

Call for Papers

Workshop

Ancient Languages and Cultures in Contact

at the 48. Österreichische Linguistik-Tagung (December 17th-19th) in Innsbruck

As one of the main (external) factors in language change, language contact is a well-established field in linguistic research. Many modern introductions to certain language families or language areas include chapters on language contact. Yet, research on language contact in ancient languages traditionally focuses on the contacts between languages of a single language family.¹

Therefore, this workshop will deal with language contact situations in ancient worlds, regardless of the boundaries of any language family or branch. Languages unrelated to each other can develop very similar linguistic features on phonetical, morphological, lexical, and syntactical levels through language contact (such as the very famous example of the Balkan *Sprachbund*). For example, in Ancient Studies, much work has been done for the linguistic convergence of Sumerian and Akkadian.² Although Sumerian (language isolate) and Akkadian (Semitic) are not related to each other, they show a striking number of similarities on a lexical, structural, and conceptual level.

The workshop focuses on the contact-induced language change as well as the nature of contact situations which trigger these developments regardless of the boundaries of language families. We welcome papers from any branch of linguistics, history and archaeology, contributing to the questions of language contact and convergence areas in the ancient worlds.

We welcome proposals for **20-minute** papers. The abstract should not exceed **250 words** and should be submitted to **Alexander Steiner** (A.Steiner@student.uibk.ac.at) by 31st of August 2024.

The conference languages will be **English** and **German**.
Early-career scholars are especially encouraged to submit.
The publication of the papers is planned.

Organisation

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¹ For example Weninger (2011) and Hasselbach-Andee (2020) for the Near East.

² Especially by Edzard (1977) and further studied by von Soden (1973), Pedersen (1989), Streck (1998) and Edzard (2003).

References

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- Weninger, Stefan (Hg.) (2011): The Semitic Languages. An International Handbook. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter Mouton (Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft, 36).