

# RUTH FINNEGAN

Author • Poet • Screenwriter • Anthropologist

## Meet Ruth Finnegan



Ruth Finnegan was born on the last day of 1933 in Derry, Northern Ireland, the eldest child of Dr Thomas Finnegan, Professor of Classics and President of Magee College (later, under his leadership Magee University College ) and Agnes Finnegan née Campbell, teacher and writer. Largely brought up in Derry, she spent most of the war years in Donegal, 13 months of it in a small cottage in a 'gentle' (faerie) wood, an experience vividly described in her mother's entrancing 'Reaching for the Fruit' and her own semi-autobiographical novel, *Black Inked Pearl*.

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## *Black Inked Pearl News*

NEW YORK, NY, USA, November 24, 2017 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Since its publication in 2015 RUTH Finnegan's fantastic novel *Black Inked Pearl* has won five international prizes and its SCREENPLAY version is top GENRE WINNER in the 2017 Capital Fund Screenplay Contest.

Initially released over two years ago, this latest traction and success is set to propel Ruth's career as an author. A great response has been met by her fans too.

Ruth has created a GoFundMe page to support her current projects, donations have started to pour in over the last few months.

<https://www.gofundme.com/black-ink-pearl-film-production/>

Black Ink Pearl stupendous movie - GoFundMe

Ruth Finnegan needs your help today! Black Ink Pearl stupendous movie - A wonderful prize winning inspirational story and now a prize winning screenplay - who will ...

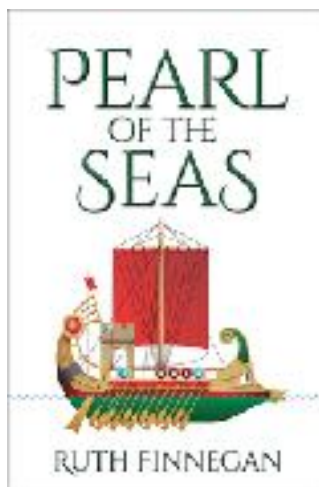
A stunning audio version, fantastic poetry collection and a colouring book are also soon to be released. A series of children's books by this stunningly prolific and versatile author will extend the story..

Her books have recently seen even more success, including: Ruth Finnegan's fairytale young adult novel *Pearl of the Seas* - WINNER of the Book Excellence Prize (Friendship Category) 2017. And is one of the top 25 Kirkus reviewed books for 2017,

Due to readers' votes Ruth is a FINALIST in the Authors Show 2017: 50 GREAT WRITERS YOU SHOULD BE READING .

**For more information, visit Ruth Finnegan's website at [www.RuthHFinnegan.com](http://www.RuthHFinnegan.com).**

## Selectd books by Ruth Finnegan



### Meet Ruth Finnegan (continued from page 1)

In order to avoid an upbringing tainted by Ulster religious divisions, on their return to Derry in 1945 her parents sent her to a Quaker school in York (the Mount) where the experience of memorising and repeating daily 'texts' from the Bible and other literature, shaped much of her future writing, most directly in her monograph *Why do we quote?* and her novel *Black Inked Pearl*.



This was followed by four joyous years (1952-56) at Somerville College Oxford, again reflected in the novel, in the delightful study of classics (a degree that then combined literature, history and philosophy), ending, to her amazement, with one of the best classics firsts of her year. After two years teaching (and repaying her student debt) at the leading public school Malvern Girls College (now Malvern St James) she decided to return to the intellectual life but this time, much though she would always love the Greek and Roman cultures, to follow her instinct, honed partly by her anti-colonialist and broadly left-wing stance, to widen her study to include learning about other cultures .

She chose to focus on Africa, and completed first the postgraduate Oxford Diploma and B.Litt in Anthropology, then fieldwork (1960-61, 1963-4) on story telling among the Limba speakers of Northern Sierra Leone (her manuscript field notes are deposited in the archives of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London).

Immediately after her marriage in 1963 to David John Murray, grandson of Sir James Murray, the first editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, she accompanied her husband to the University College of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland in the then Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and from there to the more democratic if conflict-ridden setting of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1965-69) where their three daughters were born. From there she and her husband were recruited as founding members of the academic staff of the Open University where, apart from three years at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and Ruthm 1989, in the wonderful setting of the University of Texas at Austin[ ] they, very productively, spent the rest of their careers. They are now both Emeritus Professors and still research active. They have five grandchildren (one in New Zealand) and live, write and talk in Old Bletchley in Buckinghamshire, round the corner from the famous Bletchley Park.

## Appointments

### *Academic positions*

1963-64 Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

1965-69 Lecturer and (1967) Senior Lecturer in Sociology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

1969-72 Lecturer in Sociology, Open University.

1972-75, 1978-99 Senior Lecturer, Reader (1982), Professor (1988) in Comparative Social Institutions, Open University.

1975-78 Reader in Sociology, and (1976) Head of Sociology Discipline, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

1989 Visiting Professor in Anthropology, University of Texas at Austin.

1999- Visiting Research Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Open University.

2002- Emeritus Professor, Open University.



### *Other Appointments*

1978-1986 Member, Social Science Research Council (later Economic and Social Research Council)

Standing Committees:

Social Anthropology 1978-82

Social Affairs 1982-6

Joint Vice-Chairman Social Affairs 1985-6

1979-1993 Joint general editor (with Peter Burke) of monograph series 'Cambridge Studies in Oral and Literate Culture'

1987-9 Hon. Editor, Man (Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute)

1992 Member, Anthropology panel, UK Government (HEFCE) Research Assessment

Exercise

1994-97 Series editor, 'Studying family and community history: 19th and 20th centuries', 4 volumes, Cambridge University Press in association with the Open University.

1996-2001 Joint editor of CD-ROM series Project reports in family and community history, The Open University.

1998-2002 Joint founding editor of interdisciplinary journal Family & Community History .



1998-2011 Trustee, Mass-Observation Archive (Royal Anthropological Institute appointee)  
 1999-2007 Member (Crown appointee), Governing Body, School of Oriental and African Studies,  
 University of London ; 2003-6 Vice-Chair  
 2012- Founder and Senior Editor, Callender Press.  
 2014- Member International Research Council on Humanities and Social Sciences Studies on Africa  
 (IRCHSSA)

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## Publicatons

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### *Academic*

**Survey of the Limba people of northern Sierra Leone**, Overseas Research Publication No.8, HMSO, 1965, 151pp

**Limba Stories and Story-telling**, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1967, 352pp. Reprinted, Greenwood Press, Connecticut, 1981, 2nd (illustrated) edition, 2012.

**Oral Literature in Africa**, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1970, 558pp. Reprinted (paperback) OUP, Nairobi, 1976. Japanese translation (chapter 1) 1971; 2nd (illustrated) edition, Open Book Publications Cambridge (World Oral Literature monograph series), 2011

**Modes of Thought. Essays on thinking in Western and non-Western Societies** (ed. with Robin Horton), Faber and Faber, London, 1973. 399pp.

**Oral poetry: Its Nature, Significance and Social Context**, Cambridge University Press, 1977, illustrated, 299pp. Paperback, CUP, 1980. 2nd edition, Indiana University Press 1992. 3rd edition 2012..

**The Penguin book of Oral Poetry** (ed.), Allen Lane, 1978, 548pp, also published as A World treasury of oral poetry, Indiana University Press, 1978.

Penguin paperback, 1982, ., new edition in press, 2013.

**Essays on Pacific Literature** (ed. with Raymond Pillai). Oral Tradition Series, 2, Fiji Museum, Suva, 1978, 122pp, 2nd edition 2012..

**Conceptions of Inquiry** (ed. with Stuart Brown and John Fauvel), Methuen, 1981, 334pp.

**New Approaches to Economic Life** (ed. with Bryan Roberts and Duncan Gallie), Manchester University Press, 1985, 566pp., new edition in press, 2013

**Information Technology: Social**





**Issues** (ed. with G.Salaman and K.Thompson), Hodder and Stoughton, 1987, 314pp.

**Literacy and Orality: Studies in the Technology of Communication**, Blackwell, 1988, 201pp (also published by Allen and Unwin, Sydney, Australia). Italian translation: *La Fine di Gutenberg: Studi sulla tecnologia della comunicazione*, Sansoni, Firenze, 1990; 2nd edition, 2012, ., new edition in press, 2013.

**The Hidden Musicians: Music-making in an English Town**, Cambridge University Press, 1989, 378pp. 2nd edition, Wesleyan University Press (Music/Culture series), 2007; Japanese translation, Hosei University Press, 2011, kindle edition ., in press, 2013.

**Oral Traditions and the Verbal Arts: A Guide to Research Practices**, Association of Social Anthropologists 'Research methods in social anthropology' series, Routledge 1992, 284pp.

**From Family Tree to Family History** (ed. with Michael Drake), Cambridge University Press/Open University, 1994, 196pp.

Sources and methods for family and community historians: a handbook (ed. with Michael Drake), Cambridge University Press/Open University, 1994, 2nd ed. 1997, 322pp.

**South Pacific Oral Traditions** (ed. with Margaret Orbell), Indiana University Press, 1995, 259pp., ., new edition in press, 2013

Tales of the City: A Study of Narrative and Urban Life. Cambridge University Press, 1998, 212pp.

**Communicating: The Multiple Modes of Human Interconnection**, Routledge, 2002, 336pp., 44 b & w illustrations (short listed British Association for Applied Linguistics book prize 2003, long listed British Academy book prize 2003). Italian translation *Comunicare: le molteplici modalità dell'interconnessione umana*, Novara: De Agostini, 2009, 2nd enlarged edition in press, Routledge 2013.

(ed.) *Participating in the knowledge society: researchers beyond the university walls*, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2005, 292pp. ISBN 978-1-4039-3946-3

**The Oral and Beyond: Doing Things with Words in Africa**, James Currey, Oxford / University of Chicago Press / University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, Scottsville South Africa, 2007, 358pp (honourable mention, African Studies Association Herskovits award 2008).

**Why Do We Quote? The Culture and History of Quotation**, Open Book Publishers, Cambridge, 2011, 327pp, ISBN 978-1-906924-33-1 (paperback ed), 978-1-906924-34-8 (hardback), 978-1-906924-35-5 (digital ed. – pdf)

**Carried by a mystic Wind**: B W Andrzejewski on the Somali passion for poetry and language, joint ed. with Martin Orwin and Graham Furniss, special issue, *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 23, 1 (June) 2011, and, as book, Callender Press, 2013.



**Oral Literature in Africa**, 2nd (illustrated and expanded) edition, World Oral literature series, Open Book, 2012.

Studying Oral Texts, A Handbook for Researchers, Callender Press, 2013.

**Music and Creation**, Milton Keynes: Callender Press, 2012.

**Peace writing**: a selection of texts, Callender Press, 2013. (Ed)

**Where is Language?** Bloomsbury, 2015.

Entrancement, The Consciousness of Dreaming, Music and The World, University of Wales Press (Ed)

Time for the World to Learn from Africa, Balestier Press, 2017.

### *Callender Press editions of classical texts in English translation include*

Cato's Distichs, the Oldest Latin primer (ed. with introductory essays), 2012.

Catullus Carmina, 2012.

Xenophon on Horsemanship, 2012.

Alexander the Great, 2012.

Varro on Roman farming, 2012.

Greek Lexicon for the New Testament, 2013.

### *Creative Writing*

As Catherine Farrar

The Little Angel and the Three Wisdoms, 2012,

SBPRA

**The Wild Thorn Rose**, 2012, Callender Press

**Three Ways of Loving**, 2012, Callender Press

Lil the Rocker, the Angel's Little Sister, 2012, Callender Press

**The Dragon's Tale**, 2012, Callender Press

As Ruth Finnegan

**Black Inked Pearl. A Girl's Quest** - a novel, 2015, Garn Press (multi-award)

**Pearl of the Seas, a Fairytale Prequel to Black Inked Pearl**, with illustrations by Rachel Backshall, Balestier and Callender Press, 2017/18 (prize-winning)

**The Helix Pearl**, The take if the garrulous wine dark sea, forthcoming 2018.

