

# 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 presentation 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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### 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 the Rector of Uppsala University.

10:15-11:00: Introductions: (a) WPU President: Jens Braarvig, (b) 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: Persian and Arabic mediation between East and West**

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 Einarson, Oslo.

15.30-15.45: Coffee break

15:45-16:15: “Reconstructing the linguistic history of Hittite: 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

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

### Theme 3: Narrative traditions between cultures

9:00-9:45: “Pre-Buddhist Chinese narrative traditions: comparative and contrastive aspects” – Wolfgang Behr, Zürich.

9:45-10:30: “Central and South Asian narrative traditions: From the Vedas and the Avesta to the Great Epics and the Yashts” – 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 “Medieval narratives in the Romance-speaking world and beyond: epics of Roland” – Luca Morlino, Trento.

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: “The Oral Background of Narratives: the Arab Hilāli Epic and its Libyan Version, Iranian Manichaean Oral Traditions and related case studies” – Adam Benkato, Berkeley.
- 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: “East Face of Helicon Revisited” – Athanasios Vergados, Newcastle.
- 18:00-18:20: Indo-European and Ancient Near Eastern narratives, II: “The great narratives of Indo-European sodalities and their god: Greek *Kouretes*, Zeus ‘the greatest *kouros*’ and Apollo; Norse Einherjar and Ódinn; Indic Maruts and Vayu; and Roman Vedius” – Kim McCone, Maynooth.

#### 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.