

## Quid est ‘qui’?

*Relative clauses from Proto-Italic to Proto-Romance*

- Organiser:** Robin Meyer (Lausanne)  
**Scientific Committee:** Wolfgang de Melo (Oxford), Michiel de Vaan (Basel), Robin Meyer (Lausanne), Anna Pompei (Rome), Philomen Probert (Oxford), Antoine Viredaz (Lausanne)  
**Conference website:** [www.unil.ch/quidestqui](http://www.unil.ch/quidestqui)

### Background

In the research on historical syntax of early Indo-European languages, few constructions have received as much attention as relative clauses (e.g. HETTRICH 1988 on Vedic Sanskrit, POMPEI 2011 on Latin, PROBERT 2015 on early Greek, to name but a few), and for good reason: they are among few syntagmata which can be studied with any degree of certainty and rigour across time, and are frequently the cradle of other constructions such as object clauses. While their ultimate origin within Proto-Indo-European remains a matter of further research and debate, the variety and complexity of relative clause constructions in the Indo-European daughter languages coincides with typological observations of such structures in other languages and language families (HEINE & KUTEVA 2002:113–15, 251; HENDERY 2012: 48–55; DRYER 2013).

The purpose of this conference is to explore further the synchronic structure and semantics, diachronic development, and syntactic typology of relative clauses in one of the most well documented branches of Indo-European: the Italic languages. We hope to bring together young and already established researchers from historical linguistics and classical philology working on these and related topics, ranging in time from Proto-Italic to Proto-Romance. Some of the key questions we seek to address are the following:

- What does the Sabellic evidence mean for our reconstruction of Proto-Italic relative clauses?
- To what extent and for what reason do relativisation strategies in pre-Classical, Classical, and post-Classical Latin differ?
- Do different relativisation strategies exhibit different semantic restrictions?
- What, if any, influence has Greek syntax had on Latin relativisation strategies?
- Does the ancient grammatical tradition coincide with our modern understanding of how relative clauses were used?
- How far are later developments in the Romance languages prefigured in late Latin relative clauses and related syntagmata?

We invite submissions of abstracts for 20-minute papers in English or French (followed by 10 minutes of discussion); late-stage doctoral and postdoctoral researchers are particularly encouraged to submit. The conference will take place on 1–2 July 2022 at the Université de Lausanne, Switzerland. If supported by the majority of speakers, the proceedings of the conference will be published in a peer-reviewed collected volume or special issue of a journal.

### References

- DRYER, M. S. (2013) “Order of Relative Clause and Noun”, in M. S. DRYER & M. HASPELMATH (eds), *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.
- HEINE, B. & KUTEVA, T. (2002) *World lexicon of grammaticalization*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- HENDERY, R. (2012) *Relative clauses in time and space*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- HETTRICH, H. (1988) *Untersuchungen zur Hypotaxe im Vedischen*, Berlin/New York: Walter de Gruyter.

POMPEI, A. (2011) “Relative Clauses”, in P. Baldi & P. Cuzzolin (eds), *New Perspectives on Historical Latin Syntax, Volume 4: Complex Sentences, Grammaticalization, Typology*, Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 427–548.

PROBERT, P. (2015) *Early Greek Relative Clauses*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Invited Speakers

Prof. Wolfgang de Melo (Oxford); Prof. Anna Pompei (Roma Tre); Prof. Philomen Probert (Oxford)

### Abstracts

We welcome abstracts of no more than 500 words (excl. references) on the above and closely related subjects. The deadline for submission is 23h59 CET on 15 January 2021. Speakers will be notified by 15 February 2022. Abstracts should be written in English or French and submitted in pdf format. Please ensure the following formatting standards are met: Unicode font, 12pt, single-spaced, 2.5cm margins on all sides.

Please submit your abstracts via EasyChair: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=qiq2022>

All enquiries should be directed to: [robin.meyer@unil.ch](mailto:robin.meyer@unil.ch)

### Key dates

1 <sup>st</sup> CfP:	7 September 2021	Accept invitation by:	15 March 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> CfP:	15 November 2021	Revised abstracts by:	30 April 2022
Submission deadline:	15 January 2022	Registration from:	1 June 2022
Notification of speakers:	15 February 2022		

### Preliminary Programme

#### 1 July 2022

09.00–09.30	Registration
09.30–09.45	Welcome
09.45–10.45	Keynote
10.45–11.15	Coffee
11.15–12.45	Panel 1 Chair: Michiel de Vaan
12.45–14.30	Lunch
14.30–16.00	Panel 2 Chair: Antoine Viredaz
16.00–16.30	Coffee
16.30–18.00	Panel 3 Chair: Robin Meyer
18.00–20.00	free time
20.00	Conference dinner

#### 2 July 2022

09.00–10.30	Panel 4 Chair: Wolfgang de Melo
10.30–11.00	Coffee
11.00–12.30	Panel 5 Chair: Philomen Probert
12.30–12.45	Final Remarks

### Acknowledgements

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