



## PHILOLOGY AND THE NARRATIVE HERITAGE

### Biennial Conference of the *World Philology Union* 2024

The Second Biennial Conference of the World Philology Union will take place at Uppsala University from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Participants are invited to arrive on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the conference formally commencing the following day. The core sessions of the conference will be scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, but various other meetings and specialized sessions are planned for those arriving on the Tuesday.

This year's conference program focuses on how philologists engage with the narrative heritage of different cultures. It seeks to define and showcase the vital role that our discipline has played, and continues to play, in curating, analysing, interpreting, and teaching stories preserved from all regions of the world.

Most presentations will be followed by 5 to 10 minutes of discussion. Presenters are asked to include translations of textual evidence and explanations of technical vocabulary, ensuring that the content be accessible across different language traditions and philological methods.

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The **World Philology Union** (WPU) was founded on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2021 at the *Norwegian Academy of Arts and Sciences* in Oslo, as an international association which promotes the philological study of written cultural heritage from all regions of the world. It was established in coordination with the *Union académique internationale* (UAI), the umbrella organization of all academies of science worldwide, and the UNESCO-related *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines* (CIPSH). Read more about the WPU at [www.philology.org](http://www.philology.org) or apply for membership at [members@philology.org](mailto:members@philology.org).

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#### DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

9:00: Arrival and registration of participants.

9:30: Coffee.

#### Opening Session

10:00-10:15: Welcome by Prof. Ingela Nilsson, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Languages.

10:15-11:00: Introductions: (a) WPU President, Jens Braarvig, (b) President of the International Union of Academies (UAI), Klaus Herbers, (c) Vice President of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH), Luisa Migliorati (d) Representatives from Uppsala.

11:00-11:15: Coffee break

#### Theme 1: Old Norse Philology

11:15-11:45: Old Norse Philology, I: "Manuscripts and Critical editions" – Guðrun Nordal, Reykjavík.

- 11:45-12:00: Presentation of the manuscript exhibition of the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies – Guðrun Nordal, Reykjavík.
- 12:00-12:30: Old Norse Philology, II: “The study of Old Norse Narratives” – Philip Lavender, Gothenburg.
- 12.30-13:00: Old Norse Philology, III: “Reading the Roman classics in the medieval North: the European beginnings of Nordic literature in the 12th and 13th centuries” – Lars Boje Mortensen, Odense.
- 13:00-14:00: Lunch

## **Theme 2: Transmission of narratives and knowledge through translations**

- 14:00-14:30: “The Middle Eastern contribution to Western narrative culture” – Ulrich Marzolph, Göttingen.
- 14:30-15:00: “Barlaam and Josaphat: Indian tales in Arabic, Georgian and Byzantine Greek” – Amund Haave, Oslo.
- 15:00-15:30: “Oupnek’hat: The Upanishads in Persian and Latin” – Silje Einarsen, Oslo.
- 15.30-15.45: Coffee break
- 15:45-16:15: “Towards a critical edition of the Old Hittite law text: The role of philology” – Kazuhiko Yoshida, Kyoto.
- 16.15-16:45: “Multilingual philologies: Types of translations” – Gebhard Selz, Vienna.
- 16:45-17:15: “Oral and written transmission, questions of accuracy and the role of philology” – Philippe Swennen, Liège.
- 18:30: Conference dinner: Restaurang Duo, Väderkvarnsgatan 26, 753 29 Uppsala.

## **DAY 2: THURSDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

## **Theme 3: Narrative traditions between cultures**

- 9:00-9:45: “The travels of pre-Buddhist Chinese narratives: between and beyond texts, genres and languages” – Wolfgang Behr, Zürich.
- 9:45-10:30: “Central and South Asia: Narrative traditions from the Vedas and Avesta to the Great Epics and beyond” – Velizar Sadovski, Vienna.
- 10:30-11:00: “Narrative Transformation in Chinese Buddhist Texts: An Example from Huayan Verses and Their Interpretive Journeys” – Jianrong Shi (Mei-Ling Lin), Taipei.
- 11:00-11:20: “Narratives as legal precedents: The case of the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya” – Jens W. Borgland, Uppsala.
- 11:20–11:30: Coffee break
- 11:30-12:00: “Mediations in the meeting of Byzantine and Georgian textual cultures” – Christian Høgel, Lund.
- 12:00-12:20: “Exoticisms in European narratives and the multilingual philologies of Europe” – Marco Mancini, Rome.
- 12:20-12:40: “Leon of Pella and Alexander’s letters to Olympias in the *Alexander Romance*” – Benjamin Garstad, Alberta.
- 12:40-13:00 “Turfan Sogdian texts in Manichaean script: narratives and beyond” – Enrico Morano, Turin/Berlin.
- 13:00-14:00: Lunch

- 14:00-14:45: “Saving World Heritage through Philology and Hylistics: Sumerian and Akkadian Myths, the Most Ancient Myths of Mankind” – Annette Zgoll, Göttingen.
- 14.45-15:05: “Jewish narrative traditions: The ‘Rivers of Babylon’ theme” – Lutz Edzard, Erlangen.
- 15.05-15:25: “A close and slow reading of Sumerian and Akkadian versions of the Deluge Story and their impact” – Irving Finkel, London.
- 15:25-15:45: “Egypt: The Open Book – Ancient Egyptian mummy bandages with the Book of the Dead at the Uppsala University” – Nils Billing, Uppsala.
- 15:45-16:05: Coffee Break
- 16:05-16:35: “Metaphors and narratives in religious texts: theoretical and comparative aspects” – Volkhard Krech, Bochum.
- 16:35-17:15: Pre-Columbian Indigenous traditions in the Americas: images, writing and narratives: “Narrative oral literature in Meso-America” – Luisa Villani, Mexico City.
- 17:15-18:00: Indo-European and Ancient Near Eastern narratives, I: “The East Face of Helicon Revisited I: Etymology and Narrative” – Athanasios Vergados, Newcastle.
- 18:00-18:30: Indo-European narratives, II: South-Eastern Europe and Asia Minor: “Homer and the South Slavic Epics: comparative, contrastive and typological parallels between narratives” – Georg Danek, Vienna.

#### DAY 3: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### **Theme 4: Methodological and theoretical questions, I: Narratology and Digital Philology**

9:00-11:00 “Digital philology and narrative traditions” – Session organized by The Swedish Graduate School of Digital Philology (*DigPhil*), Eric Cullhed, Uppsala.

11:00-11:15: Coffee break

#### **Theme 5: Methodological and theoretical questions, II: Varia**

11:15-11:35: “Canonisation: Religious, political and ideological standardisation of stories, the role of philology” – Guillaume Ducoeur, Strasbourg.

11:35-11:55: “When Holy Men Get Things Wrong” – Danuta Shanzer, Vienna.

11:55-12:15: “Narrating and Populating the *Spatium Mythicum* in late 12<sup>th</sup> c. Poland” – Willum Westenholz, Poznań.

12:15-12:45 “Elias Lönnrot’s Five Kalevalas: Oral Tradition, Scribal Performance and Literary Production” – Mr. Frog, Helsinki.

12.45-14.00: Lunch

14:00-14:30: “From *Gung Ho* to *Guanxi* – When is a loanword not a loanword?” – Sam Lieu, Sydney.

## Theme 6: The responsibility of philology as a discipline to preserve narrative heritage

14.30-15.30: A presentation and discussion of the *Uppsala Declaration of the World Philology Union on the Value of Philology and the Study of Historical Languages*.

15.30-16.00: Coffee break.

16.00-17.00: General Assembly of Confirmed Members of the World Philology Union.

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The 2024 WPU Conference at Uppsala University is supported by the following institutions: **The Norwegian Institute of Philology** ([www.philology.no](http://www.philology.no)), **Union Académique Internationale** ([www.unionacademique.org](http://www.unionacademique.org)), **Uppsala University** ([www.uu.se](http://www.uu.se)), **Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines** ([www.cipsh.one](http://www.cipsh.one)), the **Austrian Academy of Sciences** ([www.oeaw.ac.at](http://www.oeaw.ac.at)), the **Swedish Academy** ([www.svenskaakademien.se](http://www.svenskaakademien.se)) and **Academia Europea** ([www.ae-info.org/](http://www.ae-info.org/)).



The main sponsor of the conference is the **Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation** (*Riksbankens jubileumsfond*: [www.rj.se](http://www.rj.se))

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