

# 'A bastard Gaelic man': reconsidering the highland roots of Adam Ferguson.

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# 'A Bastard Gaelic Man': Reconsidering Roots of Adam Ferguson

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## Abstract

This thesis attacks the neglected and unresolved historiographical problem of Adam Ferguson's *Essay on the History of Civil Society*, to his early life experience. During his childhood, his Scottish Gaelic background first came to the fore. A knowledge of Gaelic marked Ferguson as a 'Highlander'. Michael Kugler's 1994 study examined how Ferguson articulated the values of Highland society. My investigation takes a novel approach by considering the local locale, language and vestigial shame-honour culture. These were important factors in Ferguson's life. During these phases, Ferguson became conversant in the Gaelic language.

