

Introduction to the History of Celtic and Old Irish
Ústav srovnávací jazykovědy FF UK
letní semestr roku 2013-14

Time: Tuesday 10:50 a.m.-12:25 p.m.
Instructor: Dr. Ronald I. Kim
Office hours: Monday 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
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Description

This course will introduce the historical grammar of the older Celtic languages, with a focus on Old Irish. We will begin with a look at the ancient Continental Celtic languages, then examine in turn the phonology, morphology, and syntax of Old Irish and their development from Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Celtic. In addition to the major reference works, we will also read some of the classic scholarly articles of the past two generations, and become familiar with the main research tools of Celtic and Old Irish historical linguistics.

Requirements

Class attendance and preparation are of course required. In addition, you are to select a topic with my approval and write a research paper of approximately 5-7 pages, evaluating the scholarly literature and describing the current state of knowledge on the problem.

Texts and references

There is no textbook for this course, but we will be making frequent reference to the following works.

- Ball, Martin J. and Nicole Müller. 2009. *The Celtic Languages*. 2nd ed. London/New York: Routledge.
- Cowgill, Warren. 2006. *The Collected Writings of Warren Cowgill*. Edited with an Introduction by Jared Klein, with contributions by other former colleagues and students. Ann Arbor/New York: Beech Stave.
- Karl, Raimund and David Stifter, eds. 2007. *The Celtic World. Critical Concepts in Historical Studies*. Volume IV: Celtic Linguistics. London/New York: Routledge.
- McCone, Kim. 1991. *The Indo-European Origins of the Old Irish Nasal Presents, Subjunctives and Futures*. (Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft, Band 66.) Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft der Universität Innsbruck.
- McCone, Kim. 1994. An tSean-Ghaeilge agus a Réamhstair. In *Stair na Gaeilge in ómós do Phádraig Ó Fiannachta*, ed. by Kim McCone, Damian McManus, Cathal Ó Háinle, Nicholas Williams and Liam Breatnach. Maynooth: Department of Old Irish, National University of Ireland, 61-219. [Italian version: *L'irlandese antico e la sua preistoria*. Edizione italiana e traduzione dal gaelico a cura di Elisa Roma. Alessandria: Edizioni dell'Orso, 2005.]
- McCone, Kim. 1996. *Towards a Relative Chronology of Ancient and Medieval Celtic Sound Change*. (Maynooth Studies in Celtic Linguistics 1.) Maynooth: Department of Old Irish, St. Patrick's College.
- McCone, Kim. 1997. *The Early Irish Verb*. Second edition, revised with index. Maynooth: An Sagart.
- Watkins, Calvert. 1962. *Indo-European Origins of the Celtic Verb. I: The Sigmatic Aorist*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Major reference works for Old Irish and Celtic historical linguistics including the following, listed under their frequent abbreviations:

Celtic

- CCCG: Lewis, Henry and Holger Pedersen. 1961. *A Concise Comparative Celtic Grammar*. Reprinted with corrections and a supplement. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. (3. edition, 1974.)
- VKG: Pedersen, Holger. 1909-13. *Vergleichende Grammatik der keltischen Sprachen*. I. Band: *Einleitung und Lautlehre* (1909). II. Band: *Bedeutungslehre (Wortlehre)* (1913). Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht. (Reprinted 1976.)
- Schumacher, Stefan. 2004. *Die keltischen Primärverben: ein vergleichendes, etymologisches und morphologisches Lexikon*. Unter Mitarbeit von Britta Schulze-Thulin und Caroline aan de Wiel. (Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft, Band 110.) Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachen und Literaturen der Universität Innsbruck.

Old Irish

- GOI: Thurneysen, Rudolf. 1946. *A Grammar of Old Irish*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.
- Ziegler, Sabine. 1994. *Die Sprache der altirischen Ogam-Inschriften*. (Historische Sprachforschung, Ergänzungsheft 36.) Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht.
- Thes.: Stokes, Whitley and John Strachan, eds. 1901-3. *Thesaurus Palaeohibernicus. A Collection of Old-Irish Glosses, Scholia, Prose, and Verse. Volume I: Biblical Glosses and Scholia. Volume II: Non-Biblical Glosses and Scholia, Old-Irish Prose, Names of Persons and Places, Inscriptions, Verse, Indexes*. Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press. (Reprinted with a supplement by Whitley Stokes. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1975.)
- DIL: *Dictionary of the Irish Language: Based Mainly on Old and Middle Irish Materials*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1913-76. 4 vols.
- LÉIA: Vendryes, Joseph. 1959-. *Lexique étymologique de l'irlandais ancien*. Par les soins de E. Bachellery et P.-Y. Lambert. Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and CNRS, Paris.

British

- LHEB: Jackson, Kenneth. 1953. *Language and History in Early Britain: A Chronological Survey of the Brittonic Languages, First to Twelfth Century A.D.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- BCHP: Schrijver, Peter. 1995. *Studies in British Celtic Historical Phonology*. (Leiden Studies in Indo-European 5.) Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi.

Outline and readings

Readings preceded by an asterisk * are to be completed by the following week's class. Other readings are optional, but highly recommended.

18.02 Introduction: the Celtic languages within Indo-European; Italo-Celtic Continental Celtic (1): Celtiberian

- Sims-Williams, Patrick. 1998. The Celtic languages. In *The Indo-European Languages*, ed. by Anna Giacalone Ramat and Paolo Ramat. London/New York: Routledge, 345-79.
- *Eska, Joseph F. 2009. The emergence of the Celtic languages. In Ball and Müller (eds.) 2009, 22-7.
- *Eska, Joseph F. and D. Ellis Evans. 2009. Continental Celtic. In Ball and Müller (eds.) 2009, 28-54.
- *Eska, Joseph F. 2004. Continental Celtic. In *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages*, ed. by Roger D. Woodard. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 857-880. (Reprinted in *The Ancient Languages of Europe*, ed. by Roger D. Woodard, 165-88.)
- *McCone 1996, chapter 2
- McCone, Kim. 1992. Relative Chronologie: Keltisch. In *Rekonstruktion und Relative Chronologie. Akten der VIII. Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft, Leiden, 31. August-4. September 1987*, ed. by Robert Beekes, Alexander Lubotsky, and Jos Weitenberg.

(Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft, Band 65.) Innsbruck: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft, 11-39.

*Eska, Joseph F. 1998. An introduction to the study of Hispano-Celtic. Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, 12 May 1998.

Wodtko, D. S. 2003. An outline of Celtiberian grammar.

25.02 Continental Celtic (2): Gaulish and Lepontic

*Eska and Ellis Evans 2009 (continued)

*Eska 2004 (continued)

*Eska, Joseph F. 1998. The linguistic position of Lepontic. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, February 14-16, 1998. Special Session: Indo-European Subgrouping and Internal Relations*, ed. by Benjamin K. Bergen, Madelaine C. Plauché, and Ashlee C. Bailey. Berkeley: Berkeley Linguistics Society, 2-11.

Eska, Joseph F. 2007. On basic configuration and movement within the Gaulish clause. In *Actes du Colloque International "Gaulois et celtique continental"*, éd. par Georges-Jean Pinault et Pierre-Yves Lambert. Geneva: Droz, 215-29.

Eska, Joseph F. 1998. *Tau Gallicum*. *Studia Celtica* 32, 115-27.

04.03 Insular Celtic; Irish and British; Ogam and pre-Old Irish Old Irish historical phonology (1): vowel changes

*McCone 1996, chapter 3

*McCone, Kim. 1996. Prehistoric, Old and Middle Irish. In *Progress in Medieval Irish Studies*, ed. by Kim McCone and Katharine Simms. Maynooth: Department of Old Irish, Saint Patrick's College, 7-53.

*Stifter, David. 2009. Early Irish. In Ball and Müller (eds.) 2009, 55-116, esp. 55-70.

Cowgill, Warren. 1980. The etymology of Irish *guidid* and the outcome of *g^wh in Celtic. In *Lautgeschichte und Etymologie: Akten der VI. Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft*, hrsg. von Manfred Mayrhofer. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 49-78. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 329ff.)

Schrijver, Peter. 1991. The development of Primitive Irish *aN before voiced stop. *Ériu* 42, 13-25.

11.03 Old Irish historical phonology (2): consonant changes

*McCone 1996, chapters 4-5

Cowgill, Warren. 1967. On the fate of *w in Old Irish. *Language* 43:1, 129-38. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 283ff.)

*Cowgill, Warren. 1969. A note on palatalization in Old Irish. In *Festschrift für Konstantin Reichardt*, hrsg. von Christian Gellinek. Bern/Munich: Francke, 30-7. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 293ff.)

*Greene, David. 1973. The growth of palatalization in Irish. *Transactions of the Philological Society* (1973), 127-36.

Griffith, Aaron. 2007. The effect of syncope with subsequent anaptyxis on consonant quality in Old Irish. *Ériu* 57, 35-47.

*Greene, David. 1976. The diphthongs of Old Irish. *Ériu* 27, 26-45.

Schrijver, Peter. 1997. On the nature and origin of word-initial *h-* in the Würzburg glosses. *Ériu* 48, 205-27.

18.03 Nominal morphology (1): vocalic stems

*McCone 2005, pp. 77-155

*Stifter 2009, pp. 70-6

Greene, David. 1974. Distinctive plural forms in Old and Middle Irish. *Ériu* 25, 190-9.

25.03 Nominal morphology (2): consonantal stems

*McCone 2005, pp. 77-155 (continued)

McCone, Kim. 1978. The dative singular of Old Irish consonant stems. *Ériu* 29, 26-38.

Stifter, David. 2011. Lack of syncope and other *nichtlautgesetzlich* vowel developments in OIr. consonant-stem nouns. Animacy rearing its head in morphology? In *Indogermanistik und Linguistik im Dialog. Akten der XIII. Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft vom 21. bis 27. September 2008 in Salzburg*, hrsg. von Thomas Krisch und Thomas Lindner unter redaktioneller Mitarbeit von Michael Crombach und Stefan Niederreiter. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 556-65.

McCone, Kim. 1994. Zum Ablaut der keltischen *r*-Stämme. In *In Honorem Holger Pedersen: Kolloquium der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft vom 25. bis 28. März 1993 in Kopenhagen*, ed. by Jens Elmegård Rasmussen. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 275-84.

Joseph, Lionel. 1990. Old Irish *cú*: a naïve reinterpretation. In *Celtic Language, Celtic Culture: A Festschrift for Eric P. Hamp*, ed. by A. T. E. Matonis and Daniel F. Melia. Van Nuys, CA: Ford and Bailie, 110-30.

01.04 Numerals, pronouns, prepositions

*McCone 2005, pp. 258-302

*Stifter 2009, pp. 76-84

*Greene, David. 1992. Celtic. In *Indo-European Numerals*, ed. by Jadranka Gvozdanović. (Trends in Linguistics, Studies and Monographs 57.) Berlin/New York: Mouton, 497-554.

Kim, Ronald I. 2008. The Celtic feminine numerals '3' and '4' revisited. *Keltische Forschungen* 3, 143-69; abstract 319-20.

Griffith, Aaron. 2008. The animacy hierarchy and the distribution of the notae augentes in Old Irish. *Ériu* 58, 55-75.

08.04 The verb (1): the verbal complex; absolute and conjunct

*McCone 1997, pp. 1-19

*Stifter 2009, pp. 84-104

*Eska, Joseph F. 1996. On syntax and phonology within the Early Irish verbal complex. *Diachronica* 13:2, 225-57.

Cowgill, Warren. 1987. The distribution of infixes and suffixed pronouns in Old Irish. *Cambridge Medieval Celtic Studies* 13, 1-5.

*Eska, Joseph F. 2009-10. Where have all the object pronouns gone? The growth of object agreement in earlier Celtic. *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie* 57, 25-47.

*Griffith, Aaron. 2010. A note on pronominal coordination in Old Irish. *Die Sprache* 48, 66-70.

*Cowgill, Warren. 1975. The origins of the Insular Celtic conjunct and absolute verbal endings. In *Flexion und Wortbildung: Akten der V. Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft, Regensburg, 9.-14. September 1975*, hrsg. von Helmut Rix. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 40-70. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 301ff.)

Cowgill, Warren. 1985. On the origin of the absolute and conjunct verbal inflexion of Old Irish. In *Grammatische Kategorien: Funktion und Geschichte*, hrsg. von Bernfried Schlerath und Veronica Rittner. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 109-18. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 391ff.)

McCone, Kim. 1985. The absolute and conjunct verbal inflexion in Old Irish. In *Grammatische Kategorien: Funktion und Geschichte*, hrsg. von Bernfried Schlerath und Veronica Rittner. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 261-70.

Schumacher, Stefan. 2007. Absolute and conjunct. In Karl and Stifter (eds.) 2007, 350-72.

- 15.04 The verb (2): tense, voice, and mood; stem formation
- *McCone, Kim. 1986. From Indo-European to Old Irish: conservation and innovation in the verbal system. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Celtic Studies*, ed. by D. Ellis Evans, J. G. Griffith, and E. M. Jope. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 222-66.
- McCone 1991, pp. 11-54, 55-113,
- *McCone 1997, pp. 21-88
- *McCone 2005,
- Watkins 1962, pp. 107-80
- Rix, Helmut. 1977. Das keltische Verbalsystem auf dem Hintergrund des indo-iranisch-griechischen Rekonstruktionsmodells. In *Indogermanisch und Keltisch: Kolloquium der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft am 16. und 17. Februar 1976 in Bonn*. Vorträge unter Mitwirkung von Rolf Ködderitzsch, hrsg. von Karl Horst Schmidt. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 132-58.
- *Cowgill, Warren. 1983. On the prehistory of Celtic passive and deponent inflection. *Ériu* 34, 73-111. (Reprinted in Cowgill 2006, 355ff.)
- 22.04 No class (Easter)
- 29.04 The verb (3): stem formation (continued); preverbs and compound verbs
- *McCone 1986 (continued)
- McCone 1991, pp. 137-82
- *McCone 1997, pp. 89-161
- *McCone 2005, pp. 155-239 (continued)
- 06.05 Historical syntax: from SOV to VSO; the verbal complex; Bergin's Law
Celtic in contact with non-Indo-European languages
- *Stifter 2009, pp. 104-7
- *Eska, Joseph F. 1994. Rethinking the evolution of Celtic constituent configuration. *MSS* 55, 7-39. (Reprinted in Karl and Stifter (eds.) 2007, 74-100.)
- Eska, Joseph F. 1994. On the crossroads of phonology and syntax: remarks on the origin of Vendryes' Restriction and related matters. *Studia Celtica* 28, 39-62.
- *Greene, David. 1977. Archaic Irish. In *Indogermanisch und Keltisch: Kolloquium der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft am 16. und 17. Februar 1976 in Bonn*. Vorträge unter Mitwirkung von Rolf Ködderitzsch, hrsg. von Karl Horst Schmidt. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 11-33.
- *Eska, Joseph F. 2010. Contact and the Celtic languages. In *The Handbook of Language Contact*, ed. by Raymond Hickey. Malden, Mass./Oxford/Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 538-49.
- 13.05 Later developments: Middle and Modern Irish
- *McCone 1997, pp. 163-241
- *Stifter 2009, pp. 110-3
- McCone, Kim. 1985. The Würzburg and Milan Glosses: our earliest sources of 'Middle Irish'. *Ériu* 36, 85-106.