

Symposium

Indo-European Afterlife

30 March, 2023



RIKSBANKENS
JUBILEUMSFOND
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Stockholm
University

SWEDISH
COLLEGIUM
for ADVANCED STUDY

Symposium

Indo-European Afterlife

With this symposium, we wish to shed some light on the notion of death and afterlife among early Indo-European populations. Ritual funeral practices have left obvious traces in the archaeological record and are described in great detail in several early IE texts. The challenge of this symposium is to identify a possible common background for these notions and practices. Are these parallels merely examples of analogical significance or can we uncover some unique unifying cultural traits? The aim of this symposium is to create an interface between different disciplines gathering data from various sources – archaeological as well as textual – in order to build up a common basic vocabulary of poetic expressions, mythological concepts and ritual activities involving mourning and preparing the deceased for the afterlife.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 30 March 2023

09:45 – 10:00 Welcome to SCAS (MIKAEL ADOLPHSON)
Introductory Remarks (JENNY LARSSON)

Chair: JENNY LARSSON

10:00 – 10:30 MICHAEL JANDA: *The God of the Night Sky as Guide to the Afterlife*

10:30 – 11:00 BIRGIT OLSEN: *Tied to the Underworld*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee/tea

Chair: BIRGIT OLSEN

11:30 – 12:00 JAN BREMMER: *Varieties of Eschatology in Ancient Greece*

12:00 – 12:30 PETER JACKSON ROVA: *Transforming the Laudandus, Performing the Afterlife*

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

Chair: TERJE ØSTIGÅRD

13:30 – 14:00 ANDERS KALIFF: *Fragmented Bones – Grinding and Crushing the Dead in Funerals*

14:00 – 14:30 LAURA MASSETTI: *Through Fire, through Poetry: Fashioning Immortality in Greece and Ancient India*

14:30 – 15:00 RICCARDO GINEVRA: *The Love Life of the Dead: Norse Valkyries from an Indo-European Perspective*

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee/tea

Chair: RICCARDO GINEVRA

15:30 – 16:00 JULIA STURM: *Beneath the Cloudy Darkness: Weather and Indo-European Underworlds*

16:00 – 16:30 ANDERS JØRGENSEN: *Ritual Mourning in Indo-European*

16:30 – 17:00 TERJE ØSTIGÅRD: *Håga, Burnt Bones and Fire Rituals*

17:00 – 17:30 MARTIN SCHWARTZ: *The Gathas: Perspectives (and Some Retrospectives) on the Afterlife* (on Zoom)

17:30 – 18:30 Reception

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Venue: the Thunberg Lecture Hall, SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala, and via Zoom Webinar:

<https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68722076732>

The symposium will be followed by a reception.

Pre-registration is required for the physical event by 23 March 2023 at the latest:

http://www.swedishcollegium.se/Registrations/lamp_registration.html

This is an event of the research programme *LAMP – Languages and Myths of Prehistory* and the *Centre for Studies in Indo-European Language and Culture* at Stockholm University, in collaboration with the *Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study* (SCAS).