

Lukas Kahl IE Workshop September 30, 2016

Boylston Hall Room 105, 5:00 pm

Abstract:

The Insular Celtic Equative(s)

Both Brythonic (Welsh, Breton, Cornish) and Goidelic (Old Irish and its descendants) once had a productive class of de-adjectival and denominal adjectives called “equatives” in the standard descriptions. Traditionally considered part of the adjective-gradation paradigm, they stand out as highly exotic in both an areal and a genetic context. But although the Brythonic and Goidelic “equative” formations overlap considerably in meaning, they do not appear to be formally related and have proven reticent to historical analysis overall. This presents an interesting conundrum with respect to their value as an Insular Celtic isogloss. My talk will explore this issue and its relevance to the internal structure of the Celtic language family.