

**RACHEL HOPKIN**  
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***BBC Trained Radio Producer ♦ Folklorist ♦ Sound Rich Audio Documentary Maker  
Ethnographer ♦ Oral Historian ♦ Writer ♦ Historic Preservationist ♦ Teacher  
Media Production ♦ Research ♦ Project Management ♦ Grant Writing ♦ Partnership Building***

- Award-winning radio producer/folklorist with extensive experience exploring rich heritage of traditional and contemporary societies around the globe.
- Recipient of a rare “National Interest Waiver” Green Card from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration for “exceptional ability” and a body of work deemed to be of “national interest”.
- Skillful interviewer with a proven ability to bring a fresh approach to myriad cultural forms.
- Respected documentary-maker with work held as examples for instruction both in UK and US.
- Recipient multiple fellowships to study for a doctorate in folklore at Ohio State University 2014-2019 (projected).

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### **SELECTED EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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**PhD Candidate**, Folklore, The Ohio State University (projected completion 2019)

**Masters of Arts in Folk Studies**, Historic Preservation track, GPA 4.0, Western Kentucky University, 2012

**Bachelor of Music**, First Class Honors, Trinity College of Music, London, 1999

**Certificate in Radio Writing and Presentation**, Distinction, Birkbeck College, University of London, 1999

**Diploma in Music**, Kodaly Institute, Kecskemet, Hungary, 1995

**BBC Courses** in: Journalism, Radio Feature Making, Digital Editing, Interviewing, Radio Research, Writing for Radio and Using Portable Recording Equipment, 1999 – 2005

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

The Way of the Croissant: Traditional Perspectives On A Traditional Pastry. 2017. *Digest*, [in press].

The Critical Conservationist: George Gibson and Patterns of Vernacular Resistance. 2017. *Western Folklore*, 76/1.

Poetics and Pâtisserie: Multilayered Performances of Croissants. 2017. *Performance Research* 22/1 (On Taste) [in press].

The Bottle Artist, 2011. *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin*, Volume LXVII/1&2:35-59.

### REVIEWS

*Lost Sound*. Book by Jeff Porter. 2017. *Journal of American Folklore* [in press].

*Ola Belle Reed and Southern Mountain Music on the Mason-Dixon Line*. 2 CDs and book by Henry Glassie, Clifford R. Murphy, and Douglas Dowling Peach. 2017. *Journal of American Folklore* [in press].

### OTHER

Historic American Buildings Surveys, 2012:

HABS No. TN-263 Jesse French Piano & Organ Company Building;

HABS No. TN-264 Ernest Tubb Record Shop;

HABS No. TN-265 Tootsie's Orchid Lounge;

HABS No. TN-266 Sho-Bud Steel Guitar Company;

HABS No. TN-267 United Record Pressing Plant;

HABS No. TN-269 RCA Victor Studio B;

HABS No. TN-268 Quonset Hut.

Best Practice Report: Field Recording of Interviews in Challenging Situations and Basic Tools of Audio Mixing, American Folklore Society website, 2015.

## SELECTED EXPERIENCE

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### **RADIO PRODUCER AND FOLKLORIST (USA) 2010 – Present**

This timespan encompasses my joining the Department of English at the Ohio State University (OSU) in 2014 to study for a Ph.D in folklore (projected completion 2019) and two years spent studying for a Masters in Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University (2010-2012) During this period I have made radio pieces about traditional culture for NPR stations in Kentucky, Nevada, and Ohio, audio documentaries about music for the BBC and other broadcasters, and have carried out a variety of other independent folklore work.

#### Selected radio related accomplishments:

- Produced *Country Down Under*, a radio documentary about the popularity of American style country music amongst Australia's Aboriginal people for broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and the World Service, December 2016.
- Established partnership in 2016 between the OSU Center for Folklore Studies and the university's NPR affiliate, WOSU, to produce Folk Ohio, a radio series about Ohio's traditional culture. Subjects include carousel craftspeople and pastry chefs.
- Produced *Banjo Pickin' Girls and Fiddlin' Women* a radio documentary about early Kentucky women musicians for the Australian Broadcasting Company, 2015.
- Produced three series of *Musical Migrants* programs for BBC radio 2008-2012. These series featured presenter-less audio portraits of musicians who moved to a new land because of love for a particular genre of music. The homes/destinations of the migrants featured spanned North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. These sound-rich pieces have been disseminated worldwide, including via the prestigious Third Coast Festival's Re:Sound program and at its biennial Filmless Festival.
- Created Folkloristic Radio series for the folklore program and public radio service of Western Kentucky University, covering such diverse topics as the unique basket-making traditions of central Kentucky, the establishment of a 70s back-to-the-land commune in the south of the state, a profile of an original

#### Selected non radio related accomplishments:

- Set up a range of workshops on technologies relevant to folklorists under the auspices of the OSU Center for Folklore Studies.
- Serves as reviewer for the *Journal of American Folklore* and peer reviewer for the [Harlot](#) online journal
- Founder and organizer of the Columbus Folklorists' Circle group, which meets regularly to discuss trends in folklore scholarship and review folkloric performances.
- Oral historian on projects in remote and historic communities, such as at Elkmont in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and for the Allen County [Kentucky] Oral History and Folklife project.
- Successfully obtained placement of 19<sup>th</sup> century Kentucky country store on National Register of Historic Places.

**TEACHER**

2012 – Present

- Instructor - The Ohio State University, English Department Course No. 2367.05 “The US Folk Experience”/Ethnographic Practice and Ethnographic Writing, Spring 2017
- Guest Instructor - Texas Folklife, “Stories from Deep in the Heart” summer workshop, Summer 2016
- Guest Instructor - Texas Folklife, “Stories from Deep in the Heart” summer workshop, Summer 2015
- Guest Instructor - Texas Folklife, “Stories from Deep in the Heart” summer workshop, Summer 2014
- Co-Founder and Co-Teacher (with Erika Brady PhD) - Western Kentucky University, “Folklore and Radio Production” Graduate Course, Spring 2012

**NEVADA HUMANITIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

2012 – 2014

In this position, I initiated, cultivated, and managed a variety of public programs; worked to expand the presence of the organization within a diverse state; and developed strategic partnerships to bring fresh and engaging events and activities to the public.

## Selected accomplishments:

- Overhauled content, organization, function, and marketing of the organization’s speakers bureau, bringing in broad range of new presenters and presentations to better reflect, and appeal to, the diverse population of modern Nevada.
- Developed new strategic partnerships; including with City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation office to present historic preservation-themed events and with the Nevada State Museum to stage a series of workshops.
- Created a radio project for Reno Public Radio entitled "Nevada's Hidden Stories" - an occasional series focusing on the unique people, places, and communities of the Silver State.
- Collaborated with culturally diverse groups, ensuring their greater recognition when planning humanities-based programming resulting in their increased participation.
- Successfully a wide range of obtained grants, including one from Nevada Arts Council to establish a working relationship with a Mexican master embroiderer and put on a series of well-attended workshops teaching crafts to children in an ethnically diverse community.
- Ensured recognition of Ofelia Perez, Mexican Matachin dance tradition bearer, and Gary and Sheldeen Haleamau, Hawaiian artists, for the 2013 and 2014 Nevada Heritage Awards respectively.
- Curated an exhibit of the work of Native American flutemaker, Tim Blueflint.
- Created multimedia content for the Nevada Humanities website; supervised and contributed to newly launched blog and other social media; maintained presence in the national humanities forum.

**SALLY KRESS TOMPKINS FELLOW**

2012

Thanks to this award from the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Society of Architectural Historians, I spent three months researching and documenting the architecture, history, and use - both past and present - of buildings in Nashville (TN) that have played a key role in the development of that city's music industry. The resulting reports are now a part of the HABS permanent collection at the Library of Congress.

## Selected accomplishments:

- Detailed documentation of building typology and architectural style, adhering to rigorous standards required by HABS and the Society of Architectural Historians.
- Extensive research into history of buildings and into broader cultural role they played in the development of the city.
- Conducted interviews with community leaders, local historians, and members of public.

**INDEPENDENT RADIO PRODUCER AND REPORTER (Argentina)**

2006-2010

During this period, I was based in Argentina and worked on a freelance basis for radio networks around the world. I produced numerous self-contained programs and series, and also reported on cultural events, women's issues, economics, and human rights for networks such as the BBC, NPR, APM, the Australian Broadcasting Company, the Canadian Broadcast Company, Newstalk (Dublin, Ireland) and Radio Netherlands.

## Selected accomplishments:

- Initiated the "Musical Migrants" radio project for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service (see above).
- Produced documentary about chamamé - a folk music unique to north-east of Argentina - for the "Into the Music" strand of the Australian Broadcasting Company.
- Produced three-part series about Irish music and migration for Dublin's Newstalk network. One episode focused on Montserrat in the Caribbean, one on the Irish-descended community in Buenos Aires, and one on musical migrants to Ireland.
- Produced reports for the BBC, including on the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina; on mothers uniting to fight drugs in Montevideo in Uruguay; and on the tradition of women ballad singers in the southern Appalachian mountains.
- Produced reports on economic matters for APM's "Marketplace"
- Reported on freedom of Argentine press for WNYC's "On The Media".
- Reported on the conversion of an Argentina concentration camp to a museum for CBC.
- Reported on tradition of bartering in Buenos Aires suburb for Radio Netherlands

**BBC RADIO PRODUCER**

2002-2005

While a BBC staff producer, I produced a wide variety of programming for Radio 4, the BBC's main national intelligent speech network; Radio 3, its national network devoted to music and culture; and the World Service. These included features, documentaries, montages, and music sequencing programs, as well as broadcasts of live music events, such as operas, concerts, and chamber music series.

## Selected accomplishments:

- Produced broadcasts of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and the Dartington International Music Festival.
- Set up live concerts and concert series from the ground up, ensuring the successful radio presentation of these unique musical experiences. One example was the “Sounding the Landscape” series which was recorded in a remote Welsh church and featured music by composers inspired by the countryside.
- Created "Working in Harmony", a series of programs exploring relationships between members of different musical partnerships. The series was described as “perfectly formed” by the UK Guardian newspaper’s radio critic.
- Made "Music and the Method", which examined the contemporary international relevance of the educational philosophy of Hungarian composer, Zoltán Kodály. The broadcast drew nearly 400 calls from appreciative listeners (almost as many, according to the Commissioning Editor, as had called in to seek information following a documentary on irritable bowel syndrome which aired earlier the same day).
- Devised several series of "Morning Performance", weekday programs using only BBC archive material and specially recorded music. One such was "Talk of the Devil" and featured a variety of musical interpretations of the Satanic theme, including a specially commissioned string quartet composer Andrew Toovey to reflect a 21st century take on the subject.

**BBC RESEARCHER/BROADCAST ASSISTANT**

1999-2002

In my first job at the BBC, I worked on a fast-paced weekly magazine program devoted to coverage of news and issues arising in the music world. It was essential to produce a steady stream of fresh ideas for features, react quickly to breaking news, and create original program items with minimum turnaround.

## Selected accomplishments:

- Co-produced the nationally acclaimed "New China" season, which involved intensive international research and several trips to China to obtain realistic and accurate recordings.
- Secured the participation of high profile guests, such as the reclusive, late composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, who agreed to talk about a short film he was involved with as part of a film festival at London’s Barbican Centre.
- Instigated feature on the closure of South Africa's National Symphony Orchestra. This involved finding and fixing five interviewees of differing opinions, including the South African Minister of Culture, all within 24 hours and down the line from South Africa.
- Worked on launch of "lebrecht.live", Radio 3’s interactive, cultural forum chaired by the combative arts commentator, Norman Lebrecht. As well as undertaking research for this series, I worked in the studio, whilst the program was on-air, fielding calls.

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

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- Sue Samuelson Award for Foodways Scholarship** 2016  
 Awarded by the Foodways Section of the American Folklore Society for paper entitled “The Way of the Croissant” in which I explored how various folkloristic understandings of the term “tradition” could be applied to the eponymous French pastry item.
- Folklore Fellowship and University Fellowship** 2014-2019 (projected)  
 Folklore PhD Program, Department of English, Ohio State University
- National Interest Waiver Green Card** 2013  
 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
 Awarded this rare designation and high honor due to "exceptional ability" as a folklorist and radio producer, and production of a body of work in the realm of cultural sustainability that was deemed to be "in the national interest".
- Sally Kress Tompkins Fellowship** 2012  
 Society of Architectural Historians and Historic American Buildings Survey  
 Awarded prestigious fellowship to research and document the architecture, and historical and current use, of a range of buildings that played a key role in the development of the music industry in Nashville, TN (see section on publications).
- Ambassador's Award** 2012  
 Vernacular Architecture Forum
- John D. Minton Award for Outstanding Contributions to Western Kentucky University** 2012  
 Western Kentucky University
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award** 2012  
 Potter College of Arts and Letters, Western Kentucky University
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award** 2012  
 Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology, Western Kentucky University
- Alexander Onassis Bursary** 2002  
 BBC World Service  
 This award funded a research field trip to the USA to explore the oral tradition of local music-making in the southern Appalachians.
- Grace Wylie Prize for Thesis** 1999  
 Trinity College of Music, London  
 Awarded for an examination of the impact and influence of environmental and ecological concerns on Sir Harrison Birtwistle's opera "Gawain", as well as on the broader cultural scene during the late 20th century.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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- 2016 American Folklore Society conference: Presentation on “Performance, Poetics, and *Pâtisserie*”.
- 2016 Virginia Tech: Public Presentation on "The Sound of Things: Radio and the Public Humanities”.
- 2015 American Folklore Society conference: Presentation on “The Way of the Croissant”.
- 2014 American Folklore Society conference: Presentation on “Folkloristic Radio”.
- 2013 American Folklore Society conference: Presentation on "*Musical Migrants* – a BBC radio project”.
- 2012 American Folklore Society conference: Presented paper entitled “Combatting Cultural Strip-mining in Eastern Kentucky” based extensive ethnographic research into the life and music of banjo player George Gibson.
- 2012 American Folklore Society conference: Served on panel exploring "Folklorists' Engagement in the Designation of Traditional Cultural Properties”.
- 2012 Vernacular Architecture Forum: Co-presented paper on the Traditional Cultural Properties designation within National Register of Historic Places.
- 2012 WKU Collins-Bramham Public Folklore Workshop: Participant in panel on “Folklore and Radio Production”.
- 2012 Folklorists in the South Retreat: Presentation on “Folklore and Radio Production”; participant in panel on “Media Arts”.

## SELECTED MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

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<b>Columbus Folklorists' Circle</b> - Founder, Organizer and Administrator	2015 – Present
The Columbus Folklorists' Circle is an informal group of local folklorists and the “folklore friendly”. The group meets regularly to consider recent trends in folklore scholarship, share insights regarding issues that can arise in the practice of folklore-related work, and enjoy and discuss a range of folkloric performances.	
<b>OSU Disability Studies Graduate Students Association Group</b> - Member	2015 – Present
<b>Harlot Online Journal</b> - Peer Reviewer	2015 – Present
<b>OSU Folklore Students Association</b> - Member	2014 – Present
President	2016 – 2017
<b>OSU Music and Sound Studies Working Group</b> - Member	2014 – Present
This is a group of faculty and students interested in the cultural study of music, sound, and listening.	
<b>Nevada Preservation Foundation</b> - Chair of Advisory Board	2013 – 2014
Newly-established non-profit dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the Nevada's mid-century built landscape through education, advocacy, and membership.	
<b>Preserve Nevada</b> - Board Member	2013 – 2014
Statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Nevada's cultural, historical, and archeological heritage.	
<b>Vernacular Architecture Forum</b> - Member	2012 – Present
<b>Western States Folklore Society</b> - Member	2011 – Present
<b>American Folklore Society</b> - Life Member	2010 – Present
Movement and Dance Section Member	2017 – Present
Foodways Section Member	2015 – Present
Historic Preservation Working Group Member	2012 – 2015
Public Programs Section Member	2010 – 2014