

Call for Papers

Third Swiss Workshop on Historical Linguistics

University of Lausanne, 22–23 April 2027

Context

The Swiss Workshop on Historical Linguistics, now in its third edition (2023 Zurich, 2025 Basel), aims at exploring questions of historical linguistics, including corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics, and language contact, from prehistory to early modernity. Our focus lies on the scientific study of languages with limited attestation, the methodology that unites them, and overcoming common problems, independent of time and geography.

The workshop is open to scholars based both inside and outside Switzerland, and strives to be a venue to learn about current research, to exchange ideas, and hopefully to develop future collaborations and synergies.

Topics

The workshop will combine sessions for the presentation of selected papers with open discussions. We organizers are particularly interested in:

- Language contact, areal phenomena, and sociolinguistics in pre-/proto-historic, ancient, mediaeval and early modern contexts;
- Interdisciplinary approaches involving other evidence (archaeology, genetics, etc.);
- New methods for approaching and analysing the data (e.g. computational methods);
- Theoretical and methodological questions;
- Case studies and general discussions of the potential role of linguistics in the study of the socio-historical realities of historical societies.

Other papers falling into the broader definition of historical linguistics are, of course, equally welcome. If in doubt, interested researchers are invited to contact Robin Meyer (robin.meyer@unil.ch).

Time & Place

The workshop will take place on 22–23 April 2027 on the [Dorigny Campus](#) of the University of Lausanne. Proceedings will start around 14h00 on Thursday 22 April, and finish by 18h00 on Friday 23 April.

Invited Speakers

Lameen Souag (CNRS Paris)
Antoine Viredaz (University of Lausanne)
Paul Widmer (University of Zurich)

Conference Website

[Please click here](#)



How to participate

Participation in the workshop is free of charge.

- We accept papers from established and early career researchers, as well as from PhD students, based in Switzerland and abroad.
- Papers will be 20 min long, followed by Q&A.
- If you want to submit a paper, please send us a brief abstract (**max. 500 words**) as soon as possible, and no later than **15 January 2027**.
- Abstracts should be sent to: robin.meyer@unil.ch

The workshop will be **multilingual**: abstracts, presentations and PowerPoints may be composed in **English, French, German, and Italian**. If you choose to present in a language other than English, we encourage you to strive for maximum comprehensibility by choosing a different language for your PowerPoint and your oral presentation where possible.

Organisers

Michiel de Vaan (University of Basel & University of Geneva)
Robin Meyer (University of Lausanne)
Drew Hancock-Teed (University of Bern)

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