



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Stockholm
University

SWEDISH
COLLEGIUM
for ADVANCED STUDY

The LAMP project

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 $*h_1rou_d^hah_2$ '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



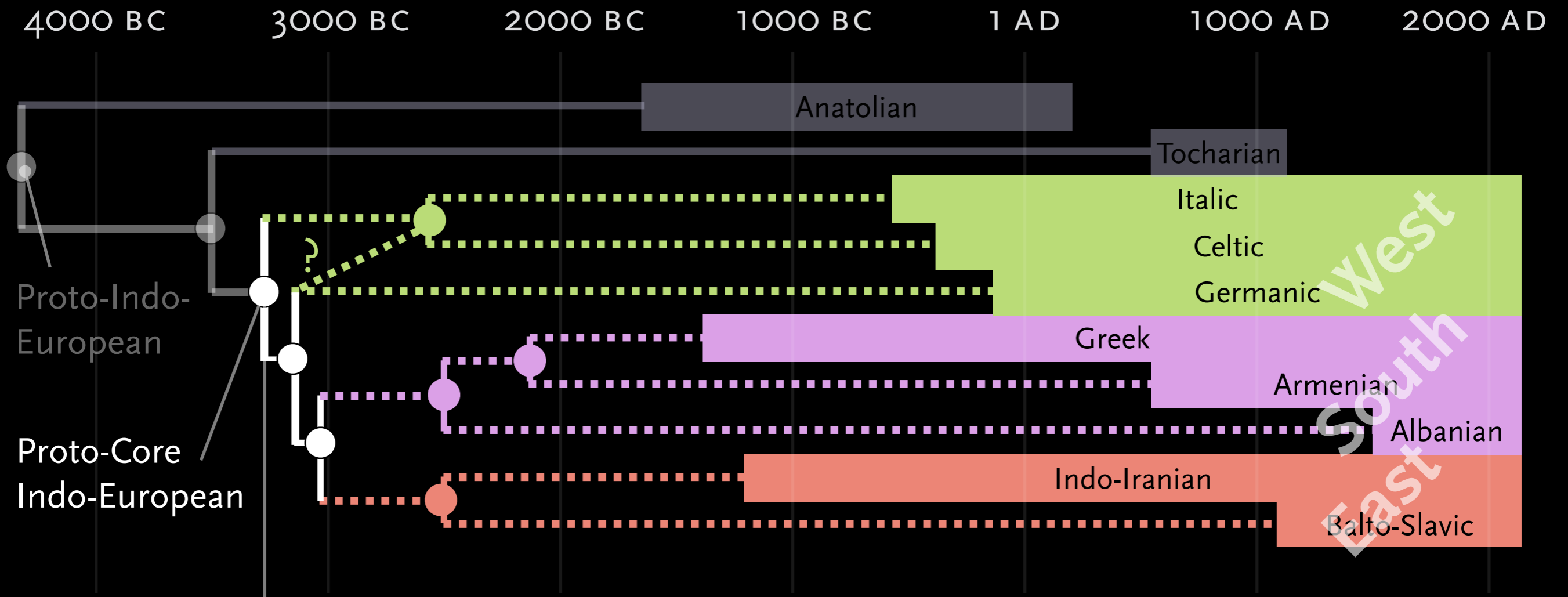
Prehistoric migrations and languages

The Impact of Yamnaya Steppe Pastoralists



Modified from: Narasimhan et al. 2019. The formation of human populations in South and Central Asia. *Science* 365.

Subgrouping the Indo-European languages



Research question: how did they talk?

Spiritual life

**diēus* 'Sky God'
**kr̥ed dʰeh₁-* 'believe'
**h₂ausōs* 'Dawn Goddess'
**puh₂sō* 'God of Pasture'

Natural phenomena

**h₂ueh₁ntos* 'wind'
**nokʷts* 'night'
**meh₁nōts* 'moon'
**h₂stēr* 'star'

Kinship

**ph₂tēr* 'father'
**suēsōr* 'sister'
**daihuēr* 'husband's brother'
**uēdʰ-* 'to lead, to marry'

Animals

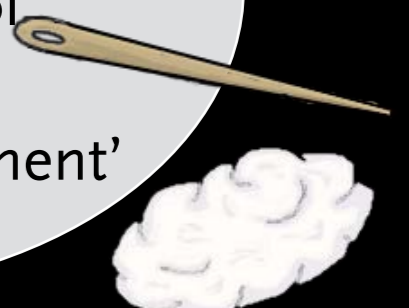
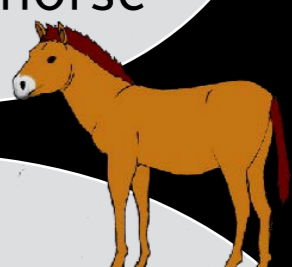
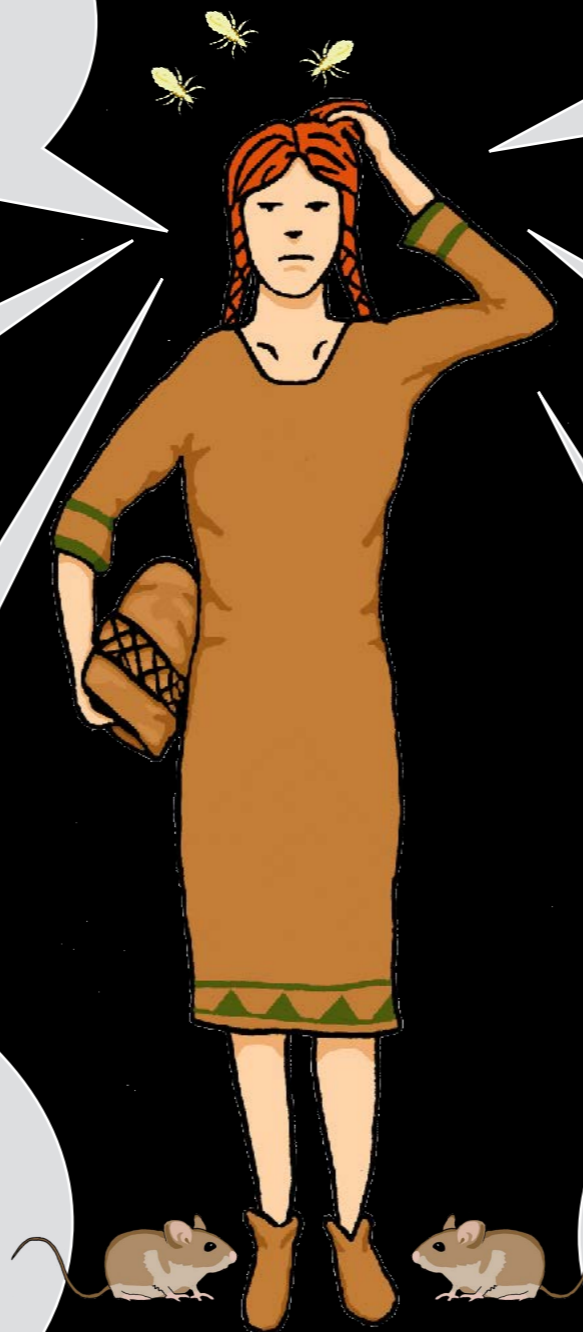
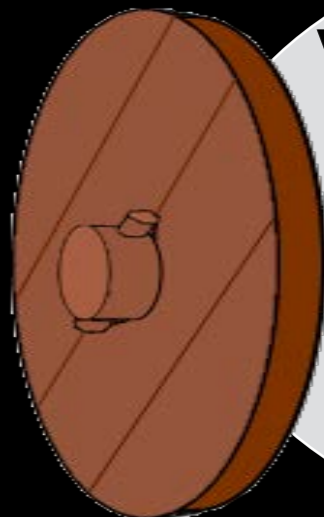
**mūs* 'mouse'
**lūs* 'louse'
**ulkʷos* 'wolf'
**h₁ēkuos* 'horse'

Wheeled vehicles

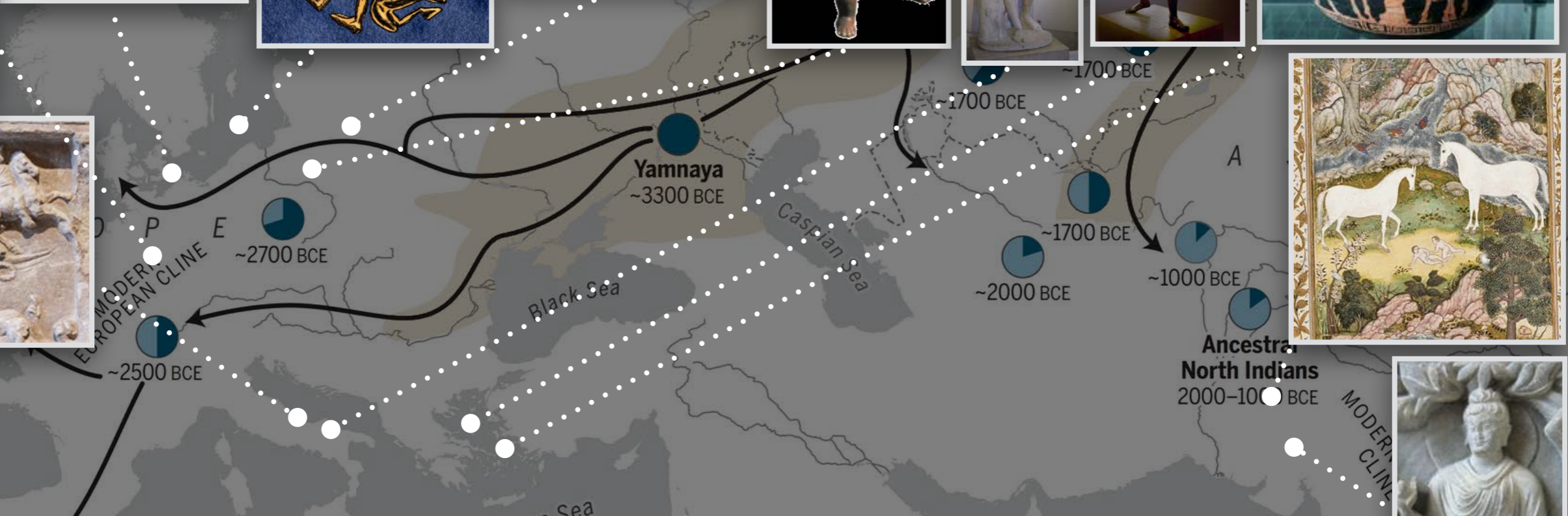
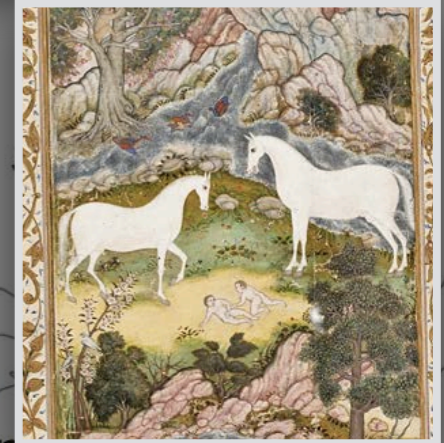
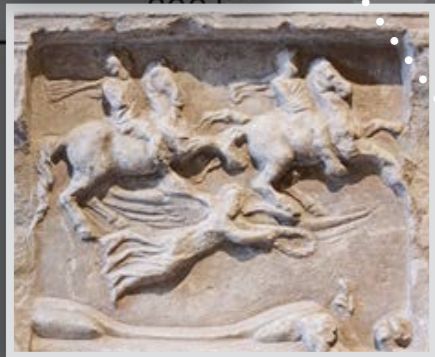
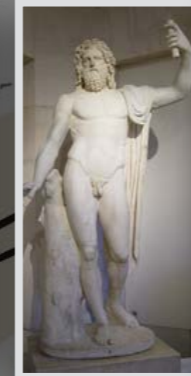
**kʷekʷlom* 'wheel'
**h₂aksis* 'axle'
**h₃nebʰ-* 'nave'
**uēgʰ-* 'convey in a vehicle'

Textile technology

**uēbʰh-* 'to weave'
**h₂ulh₁nah₂* 'wool'
**sieuh-* 'to sew'
**ues-* 'to wear a garment'

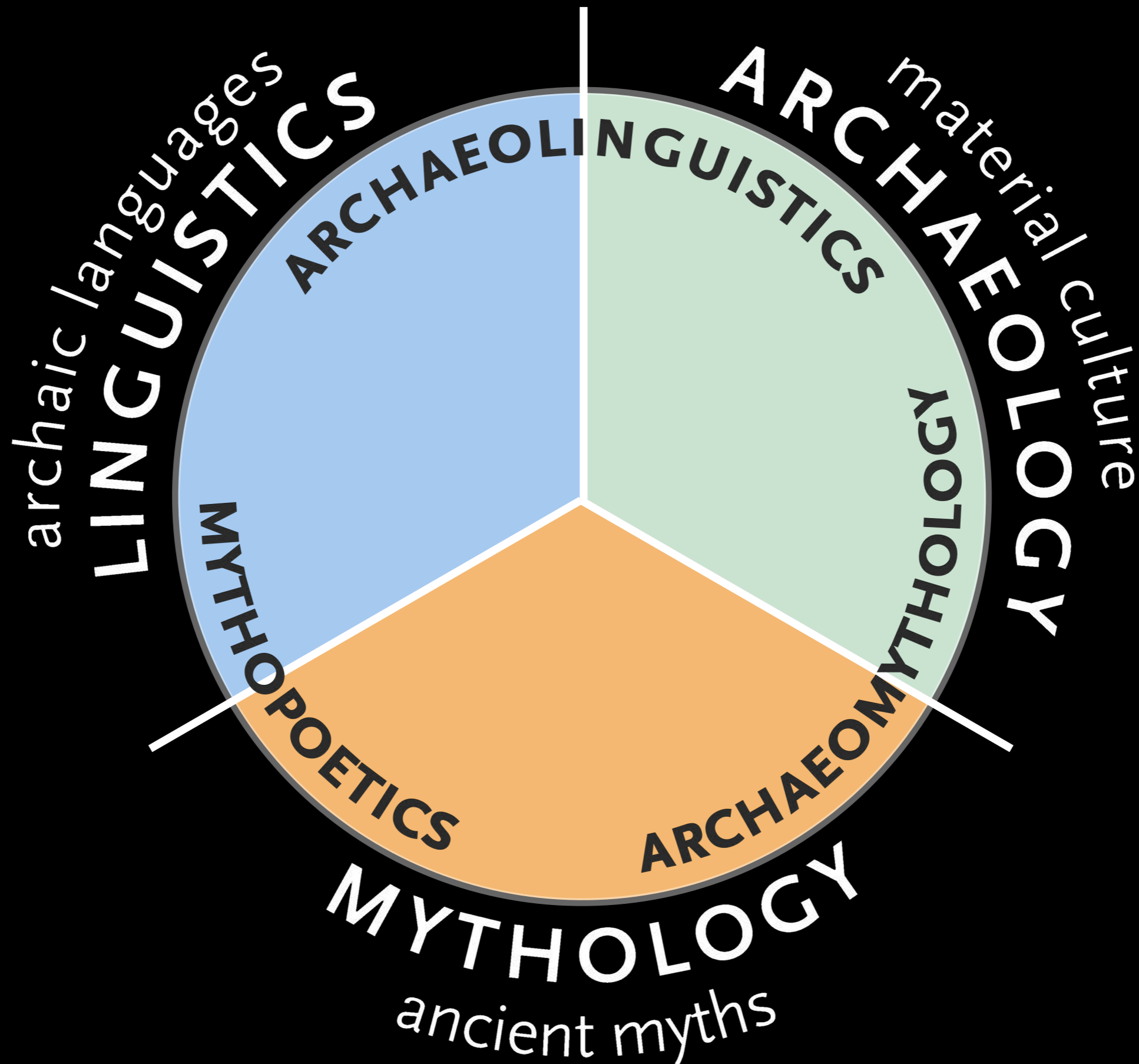


Research question: what did they talk about?



	Italic	Celtic	Germanic	Greek	Armenian	Albanian	Indo-Irn.	Balto-Sl.	PCIE	
Sky God	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	Mythology
Horse Twins	X		X	X		?	X	X	X	
Sky God	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	Linguistics
Horse Twins		?					X	X	?	
Sky God	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	Archaeology
Horse Twins	X		X	X			X	X	X	

Research question: how can we know?



The research team

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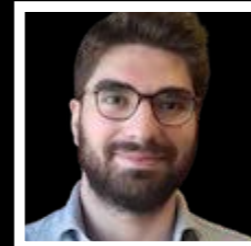


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Collaboration with SCAS

SWEDISH
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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

Director

Prof. Jenny Larsson, Stockholm University

Board members

Prof. Anders Kaliff (chair), Uppsala University

Prof. Peter Jackson Rova, Stockholm University

Ass. Prof. Thomas Olander, University of
Copenhagen

Head of Research Torun Zachrisson,
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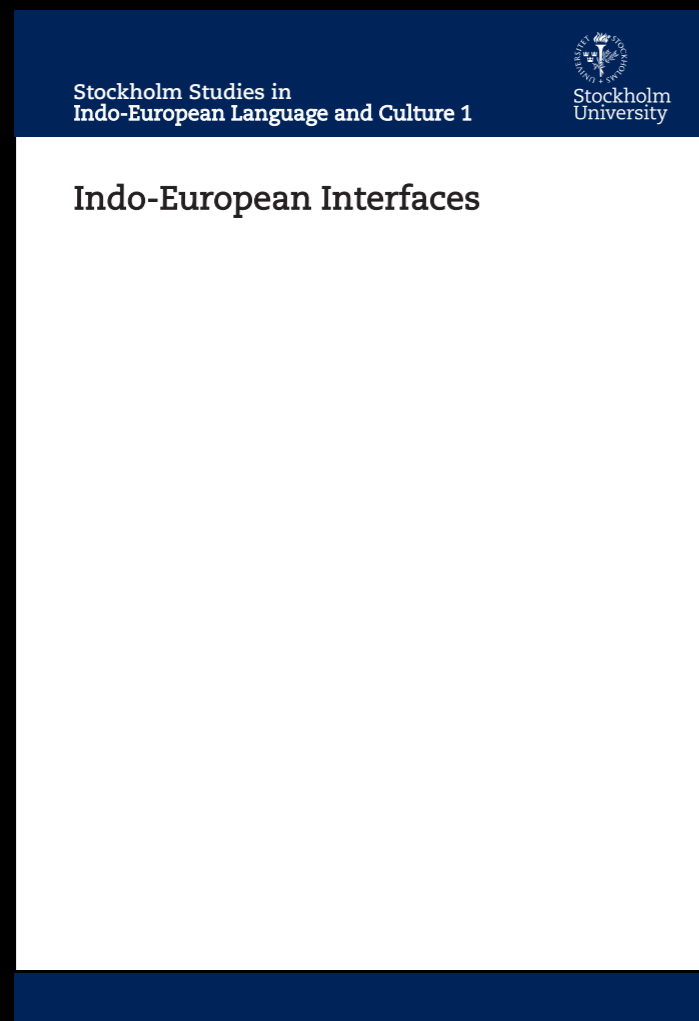
Irene Elmerot (student representative),
Stockholm University



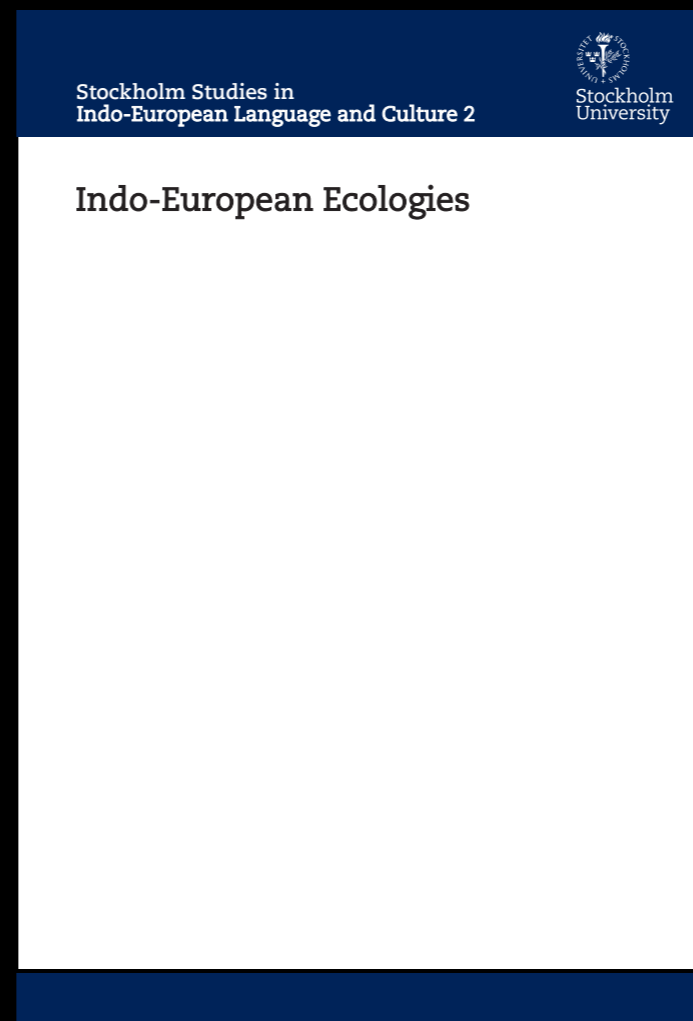
Output: new cross-disciplinary book series

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



in production

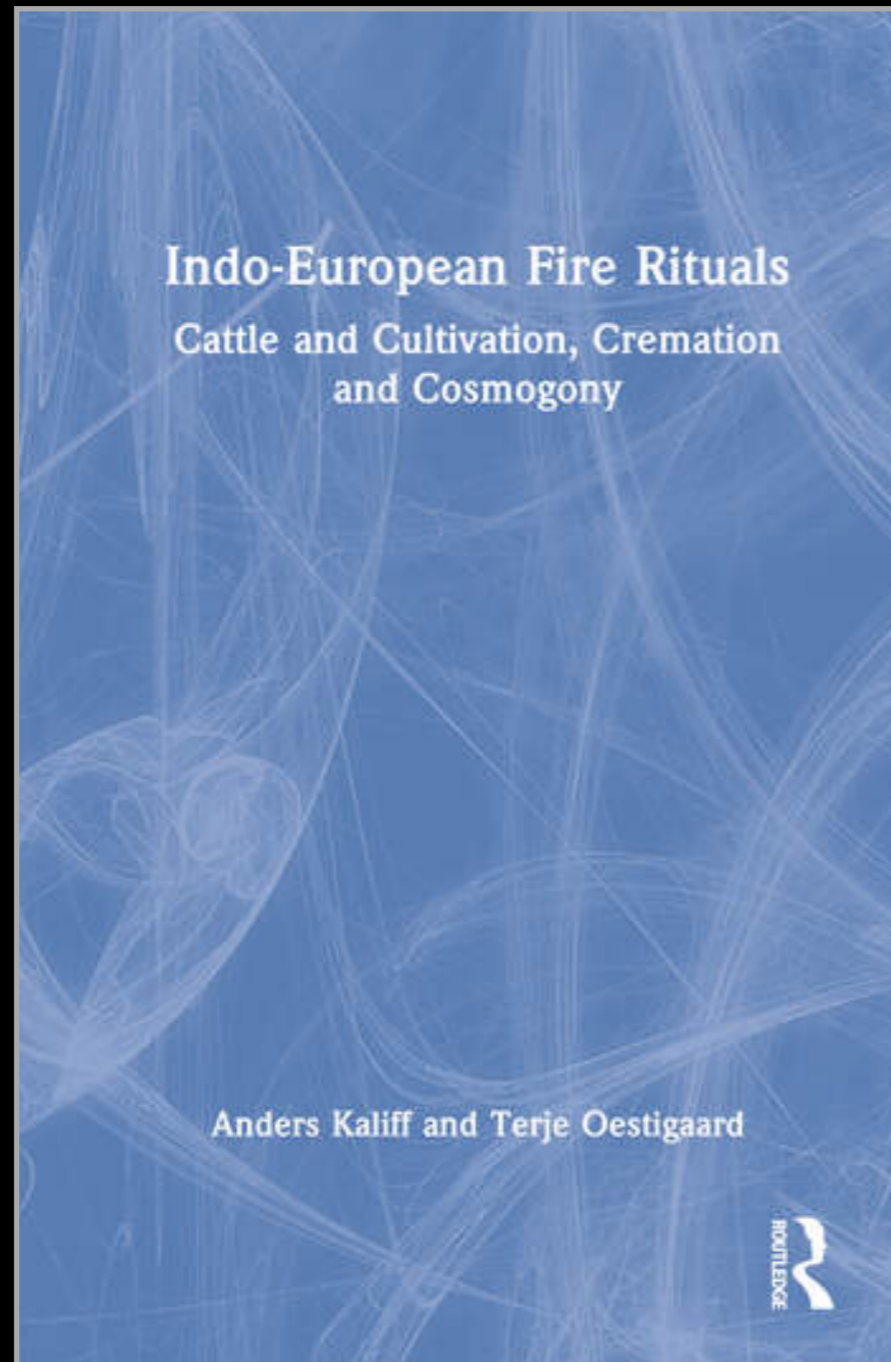


in preparation

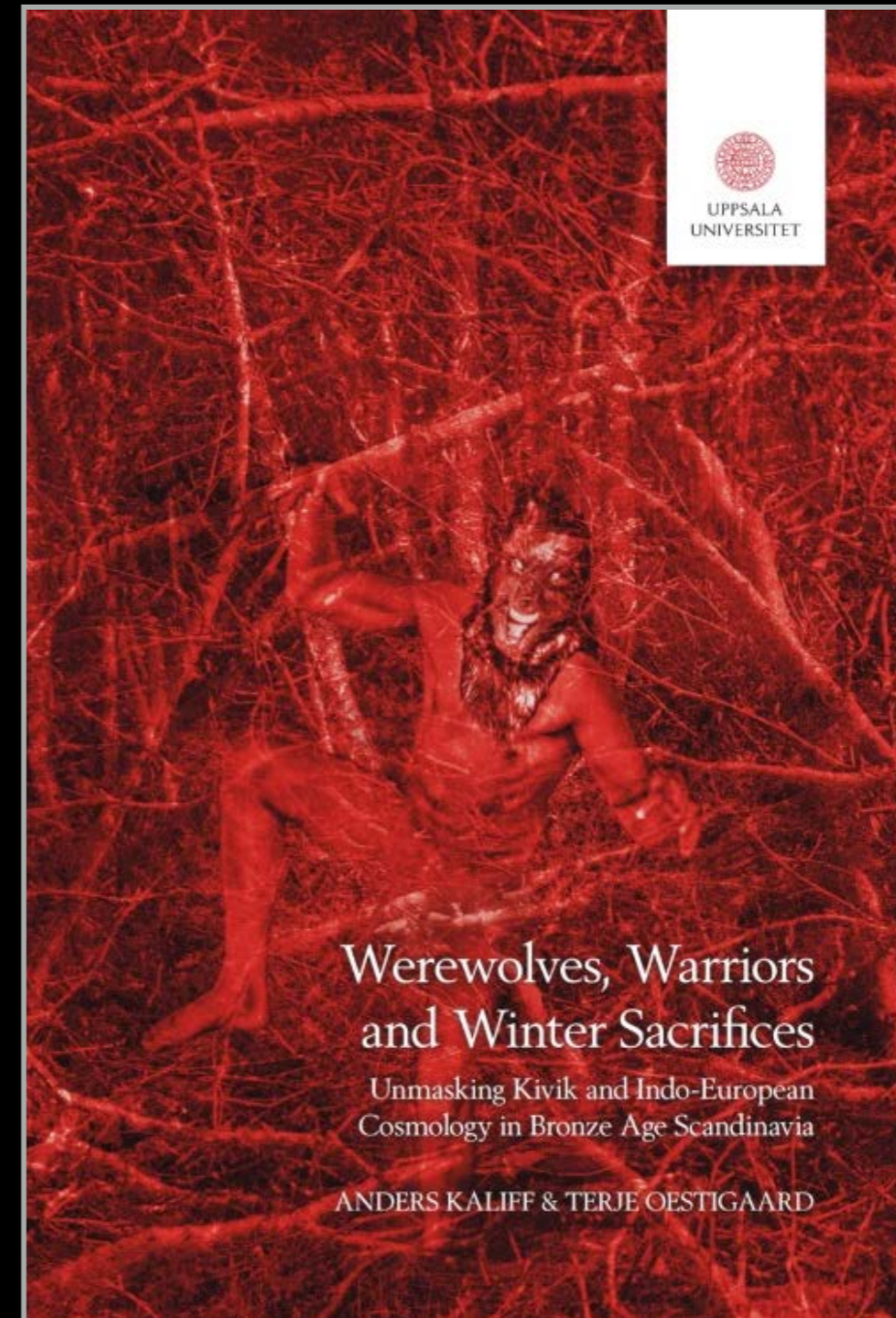


planned

Output: books

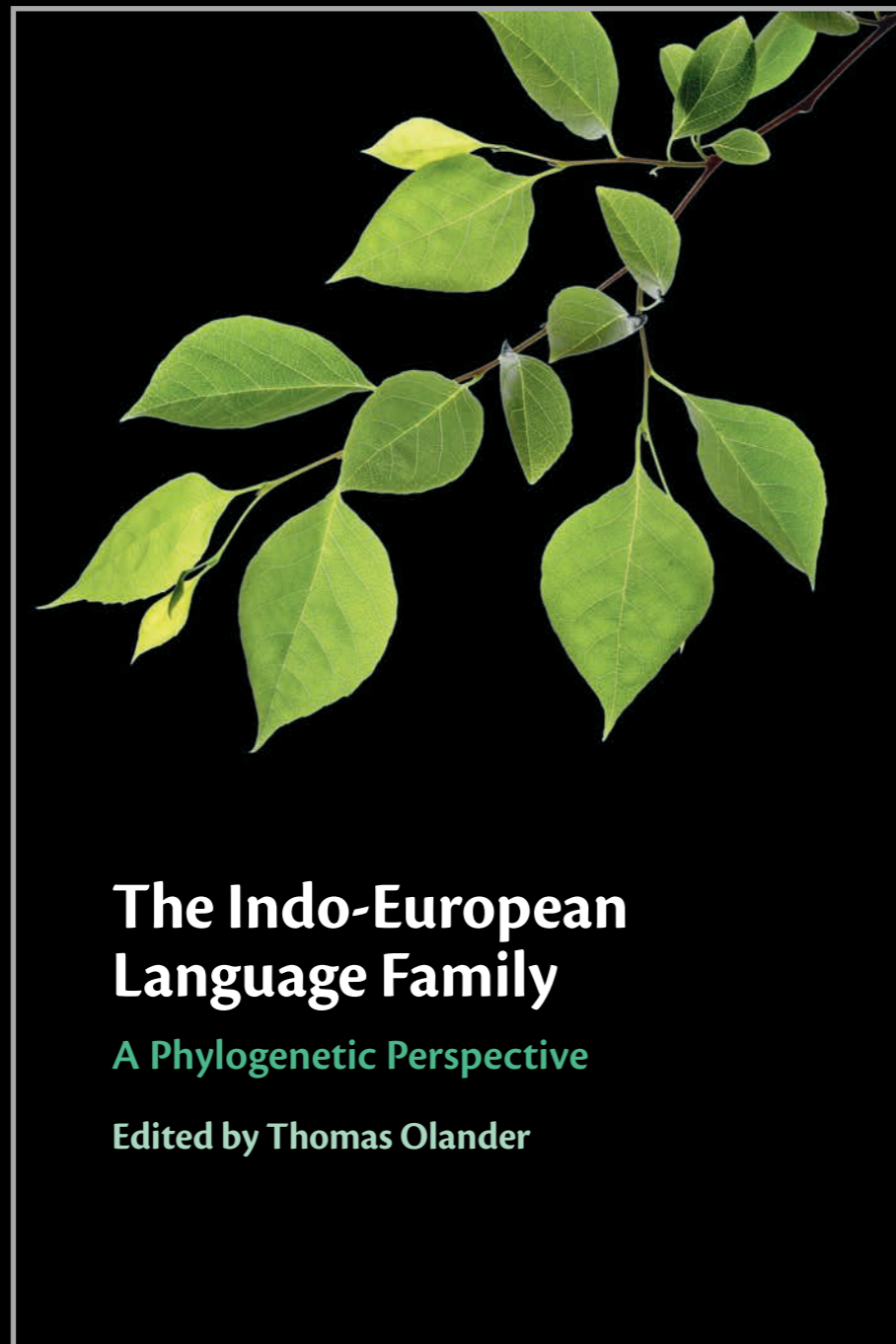


Routledge
2023

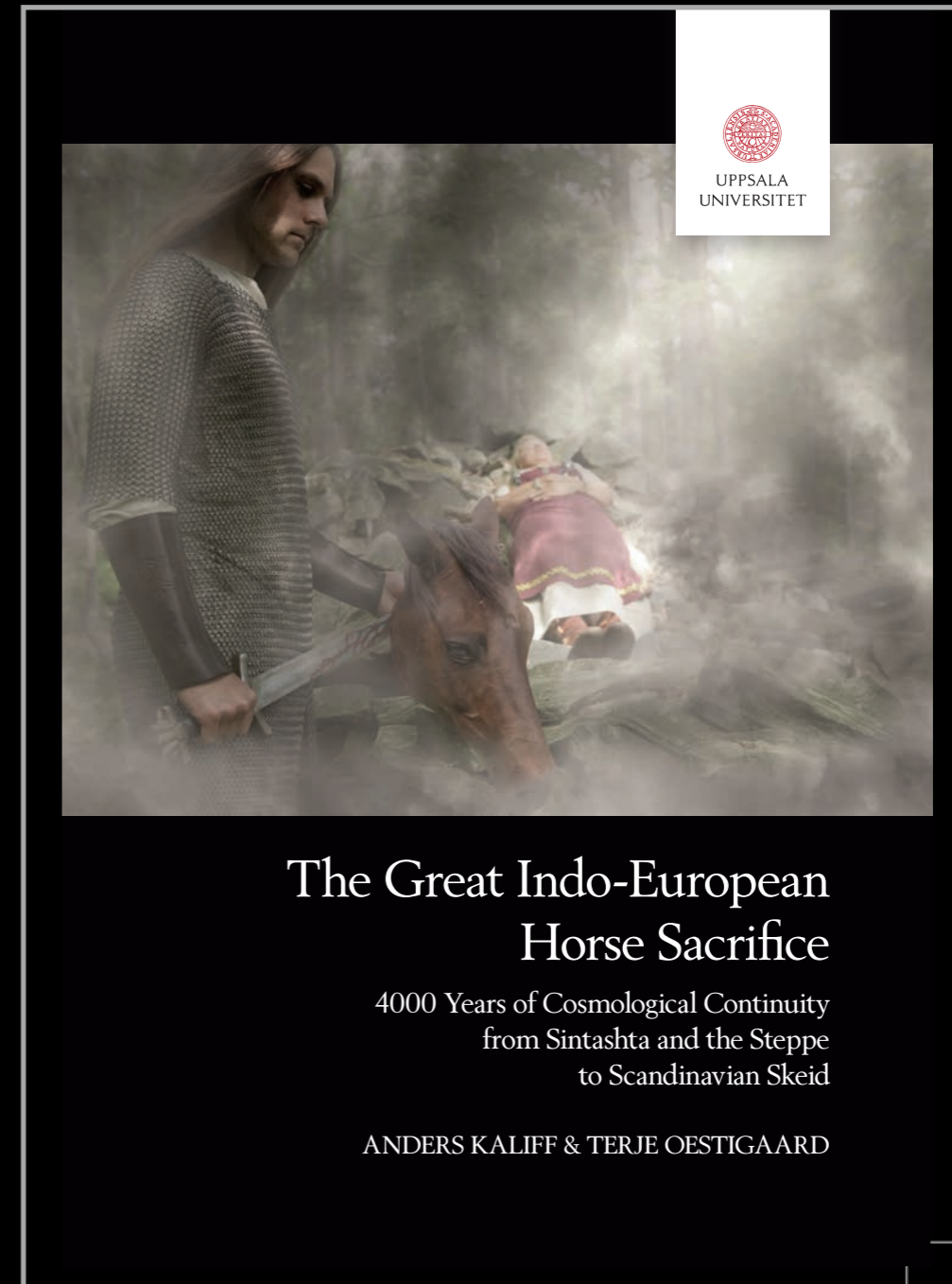


Uppsala University
2022

Output: books



Cambridge University Press
2022



Uppsala University
2020

Output: reaching a wider audience

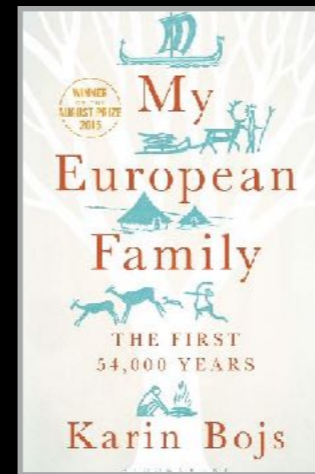


Photo: Ulrica Zwenger

Karin Bojs

author, science journalist

honorary doctor at
Stockholm University



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.

