east and west coasts of the United States; and Christchurch, New Zealand – the latter being an opportunity to celebrate a son's 40th birthday and see where his parents met all those years ago in grad school! Research topics have included thesis work, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, family history, work for various heritage organizations, and to access primary source materials as part of upcoming publications on Maud Karpeles' fieldwork in Newfoundland and the history of women in public life in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Over this past year we've also provided experiential learning opportunities to 12 graduate students in Folklore (nine graduate student assistantships, two externally funded positions, and one GradSWEP), four undergraduate students (MUCEPs), and four volunteers, including two students from the School of Pharmacy. If you are interested in working in MUNFLA, please let Dr. Mariya Lesiv, as Head of the Department, know; we are always eager to host students with a passion for learning about archives and archiving!

Perhaps the most exciting opportunity we have offered this year is to welcome Dr. Sarah Shultz to MUNFLA as the inaugural recipient of the Herbert and Violetta Halpert Postdoctoral Fellowship. Sarah will be assisting MUNFLA with reviewing and updating various policies, writing grant applications, and organizing backlog reduction and other projects, in addition to continuing her own research interests. Welcome Sarah – we are so happy to have you here with us and look forward to what this upcoming year will bring!

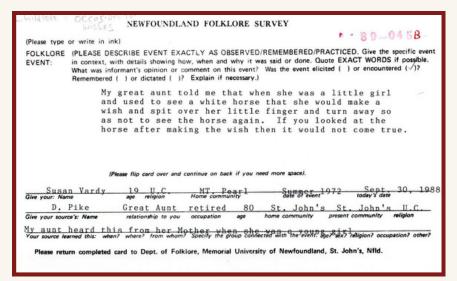
Speaking of this upcoming year – stay tuned as MUNFLA will have some exciting news to share regarding our participation in <u>Memorial University's 100th Anniversary celebrations!</u>

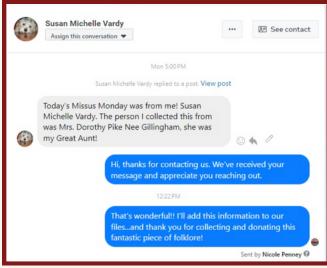
## Herbert Halpert Round Table Event

In February, we will kick off our 100th Anniversary Events with a special recognition of Herbert and Violetta Halpert's contribution to establishing MUNFLA and the Folklore Department at Memorial. Their generous support continues today with their endowments to fund student research and travel, along with the family's recent donation to support MUNFLA operations and initiatives. The event will invite a panel of former students and faculty to discuss Halpert's legacy with a round table event, "Applying Halpert's Vision to Today: Past and Future Possibilities for Collecting Provincial Folklore." Join us and share your own past experiences, as well as your visions for the future! Stay tuned for further specific details.

## **#MissusMonday**

The #MissusMonday campaign was started in 2019 in an attempt to identify and acknowledge women who have contributed to the MUNFLA collection but have never been given proper credit for their work, typically being identified as "Mrs. + their husband's name" only. Although numerous women have been identified by our followers over the past five years using genealogical sources, we prefer to learn their names through more personal connections. Look for #MissusMonday posts on MUNFLA's Facebook page (MUN Folklore and Language Archive – Munfla), X (@MUNFLA\_Archive) and our newly created BlueSky account (@munfla-archive.bsky.social).





# Featured Collection: MUNFLA 2012-063

As part of our experiential learning opportunities, students often work with helping to process, catalogue, and describe collections from MUNFLA's backlog. For the past three semesters, for example, graduate student Aisha Elgayar has worked extensively with transcripts and audio recordings from MUNFLA 2012-063, a collection of "Come From Away" nursing stories, on deposit by Marilyn Beaton and Jeanette Walsh. Beaton and Walsh have published several titles on the history of nursing in the province; this collection in particular was published as Come From Away: Nurses Who Immigrated to Newfoundland and Labrador (Breakwater Books Ltd. 2011). Digitized audio of these nurses' stories can be found on Memorial's Digital Archives Initiative (DAI) here.

# Support MUNFLA and Folklore at Memorial!

As we move into the future and face continuing budget cuts at the university, MUNFLA and the Folklore Department have been able to continue its support of students and researchers through added support from several recent generous donations. As you've read in this newsletter, the support has funded many new public initiatives, allowed us to complete some much needed and overdue updates to our spaces and equipment, and has given us the opportunity to name our inaugural Herbert and Violetta Halpert Postdoctoral Research Fellow at MUNFLA. Increased donations to our endowment fund will help us continue the postdoctoral position, expand our student and visiting scholars research support, bring visiting scholars to campus (including many of our distinguished alumni), and help support new community engagement initiatives in the province such as the community field school.

Consider MUNFLA and the Folklore Department in your charitable donations. Your support will help shape the next generation of folklorists! Currently, donations can be made to Memorial University's Office of Development by selecting the "Area of Greatest Need" option and directing the contribution to MUNFLA. We are also working with the Office of Development to establish a more convenient electronic method for making donations.

# **Encouraging New Research at MUNFLA**

## MUNFLA is excited to announce two new opportunities to encourage research and engagement in our collections!

The Local Artist-in Residence Program is an initiative developed by second-year MA student, Lo Lundrigan. With funding they procured from the Office of Public Engagement, Lo will run a residency program for a cohort of four local artists to introduce them to MUNFLA, train them on working in an archive, and provide sessions for creative consultation and collaboration in building archival collections into creative work. Artists from a broad array of disciplines and at early stages in their practices are encouraged to apply. Applications will be distributed in January, with the residency beginning in February 2025. The residency will culminate in an exhibit, tentatively scheduled for September 2025.

We are also piloting the Herbert and Violetta Halpert Research Fellowships, a new funding stream for visiting scholars, students, artists, and community researchers to conduct independent research in MUNFLA. The fellowship is open to individuals who are not affiliated with Memorial. MUNFLA will award up to \$6,000, which may be divided among more than one recipient, to support up to 10 days of in-person archival research. Fellowship funds can be used to offset travel, lodging, childcare, or any other expenses associated with conducting in-person research at the Archive. Fellows will receive guidance on integrating archival materials into their project, and will have the opportunity to present on their findings and experiences of working in the Archive at a reception at the end of their Fellowship term.

#### Timeline:

Applications are due March 31 st , 2025 Notification of results by April 30 th , 2025 Fellowships can begin May 1 st , 2025 Fellowships must be competed by February 28 th , 2026

#### To apply:

Please send an email with the subject line "MUNFLA Fellowship" to munfla@mun.ca by March 31 st, 2025 with the following information:

- A cover letter introducing yourself and the research you plan to complete in MUNFLA
- A budget and timeline for your proposed project
- An up to date CV or resume
- An optional sample of scholarly or artistic work, if applicable
- Names for two references if you are an undergraduate or graduate student

# News from the Research Centre for the Study of Music Media and Place (MMaP) SUBMMITED BY DR. ANNALISE SMITH



Above: Spring "Good as a Concert" evening concert, with (left to right) Eleanor Dawson, Anita Best, Aaron Collis, Ellen Power, and Joe Byrne.

It's been a busy year at the Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media, and Place! January saw the publication of *The Oxford Handbook of the Phenomenology of Music Cultures*, edited by MMaP director Harris Berger, Friedlind Riedel, and David VanderHamm. In March, we welcomed scholar-in-residence Dr. Stephen Amico, who met with students, taught several classes, and offered a Music & Culture lecture on the state of ethnomusicology. We also recently implemented improvements to Folksongs of Atlantic Canada from the Collections of McEdward Leach, including revised and expanded song notes, transcriptions, and translations for the Gaelic language songs and a set of playlists curated by musicians, community members, and scholars. Performance highlights at the centre included two events in our "Good as a Concert" traditional music and narrative performance series, which is produced by MMaP, SingSong Inc. and Eleanor Dawson.

Be sure to stay tuned next year as we welcome scholar-in-residence Dr. David VanderHamm in March. We'll also be hosting Phenomenology of Music Across the Disciplines in May, a conference that will bring together an interdisciplinary group of leading scholars from across North America and Europe to explore the nature of musical experience.

## PHYLLIS AND THE FOLKLORE DEPARTMENT WISH YOU A PEACEFUL, JOYOUS, AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR!



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