

Definiteness in Indo-European Languages

Comparative Philology Graduate Seminar
Tuesdays 2.15-4pm, Centre for Linguistics and Philology, room 207.

Definiteness is, roughly speaking, the meaning expressed by a definite article. But what exactly does that meaning consist of? And why do different languages have different rules for the use of the definite article? How do languages without any definite articles get along? And how do ways of expressing definiteness develop, disappear, or change over time? This seminar will examine these questions with particular reference to Indo-European languages (and mainly, but not exclusively, to early languages of this family).

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| Week 2 (20 October): | An Introduction to Definiteness
Paul Elbourne (Queen Mary, University of London) |
| Week 3 (27 October): | Definiteness in Slavonic
Mary MacRobert and Jan Fellerer |
| Week 4 (3 November): | Definiteness in Germanic and Tocharian
Andreas Willi and John Penney |
| Week 5 (10 November): | Definiteness in Indo-Iranian
John Lowe |
| Week 6 (17 November): | Definiteness in Greek
Philomen Probert and Florencia Nelli |
| Week 7 (24 November): | Definiteness in Latin and Romance
Steven Kaye |
| Week 8 (1 December): | Definiteness in Indo-European
Philomen Probert |