

• *Editor's Note* •

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Dear Colleagues,

*New Directions in Folklore* began in 1997, seeking to push disciplinary boundaries and bring new folklore topics into the mainstream. After the publication of some classic and oft-cited articles, the journal went on hiatus in 2003. Revived by Trevor J. Blank in 2010, he wrote “Despite the vandalism of time and ongoing evolution of the folklore discipline, the purview of *New Directions in Folklore* remains as timely as ever.” *New Directions'* mission is indeed a timeless one. Digital culture, new media, and the Internet have been the journal's mainstays, although by no means its exclusive preoccupation. Those concerns continue to find space in our new issues, and, based on the recent proliferation of journal articles, special issues, books, and conference presentations on the intersection of these topics and folklore, *New Directions in Folklore* can take pride in being one of its earliest advocates. *New Directions in Folklore* will continue to be a stalwart advocate of inquiry concerning folklore's intersection with digital culture, new media, and the Internet, while simultaneously seeking out new, marginalized, and controversial areas of exploration and research. You will find both in this very issue, sometimes within the purview of a single article.

As dedicated as *New Directions in Folklore* is to pushing the boundaries of folklore scholarship, we are equally dedicated to our open-access mission, making all issues immediately available to the discipline and the general public. We receive thousands of downloads per year from folklorists, interdisciplinary scholars, and interested lay readers. Submissions, readership, and membership are at an all time high. We are proud of our early and continued commitment to a digital platform and an open-access model.

A peer-reviewed, open-access journal like *New Directions in Folklore* does not exist without many people to be thanked. Foremost, thank you to past editor Trevor J. Blank for ensuring a smooth transition. Thank you to IUScholarWorks, Jennifer Laherty, and Shayna Pekala for the exceptional platform and the generous technical assistance. Thank you to the hardworking members of the editorial board for their toil with the peer review process. Thank you to all contributors, past, present, and future. You are the heart of our journal. And thank you to the section members, the NewFolk, long-standing and newly arrived. You are our soul. If you would like to be part of *New Directions in Folklore*, please do not hesitate to check the submission guidelines page. We accept essays, notes, and book reviews. To see us in person, stop by the New Directions in Folklore section meeting at the American Folklore Society's annual meeting and consider joining the section for just \$5. The money sustains our journal operations and funds The Bill Ellis Prize. Onward and upward, as we continue to explore uncharted territory, challenge disciplinary imperatives, and pursue the many entanglements of folklore in the modern world.

**David J. Puglia**

Editor, *New Directions in Folklore*