

Editor's Note

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Dear Colleagues,

Nearly four years ago, *New Directions in Folklore* emerged from [a long hiatus](#) to reclaim its role as a stalwart, open access journal dedicated to publishing new and exciting—yet largely underrepresented—folkloristic scholarship. From a professional and editorial standpoint, I couldn't be more proud of the positive steps that *New Directions in Folklore* has taken since work began in 2009 to revive the journal. With your help and support, our humble publication has continued to flourish; generating thousands of article, note, and book review downloads from across the globe. Article submissions and journal readership are now at all-time highs. We have assembled an editorial board and staff comprised of talented and intrepid volunteers. Moreover, the American Folklore Society's corresponding "New Directions in Folklore" section, which supports the journal, boasts a growing and passionate membership. To be sure, *New Directions in Folklore* remains a relatively small operation, but our dedication to meaningfully expanding scholarly discourse within contemporary folkloristics extends well beyond our size and scope. We are tremendously grateful to our fellow folklore (and allied) scholars; contributing authors and reviewers; interested students and lay readers; and the institutional support of the [American Folklore Society](#), [Indiana University Libraries](#), and [IUScholarworks](#) for making this journal not only possible, but perpetually relevant.

It has been an amazing and fulfilling run thus far. But in keeping with the journal's determination to support fresh insights and approaches, this issue will mark my last as editor of *New Directions in Folklore*. I am pleased to announce that David J. Puglia, the journal's current associate editor and the convener of the New Directions in Folklore AFS section, will be assuming the editorship beginning fall 2014. I am supremely confident in David's abilities and dedication to making NDIF a continuing success. I hope that you will join me in [welcoming David into his new role](#).

Our opening issue for the 2014 year features a remarkable essay by Janet L. Langlois. “They all see dead people—but we (do)n’t want to tell you about it’: On Legend Gathering in Real and Cyberspace” explores how supernatural narratives are conceived by both patients and healthcare professionals in face-to-face and online settings. Relying on years of ethnographic fieldwork, Langlois artfully analyzes the persistent themes found in illness, death, and bereavement legends shared by lay and expert tradition bearers to shed new light on how stress and anxiety breed folklore.

Thank you again for your support for *New Directions in Folklore*. We hope that you enjoy this issue and the ones to come! And if you haven’t done so already, please consider joining the [**New Directions in Folklore AFS section**](#) (just \$5, as always!) to further enhance the journal’s production and to help promote the sponsorship of scholarly events at annual meetings of the American Folklore Society.

Trevor J. Blank
Editor, *New Directions in Folklore*