

# 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).

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