MONICA MARION

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Dual-degree PhD candidate researching the use of computational modelling to explore narrative, storytelling, and other topics in the humanities.

EDUCATION

Indiana University

Dual PhD in Folklore and Informatics: Complex Networks and Systems   Expected May 2026
Thesis: *Computational Analysis of Narrative in Folktales*
Co-Chairs: Barbara Hillers and Staša Milojević
Committee Members: YY Ahn, Brandon Barker

MA Folklore   May 2022
MS Informatics   May 2022

Harvard University

BA Folklore and Mythology, *magna cum laude* with Highest Honors   May 2017
Secondary Field in Human Evolutionary Biology
Phi Beta Kappa, Massachusetts Alpha Iota Chapter

Thesis: *Moving Forward, Looking Back: Comparative Folklore and Mythology in a Computational Age*
Advisor: Stephen Mitchell
Winner of Swapna Dev Undergraduate Thesis Prize

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dorson Dissertation Research Award   2024
IU Thesis research award from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology

Graduate Capstone Research Award   2024
IU College-wide Dissertation research funding award, College Arts and Humanities Institute

Research Traineeship (NRT) Fellowship: Interdisciplinary Training in Complex Networks and Systems   2019-2021
National Science Foundation Fellowship to support Interdisciplinary, dual-degree trainees in the IU Complex Networks and Systems department

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

M. Marion, B. Hillers, A. Palandri, T. Falzett, W. Lamb (2026). Opening and closing formulas in Irish and Scottish magic tales. In *Decoding the Oral Traditions of Scotland and Ireland: From Manuscripts to Models,* eds. William Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh, Beatrice Alex, Tiber Falzett and Barbara Hillers. Forthcoming 2026, Edinburgh University Press.

M. Marion, B. Hillers, C.Mac Cárthaigh, A, Palandri, T. Falzett (2026). Uncovering gender-based repertoire differences. In *Decoding the Oral Traditions of Scotland and Ireland: From Manuscripts to Models,* eds. William Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh, Beatrice Alex, Tiber Falzett and Barbara Hillers. Forthcoming 2026, Edinburgh University Press.

J. Tehrani, M. Marion, B. Hillers, W. Lamb, C.Mac Cárthaigh, T. Falzett (2026). Phylogenetic and population genetic methods in folktale research. In *Decoding the Oral Traditions of Scotland and Ireland: From Manuscripts to Models,* eds. William Lamb, Brian Ó Raghallaigh, Beatrice Alex, Tiber Falzett and Barbara Hillers. Forthcoming 2026, Edinburgh University Press.

E. Berkes, M. Marion, S. Milojević, B. A. Weinberg. (2024). Slow convergence: Career impediments to interdisciplinary biomedical research. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 121, e2402646121.

M. Marion (2025). American Storyscapes: Visualizing a Folktale Collection. *American Folklore Society Annual Meeting*—Atlanta, GA

M. Marion (2025). Maps of Nonsense: using NLP to explore Tig and counting out rhymes in the Irish NFC Schools' Collection. *International Society for Ethnology and Folklore 17th Congress*—Aberdeen, UK

M. Marion. (2024). Kings and Paper Shoes: Opening and Closing Formulas in Irish Magic Tales. *American Folklore Society Annual Meeting*—Albuquerque, NM

M. Marion, W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, T. Falzett, B. Hillers, C.Mac Cárthaigh, J. Meaney, A. Palandri, J. Tehrani (2024). Using and Enhancing the Gaelic Tradition Archives: The 'Decoding Hidden Heritages' Project. *Archives of Traditional Culture 100+1*—Riga, Latvia

B. Hillers and M. Marion. Decoding Hidden Heritages: Exploring Gaelic Traditional Storytelling. *44th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium*—Cambridge, MA

B. Hillers, M. Marion, W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, T. Falzett, C.Mac Cárthaigh, J. Meaney, A. Palandri, J. Tehrani (2023). Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative. *American Folklore Society Annual Meeting*—Portland, OR

M. Marion, W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, T. Falzett, B. Hillers, C.Mac Cárthaigh, J. Meaney, A. Palandri, J. Tehrani (2023). Mining the Celtic Folklore Archives: Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative. *International Congress of Celtic Studies XVII*—Utrecht, Netherlands

T. Falzett, M. Marion, W. Lamb, B. Ó Raghallaigh, B. Alex, B. Hillers, C.Mac Cárthaigh, J. Meaney, A. Palandri, J. Tehrani (2023). Decoding Hidden Heritages: Enhancing access to Scottish and Irish traditional narrative. *International Society for Ethnology and Folklore 16th Congress*—Brno, Czechia

M. Marion (2022). Community Formation on the Early Internet. *IU/OSU Folklore Conference: "(Re)Connecting Community"* –Virtual

M. Marion (2022). Storytelling and Complex Systems. *IU CNS NRT Research Showcase (Poster)*—Bloomington, IN

M. Marion (2021). "The Games I Play:" Children's Games in 1930s Ireland. *American Folklore Society Annual Meeting*—Harrisburg, PA

FUNDED GRANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Bi-national (Irish/UK) Grant "Decoding Hidden Heritages in Gaelic Traditional Narrative with Text-Mining and Phylogenetics"
2022-2024
- Included graduate researcher on project funded by the Irish Research Council and the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council
- Collaborative grant including researchers at the University of Edinburgh, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, and Indiana University
- Position included two summers of archival research at the Irish National Folklore Collection in Dublin, with visit to the School of Scottish Studies Archive in Edinburgh.

Collaborative Research: Training to Find Gaps, not Fall through the Cracks: Research and Guidance for Policy Makers, Interdisciplinary Graduate Students, and their Institutions
2021-2026
- Included graduate researcher on project funded by National Science Foundation.
- Collaborative grant including researchers at the Ohio State University, Indiana University, and Cornell University.
- Position required work with large, publicly available datasets such as the NSF reporter, Web of Science, and ProQuest
- As well as certification for and work with anonymized, protected datasets like UMETRICS and the Survey of Earned Doctorates

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Oxford Internet Institute- UC Berkeley School of Information Summer Doctoral Program
2025, Participant
- brings together doctoral students from around the world for two weeks of study
- daily lectures, seminars, discussion and tutorials with leading academics in the field of information and internet studies.

Santa Fe Institute Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science
2025, Participant
- brings together a group of advanced Ph.D. students and a small faculty for an intensive two-week study of computational social science modeling and complexity
- Advance independent research and work collaboratively with fellow participants in seminars, formal and informal discussions, and a hackathon-style challenge.

IU Online Student Folklore Archives and the Journal of Folklore Research Reviews
2023-Present, Website and Archive Manager
- Update and transfer information from old websites to IU webservers
- Design an archival interface for IU Student Folklife
- Code in html and work with xml to transfer archival research reviews to the IU Open Journal

Indiana University Virtual World Heritage Lab
2020-2021, Graduate Research Assistant
- propose and prototype text mining tools to record, visualize, and organize archaeological data from HathiTrust and local PDFs.
- design and manage VWHL web applications and databases.

Harvard Anthropology Department
2017-2019, Database Designer
- Create and maintain the database for Harvard's Tao River Archaeological Excavation in Northwestern China
- Learn and employ best practices for database structure and management
- Learn and utilize computational tools including PostreSQL, AWS, and ResourceSpace

OTHER EXPERIENCE

IU Folklore and Ethnomusicology Graduate Students' Association
Treasurer, 2021-2022
- Manage organizational finances
- Help decide on programming and events
- Apply for grant funding for the association

Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan
Writer and Analyst, 2017-2019
- Write promotional material to communicate CAMS work outside of academia
- Edit and prepare academic papers for publication
- Create presentation and design materials including logo and research overview