



Amsterdam  
University  
Press

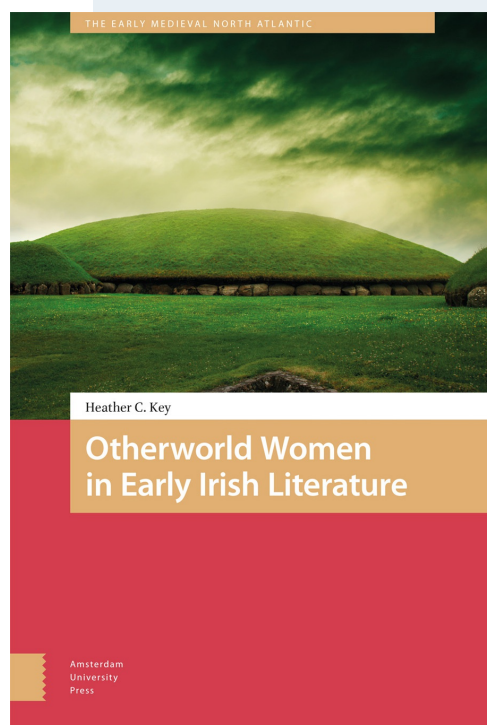
Heather Key

## Otherworld Women in Early Irish Literature

In early Ireland, there were many names for what scholars have dubbed the 'Otherworld': the Plain of Delights, the Land of Youth, the Land of Promise, and more. Many of the myths and legends from this period involve an encounter between a hero and a woman from this Otherworld, with sufficient frequency to form a distinct theme within the literature. This book examines the particularities and consequences of these otherworldly encounters, attending in particular to the question of gender and the social dynamics at work. Five stories purportedly from the lost book *Cín Dromma Snechta* receive detailed analysis, alongside material from other sources, in order to reconstruct the mindset of the early Irish who told these stories about the Otherworld and their views about women in general.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Heather C. Key is a scholar of early medieval Ireland and its literature. Her writings have appeared in *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*, *Oenach*, and *Cosmos*.



The Early Medieval North Atlantic  
March 2023  
Hardback  
156.0 x 234.0 mm  
€107.00 / £91.00 / \$122.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 827 0  
e-ISBN 978 90 485 5598 7  
BISAC HIS018000 / HIS037010 / HIS054000  
BIC HBLC / HRL

**KEYWORDS**  
Early Ireland, Women, the Otherworld, Supernatural

To pre-order this book visit [www.aup.nl](http://www.aup.nl)

Distribution ROW via Wiley | Orders currently via email, for trade customers: [trade@wiley.com](mailto:trade@wiley.com) For individuals: [amsterdam.csd@wiley.com](mailto:amsterdam.csd@wiley.com)  
Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | [www.btpubservices.com](http://www.btpubservices.com)

Amsterdam University Press  
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89  
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50  
[info@aup.nl](mailto:info@aup.nl)  
[marketing@aup.nl](mailto:marketing@aup.nl)

[www.aup.nl](http://www.aup.nl)  
[facebook.com/AUPAcademic](https://facebook.com/AUPAcademic)  
[twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress](https://twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress)



Amsterdam  
University  
Press

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Abbreviations

Preface

Part I: Introduction

Chapter One: Women in Early Ireland

Chapter Two: The “Otherworld” of Early Ireland

Part II: The Texts

Chapter Three: *Echtrae Chonnlai* and *Immram Brain*

Chapter Four: *Serlige Con Culainn*

Chapter Five: The Eponymous Goddesses of *Lebor Gabála Éirenn*

Chapter Six: *Echtrae Nerai*

Chapter Seven: A Fair Shake: Otherworld Men as Intermediaries

Conclusion

Appendix: An Edition of *Lebor Gabála Éirenn*’s Summaries of the Eponymous Goddess Sections Purportedly from the *Cín Dromma Snechtai*

Bibliography

To pre-order this book visit [www.aup.nl](http://www.aup.nl)

Distribution ROW via Wiley | Orders currently via email, for trade customers: [trade@wiley.com](mailto:trade@wiley.com) For individuals: [amsterdam.csd@wiley.com](mailto:amsterdam.csd@wiley.com)  
Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | [www.btpubservices.com](http://www.btpubservices.com)

Amsterdam University Press  
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89  
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50  
[info@aup.nl](mailto:info@aup.nl)  
[marketing@aup.nl](mailto:marketing@aup.nl)

[www.aup.nl](http://www.aup.nl)  
[facebook.com/AUPAcademic](https://facebook.com/AUPAcademic)  
[twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress](https://twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress)