

WORLD PHILOLOGY UNION FOUNDATIONAL MEETING

1–2 December 2021
The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
Drammensveien 78
Oslo


WELCOME to the foundational meeting of the World Philology Union (WPU)

The philological study of ancient and classical texts, traditionally the very core of the humanities, has during the last generation or so been either completely marginalized within university departments or, at some universities, even altogether banished from the academic portfolio. This development is partly due to general policies of higher education, but one can argue that it is primarily a consequence of trends within the humanities themselves.


While there is ample reason to lament this development, one must also take action to ensure the preservation and flourishing of the rich academic traditions within the different fields of philology. Without these fields, which historically and conceptually lie at the very core of the study of human culture, the very existence of the humanities as a meaningful academic activity is at risk. It should also be emphasised that any effort to sustain and develop studies and research on historical languages today must include all the major literary traditions of the world.

Philologists in all fields should unite to promote philology as a unified discipline on all levels of education and research. This is the purpose of the **World Philology Union (WPU)**.

The foundation of the World Philology Union (WPU) is organized by the Norwegian Institute of Philology (PHI). The foundational meeting in Oslo is hosted by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. More information: info@philology.org.



NORSK FILOLOGISK
INSTITUTT
Norwegian Institute of Philology



Det Norske
Videnskaps-Akademi
The Norwegian Academy
of Science and Letters

The founding members of the WPU recognize that philology is not only a method within other fields. The philological approach is indeed in itself an autonomous discipline – intrinsically comparative and genuinely global and macro-historical. The WPU will expressly encourage global membership and promote philological research projects involving international collaboration. It will support younger researchers and seek to procure funding for their projects in the form of scholarships. The union will support existing philological programs at universities and help establish new ones. An important task will be to help the traditionally distinct philological traditions explore each other's insights and perspectives, and encourage research projects that require the participation of more than one philological tradition. The overall goal of the WPU will be to help secure recognition of philology as one of the most central and useful disciplines in the humanities.

The MEETING in Oslo

The foundational meeting in Oslo will take place on Wednesday the 1st and Thursday the 2nd of December 2021, at the facilities of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Drammensveien 78, Oslo.

The formal establishment of the WPU will take place in a closed meeting on Thursday, while **the entire Wednesday is dedicated to talks and discussions on the state of the art of philology and different philological disciplines**. The full program can be found below.



Day 1

Wednesday 1 December 2021

Kavli Lecture Hall

Wednesday 10 am – 6 pm (CET) Philology: State of the Art

I. Introductions

09.30 Coffee and refreshments

10.00 OPENING ADDRESS

Hans Petter Graver – President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters

10.10 THE NEED FOR A WORLD PHILOLOGY UNION

Jens Braarvig – Professor emeritus, University of Oslo, Director of the Norwegian Institute of Philology

10.30 THE PLACE OF THE WORLD PHILOLOGY UNION AMONG OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ORGANISATIONS

Luiz Oosterbeek – President of The International Council for Philosophy and the Human Sciences, CIPSH-UNESCO

10.50 THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILOLOGY AS SEEN FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE UAI

Sam Lieu – President of the International Union of Academies, UAI

11.10 Coffee Break

II. The various philological disciplines

11.30 CUNEIFORM PHILOLOGIES: OBJECTS AND TEXTS IN A PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE AND THEIR ROLE AS CULTURAL HERITAGE

Walther Sallaberger – Professor of Assyriology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

12.00 CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY AS GREEK AND LATIN

Danuta Shanzer – Professor in Late Antique and Medieval Latin, University of Vienna

12.30 PHILOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Luisa Migliorati – Professor of Archaeology, Sapienza University of Rome

13.00 Lunch Break

14.00 THE PHILOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES IN JAPAN: AN OVERVIEW

Yasunori Kasai – Professor in Classics, Tokyo University

14.30 PHILOLOGY IN CHINESE CULTURE

Torbjörn Lodén – Professor emeritus of Chinese language and culture, Stockholm University

15.00 ARABIC AS A RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LANGUAGE

Beatrice Gründler – Professor of Arabic, Freie Universität Berlin

15.30 Coffee Break

15.45 HEBREW IN RELATION TO OTHER SEMITIC AND NON-SEMITIC JEWISH LANGUAGE VARIETIES

Lutz Edzard – Professor in Arabic and Semitic Linguistics, Erlangen University

16.15 SANSKRIT, SOURCE OF INDO-EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND CULTURAL LANGUAGE IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

Velizar Sadovski – Senior Researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

16.45 THE IMPORTANCE OF PHILOLOGY FOR THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DISCIPLINES

Thomas Kjeller Johansen – Professor of Philosophy, Oslo University

III. Philology as an autonomous discipline

17.30 DISCUSSION

19.00 **Dinner at the Academy**

Day 2
Thursday 2 December 2021
Styrerommet

Thursday 10 am – 2 pm (CET) Foundation of WPU

09.30 Coffee and refreshments

10.00 FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD PHILOLOGY UNION

1. Discussion of statutes

 a) Purpose and scope

 b) Organizational and electoral questions

2. Formal establishment of the WPU

3. Establishment of a preliminary board, interim president and general secretary

13.00 Farewell Lunch