

PROF. DR. LORNA GIBB

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

**RARE TONGUES: THE SECRET STORIES OF
HIDDEN LANGUAGES**

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Languages and cultures are becoming increasingly homogenous, with the resulting loss of a rich linguistic tapestry reflecting unique perspectives and ways of life. In this talk, I discuss the stories of the world's rare and vanishing languages, revealing how each is a living testament to human resilience, adaptability, and the perennial quest for identity.

Taking the audience on a captivating journey of discovery, I explore the histories of languages under threat or already extinct as well as those in resurgence, shedding light on their origins, development, and distinctive voices. Together, we travel the globe—from Australia and Finland to India, the Canary Islands, Namibia, Scotland, and Paraguay—showing how these languages are not mere words and syntax but keepers of diverse worldviews, sites of ethnic conflict, and a means for finding surprising commonalities. We explore the basics of how various language systems work—with vowels and consonants, whistles and clicks, tonal inflections, or hand signs—and how this kaleidoscope of self-expression carries vital information about our planet, indigenous cultures and tradition, and the history and evolution of humankind.

This talk is for anyone concerned about the preservation of endangered languages and offers a disarmingly personal meditation on why the world's linguistic heritage is so fundamental to our shared experience—and why its loss should worry us all.