

**Organizer: Mark R.V. SOUTHERN**  
**Using Linguistic Evidence to Enrich Classical Teaching**

Stimulating recent developments in linguistics can be fruitfully incorporated into Classical teaching. Students' intellectual commitment lends itself to the analytic methods of linguistics—which when first encountered can come across as a well-kept secret and a horizon-broadening new approach.

Comparative linguistic tools deepen and clarify "why" and "how" questions, introducing the linguistic/cultural development of Greek and Latin within the Indo-European setting. These illuminate readings and koinés, dialects, and genre-specific norms, but also trace the sociocultural and literary evolution of the Mediterranean by exploring poetic, religious/ideological and cultural/semiotic traditions in light of relatives (Sanskrit, Hittite, Celtic, Germanic, Slavic). Internal and comparative reconstruction explain ostensible irregularities, through analysis of change and contact, against questions of identity and diversity.

Every linguistic issue can be intellectually bracing, and discussing language always raises questions that give pause. Applying concepts so that students can make them their own is the most vital part—switching between details and synthesis, abandoning explanations if they aren't working, rethinking with new illustrations. Linguistic methods let students trust their observations, think out cruxes, see links. As Classicists we interpret the unfamiliar to reveal accessibility and unlock its power to engage. We are *all* linguists: supplying formal tools solidifies the practical applications.

Linguistically-oriented courses in Classical languages have been growing in popularity in recent years. The usefulness for a Classicist of understanding how Greek and Latin emerged, feature by feature, is unquestionable. Most takers have not been exposed to linguistic concepts before, so the focus is on practical exegesis: they understand by proposing possible analyses of in-class data. The moment when a student writes "I've finally GOT it!" can be a teacher's most rewarding experience. Labyrinths of apparently illogical ruleless exceptions turn out to be rule-governed, from a stage or two back in the evolution of the language.

The presenters employ a wide variety of linguistic methods, making for a new, inclusive topical and applicational synthesis, exploring diverse aspects of the issues in the framework of clear pedagogical benefit.

Katz presents paths of linguistic inquiry as channels to rethink cultural issues. Harnessing the result-driven, vibrant, inclusive strengths of linguistics sparks passionate student interest, galvanizing language, history and literature courses. Bakker addresses deixis and "hereness," reinterpreting tense-use based on the deictic center of speaker or text, and narrative as mastering of time. Bachvarova considers Latin present-vs.-perfect, and agent/subject semantics underlying Latin deponents, futures, and Greek middle/active anomalies, reflecting Indo-European verb-categories: aspect, voice, desiderative/future. Wallace analyzes noun/verb inflectional morphology morphophonemically: stem

alternations are not random or isolated, but reflect sound-pattern distribution and cross-linguistic effects. Littman analyzes oral-composition theory, interprets myth and Greek influence on Rome, and uses alphabet-variations' spread to map Mediterranean sociocultural division and mix. Nagy, analyzing formulaic language in Latin/Umbrian ritual, interprets Italic linguistic structures and cultural semiotics from the interplay between genre and expression, with broad pedagogical applications.

## **PROGRAM 100-word SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

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Classical students' intellectual commitment lends itself to the analytic methods of linguistics, encouraging them to trust their observations—a well-kept secret, and a horizon-broadening approach. Every linguistic issue can be intellectually bracing. Through analysis of change and contact, labyrinths of exceptions turn out to be rule-governed. Harnessing the result-driven, vibrant, accessibly inclusive strengths of linguistics sparks passionate interest, galvanizing history/literature and language courses alike. Comparative linguistics clarifies the "why" and "how" of Greek and Latin's development as Indo-European daughters, exploring literature, ideas and culture in light of relatives (Sanskrit, Hittite, Celtic, Germanic).

These six new interpretations reap palpable pedagogical benefit. Linguistic evidence rethinks narrative, as mastering of time; verbal anomalies, reflecting Indo-European aspect and voice; oral-composition theory; genre/expression interplay; Greek influence on Rome; and Italic cultural semiotics.