Due to recent advances in ancient genetics, a new picture of prehistory is emerging. In the LAMP project we cast light on the aspects of prehistoric peoples that make them human: their languages and beliefs. The project asks three fundamental questions about the early speakers of Indo-European:

1. How did they talk?
   We reconstruct the sounds, grammar and vocabulary of the prehistoric language stages from which the extant languages descend.

2. What did they talk about?
   We compare the relevant parts of the reconstructed vocabulary with mythological and archaeological evidence in order to establish fragments of the myths, poetry and rituals of prehistory.

3. How can we know?
   We integrate the methodologies currently developing in the interfaces between the traditional fields of linguistics, archaeology and mythology.
Introducing *h₁rou₂dhᵃ₂h₂ ‘Redhead’

archaeology
- woman, 19 years old
- Yamnaya (western Ukraine)
- 3100 BC

ancient genomics
- mix of steppe ancestry and European farmer ancestry
- related to present-day populations of northern Europe
Prehistoric migrations and languages

The Impact of Yamnaya Steppe Pastoralists

- Yamnaya
- Other ancestry
- Flow of Yamnaya-derived ancestry
- All arrows are approximate.
- Eurasian Steppe

Subgrouping the Indo-European languages

Proto-Indo-European

Proto-Core Indo-European

4000 BC 3000 BC 2000 BC 1000 BC 1 AD 1000 AD 2000 AD

Anatolian

Tocharian

Italic

Celtic

Germanic

Greek

Armenian

Albanian

Indo-Iranian

Balto-Slavic
Research question: how did they talk?

Spiritual life
*djēus ‘Sky God’
*κred dʰeh₁- ‘believe’
*h₂ausōs ‘Dawn Goddess’
*puh₂sō ‘God of Pasture’

Natural phenomena
*h₂ueh₁ntos ‘wind’
*nokʷts ‘night’
*meh₁nōts ‘moon’
*h₂stēr ‘star’

Kinship
*ph₂tēr ‘father’
*suesōr ‘sister’
*daihuēr ‘husband’s brother’
*əedʰ- ‘to lead, to marry’

Animals
*mūs ‘mouse’
*lūs ‘louse’
*ulkʷos ‘wolf’
*h₁ekuōs ‘horse’

Wheeled vehicles
*kʷekʷlom ‘wheel’
*h₂aksis ‘axle’
*h₃nebʰ- ‘nave’
*uegʰ- ‘convey in a vehicle’

Textile technology
*uebʰh- ‘to weave’
*h₂ulh₁nah₂ ‘wool’
*sjeh- ‘to sew’
*ues- ‘to wear a garment’

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Research question: what did they talk about?

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**Mythology**

**Linguistics**

**Archaeology**
Research question: how can we know?
The research team

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A collaboration between LAMP and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) was established in 2020.
Centre for Indo-European Language and Culture

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Prof. Anders Kaliff (chair), Uppsala University

Prof. Peter Jackson Rova, Stockholm University

Ass. Prof. Thomas Olander, University of Copenhagen

Head of Research Torun Zachrisson, Upplandsmuseet

Irene Elmerot (student representative), Stockholm University
Output: new cross-disciplinary book series

Stockholm Studies in Indo-European Language and Culture

This new book series is intended for research into the older stages of the Indo-European language family from a multitude of perspectives, including history of religions, archaeology, ancient DNA and historical linguistics.

- **Indo-European Interfaces** (in production)
- **Indo-European Ecologies** (in preparation)
- **Indo-European Afterlives** (planned)
Indo-European Fire Rituals
Cattle and Cultivation, Cremation and Cosmogony

Anders Kaliff and Terje Oestigaard

Routledge
2023

Werewolves, Warriors and Winter Sacrifices
Unmasking Kivik and Indo-European Cosmology in Bronze Age Scandinavia

Anders Kaliff & Terje Oestigaard

Uppsala University
2022
The Indo-European Language Family
A Phylogenetic Perspective
Edited by Thomas Olander
Cambridge University Press
2022

The Great Indo-European Horse Sacrifice
4000 Years of Cosmological Continuity from Sintashta and the Steppe to Scandinavian Skeid
ANDERS KALIFF & TERJE OESTIGAARD
Uppsala University
2020

H. Craig Melchert, Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus (retired), University of California, Los Angeles

Modern languages like English, Spanish, Russian and Hindi as well as ancient languages like Greek, Latin and Sanskrit all belong to the Indo-European language family, which means that they all descend from a common ancestor. But how, more precisely, are the Indo-European languages related to each other? This book brings together pioneering research from a team of international scholars to address this fundamental question. It provides an introduction to linguistic subgrouping as well as offering comprehensive, systematic and up-to-date analyses of the ten main branches of the Indo-European language family: Anatolian, Tocharian, Italic, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, Armenian, Albanian, Indo-Iranian and Balto-Slavic. By highlighting that these branches are saliently different from each other, yet at the same time display striking similarities, the book demonstrates the early diversification of the Indo-European language family, spoken today by half the world's population.

This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.
Karin Bojs’ latest book *Europas mödrar* (English: *The mothers of Europe*) was prepared in dialogue with the LAMP research group.
Output: reaching a wider audience

With an ambitious outreach component the project will communicate the understanding of the variability of the linguistic and cultural landscape throughout history to a wider audience. By making the historical facts more accessible to the public, the project will provide a bulwark against nationalism and chauvinism and contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex questions concerning language, culture and religion in modern society.