



Second Swiss Workshop on Sociolinguistics, Language Contacts and Historical Linguistics in the Ancient World

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What is it about?

The Swiss Workshop on Sociolinguistics, Language Contacts and Historical Linguistics in the Ancient World, now in its second edition, aims at exploring questions of sociolinguistics, language contacts and historical linguistics in antiquity and prehistory. The workshop is open to scholars based both inside and outside Switzerland, and wants to be a venue to learn about current research, to exchange ideas, and hopefully to develop future collaborations and synergies.

When and Where?

13th–14th February 2025 - University of Basel

The Organizers

Dr. Marwan Kilani (University of Basel) – contact linguistics in Ancient Egypt and the Levant

Prof. Robin Meyer (University of Lausanne) – historical linguistics, contact linguistics and diachronic syntax in the ancient and medieval Mediterranean and the Caucasus

Dr. Neige Rochant (University of Lausanne) – language description, historical linguistics and typology, esp. of Atlantic and Nakh-Daghestanian languages

Invited Speakers

Dr. Martine Robeets (MPI Jena) – Transeurasian languages, language typology, contact and areal linguistics

Dr. Ilya Yakubovich (Philipps-Universität Marburg) – language contact in early history, Indo-European languages and Hurro-Urartian

Topics of the workshop

The workshop will combine sessions for the presentation of selected papers with open table discussions. We organizers are particularly interested in:

- Language contacts, areal phenomena, and sociolinguistics in the pre-modern historic contexts;

- Interdisciplinary approaches involving other evidence (archaeology, genetics, etc.);
- New methods to approach and analyse the data (e.g. computational methods);
- Theoretical and methodological questions;
- Case studies and general discussions about the potential role of linguistics in the study of the socio-historical realities of ancient societies.

Contributions on any topic related to historical linguistics in the ancient world are also welcome.

How to participate

The participation to the workshop is free of charge.

If you consider submitting a paper, we encourage you to introduce your work and your areas of interest. As for the presentations, contributions may focus on specific research topics or projects (completed or ongoing). cursory introductions to current research interests and new ideas are also appreciated.

We also welcome guests who want to attend without presenting a paper. In this case, we would kindly ask you to let us know no later than the 15th of January, so that we can send you more details about the program and the location before the event.

Guidelines for submission

- We accept papers from established and early career researchers, as well as from PhD students, based in Switzerland and abroad.
- Papers will be **20 min long**, followed by Q&A.
- If you want to submit a paper, please send us a brief abstract (**300 words max**) as soon as possible, and no later than **15th of October 2024**.
- Abstracts should be sent to: marwan.kilani@unibas.ch
- Small supporting grants might be available for students – please add a note to your submission if you would be interested in this option.