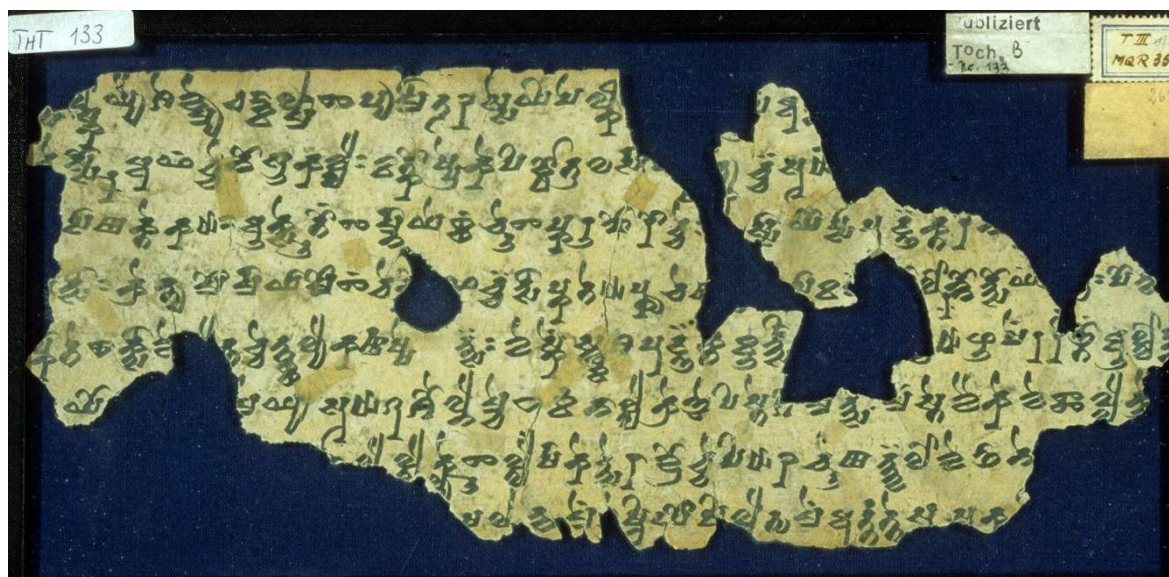


Comparative Philology Graduate Seminar: Tocharian

Tuesday, weeks 2-8, 2.15-4pm, Hilary Term 2026



Plan of the seminar:

For each week, the **topic** and *text(s)* are indicated. Some key literature is also provided for those who would like to prepare ahead [I will post as much of this as I can to the canvas page; fuller bibliographies will be provided in each session].

Note the following abbreviations:

Instrumenta = Malzahn, M. (ed). 2007. *Instrumenta Tocharica*. Heidelberg: Winter.

Pinault, *Chrest.* = Pinault, G.-J. 2008. *Chrestomathie tokharienne. Textes et Grammaire*. Leuven / Paris: Peeters

TEB I = Krause, W., and W. Thomas. 1960. *Tocharisches Elementarbuch. Band I. Grammatik*. Heidelberg: Winter.

TEB II = Thomas, W., and W. Krause. 1964. *Tocharisches Elementarbuch, Band II. Texte und Glossar*. Heidelberg: Winter.

Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo* = Weiss, M. 2022. *K_uśiññe Kantwo. Elementary Lessons in Tocharian B*. Ann Arbor: Beech Stave.

I (27 Jan.) Discovery and decipherment; overview of Tocharian grammar and texts.

TEB I 37f. (§§1-4).

Fellner, H. A. 2007. 'The expeditions to Tocharistan.' In *Instrumenta*, 13–36.

Malzahn, M. 2007. 'Tocharian Texts and Where to Find Them'. In *Instrumenta*, 79-112.

Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo*, i-xxix (introduction).

Text: A 255 (Maitreyasamiti-Nāṭaka)

Sieg, E. and W. Siegling. 1908. 'Tocharisch, die Sprache der Indoskythen. Vorläufige Bemerkungen über eine bisher unbekannte indogermanische Literatursprache.' *Sitzungsberichte der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaft* 39: 915–32. [repr. in E. Sieg, *Tocharologica*.

Selected Writings on Tocharian. ed. and intr. by G.-J. Pinault and M. Peyrot, 1-23. Hempen Verlag: Bremen 2014.]
Pinault, *Chrest.* 89-108 (ed. and transl. of A 255)

II (3 Feb.) Writing system and phonology

TEB I 39-47 (§§5-11), 61-64 (§§34-42)
Pinault, *Chrest.* 413-420 (writing system and synchronic phonology)
Malzahn, M. 'Tocharian brahmi chart', in *Instrumenta* 220-254.

Text: selection (THT 1111) from THT 1102-1125 (Karmavācanā in Toch.B):

Schmidt, K. T. 1986. *Fragmente eines buddhistischen Ordinationsrituals in westtocharischer Sprache. Aus der Schule der Sarvāstivādins. Text, Übersetzung, Anmerkungen und Indizes.* Habilitation Saarbrücken. = Schmidt, Klaus T. 2018. *K. T. Schmidt: Nachgelassene Schriften.* Edited by Stefan Zimmer, 1-159. Bremen: Hempen Verlag.
Tamai, T. 2014. 'The Tocharian Karmavācanā' *Annual Report of the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology at Soka University* = 《創価大学国際仏教学高等研究所年報》 v.17, 365-394.

III (10 Feb.) Historical phonology

Pinault, *Chrest.* 420-460 (historical phonology)
Ringe, D. A. 1996. *On the chronology of sound changes in Tocharian. Volume 1: From Proto-Indo-European to Proto-Tocharian.* Vol. 80. AOS. New Haven, Conn.: American Oriental Society.
Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo* 125-127; 134-136; 141-143; 148-152; 179-181.

Text: B 108 (Buddha legend: the conversion of the brothers Kāśyapa)

TEB II 45-47 (Text XIV)
Pinault, *Chrest.* 163-190 (ed. and transl. of B 108)

IV (17 Feb.) Nominal morphology

TEB I 75-172 (§§65-293)
Pinault, *Chrest.* 461-568 (nominal morphology)
Klingenschmitt, Gert. 1994. 'Das Tocharische in indogermanistischer Sicht.' In *Tocharisch. Akten der Fachtagung der Indogermanischen Gesellschaft, Berlin, September 1990*, edited by Bernfried Schlerath, 310–411. TIES Suppl. 4. Reykjavík: Málvísindastofnun Háskóla Íslands. [always interesting, if not always convincing!]
Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo*, 128-129; 137; 144.

Two recent dissertations in the nominal area:

Del Tomba, A. 2023. *The Tocharian Gender System. A Diachronic Study in Nominal Morphology.* Leiden / Boston: Brill.
Imberciadori, G. 2025. *Etymologische Untersuchungen Zu Den Tocharischen Adjektiven : 2 vols.* Leiden / Boston: Brill.

Text: SI P/1-2 (Buddhistotra from the Petrovski Collection, St. Petersburg)

TEB II 58-59 (Text XX.3) [superceded by Pinault's publications]

Pinault, *Chrest.* 293-311 (ed. and transl. of SI P/1-2)

Pinault, Georges-Jean. 2016. "The Buddhastotra of the Petrovskii Collection." *Written Monuments of the Orient* 1(3): 3–20 [new readings based on autopsy in 2015]

V (24 Feb.) The Tocharian verbal system

TEB I 173-270 (§§294-497)

Pinault, *Chrest.* 569-643 (on the verbal system)

Malzahn, M. 2010. *The Tocharian Verbal System* [esp. pp. 1-515]. Leiden / Boston: Brill.

Peyrot, M. 2013. *The Tocharian Subjunctive*. Leiden / Boston: Brill.

Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo*, 136-137; 152-153; 159-160; 168-171; 182-185; 193-194.

Text: A 5a5-10a2 (the story of the "mechanical maiden")

Sieg, Emil. 1944. *Übersetzungen aus dem Tocharischen I*. Abhandl. d. Preußischen Akad. d. Wissenschaften, Jg. 1943, Phil.-Hist. Kl. 16. Berlin: Akad. d. Wissenschaften.

TEB II 19-23 (Text I.2)

Pinault, *Chrest.* 251-268 (ed. and transl. of the "mechanical maiden")

Pan, T. 2022. 'Philologische Bemerkungen zum toch. Puṇyavantajātaka'. *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 74(2), 73-130.

VI (4 Mar.) Tocharian in contact with other languages (esp. Iranian)

Schwartz, M. 1974. 'Irano-Tocharica'. In: Philippe Gignoux & Ahmad Tafazzoli (eds.), *Mémorial Jean de Menasce*. Louvain: Imprimerie Orientaliste, 399-411.

Isebaert, L. 1980. *De Indo-Iraanse Bestanddelen in de Tocharische Woordenschat. Vraagstukken van fonische productinterferentie, met bijzondere aandacht voor de Indo-Iraanse diafonen a, ā*. Diss. Leuven. [plus several articles by Isebaert]

Schmidt, K. T. 1985. 'Zu einigen der ältesten iranischen Lehnwörter im Tocharischen.' In: Ursula Pieper & Gerhard Stickel (eds.), *Studia Linguistica Diachronica et Synchronica*, Werner Winter Sexagenario Anno MCMLXXXIII gratis animis ab eius collegis, amicis discipulisque oblata. Berlin / New York / Amsterdam: de Gruyter, 757-767.

Tremblay, X. 2005. 'Irano-Tocharica et Tocharo-Iranica.' *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 68, 421-449.

Pinault, G.-J. 2002. 'Tocharian and Indo-Iranian: relations between two linguistic areas.' In *Indo-Iranian Languages and Peoples*, edited by Nicholas Sims-Williams, 116:243–84. Proceedings of the British Academy. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.

Pinault, G.-J. 2006. 'Further links between the Indo-Iranian substratum and the BMAC language.' In *Themes and Tasks in Old and Middle Indo-Aryan Linguistics. Papers of the 12th World Sanskrit Conference Held in Helsinki, Finland, 13–18 July 2003, vol. 5*, edited by Bertil Tikkaniemi and Heinrich Hettrich, 167–96. Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass.

Peyrot, Michaël 2018. 'Tocharian B *etswe* 'mule' and Eastern East Iranian'. In: L. van Beek, A. Kloekhorst, G. Kroonen, M. Peyrot, and T. Pronk (eds.), *Farnah: Indo-Iranian and Indo-European Studies in Honor of Sasha Lubotsky*, 162–172. Ann Arbor–New York: Beech Stave.

Weiss, *K_uśiññe Kantwo*, 195-197.

Two recent dissertations:

Dragoni, F. 2023. *Watañi lāntaṃ. Khotanese and Tumshuqese Loanwords in Tocharian*. Wiesbaden: Dr. Ludwig Reichert.

Bernard, Ch. 2025. *Like Dust on the Silk Road : On the Earliest Iranian and BMAC Loanwords in Tocharian*. Leiden / Boston: Brill. [use with caution]

Text: “Mechanical maiden” ctd.

VII (11 Mar.) The position of Tocharian within Indo-European

Jasanoff J. 2017. ‘The impact of Hittite and Tocharian: Rethinking Indo-European in the twentieth century and beyond’. In Jared S. Klein and Brian D. Joseph, eds., *The Handbook of Comparative and Historical Indo-European Linguistics* (Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2017), 35-53. [mainly on Anatolian, but stakes out a position on Tocharian too]

Malzahn, M. 2017. ‘The second ones to branch off? – The Tocharian lexicon revisited.’ In Bjarne S.S. Hansen, Benedicte Nielsen Whitehead, Thomas Olander, and Birgit A. Olsen (eds.), *Etymology and the European lexicon. Proceedings of the 14th Fachtagung der Indo-germanischen Gesellschaft, 17–22 September 2012, Copenhagen*, 89–101. Wiesbaden: Reichert.

Peyrot, M. 2022. ‘Tocharian’. In: Thomas O. Olander (ed.), *The Indo-European language family. A phylogenetic perspective*, 83-101. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Text: A 243ff. (The Varṇārhavarṇastotra of Mātṛceṭa in Toch. A)

Schmidt, K.T. 2021. ‘Die Fragmente der osttocharischen metrischen Übersetzung von Mātṛceṭas Buddhastotra Varṇārhavarṇa. Text, Übersetzung, Anmerkungen und Indizes’, in Schmidt, K. T. 2021 *Paralipomena Tocharica. Vorträge, Aufsätze, Miscellen aus dem Nachlaß*. Edited by Stefan Zimmer (*Philologia* 250), 123-142. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač. [The ms. published here dates to 1977.]

Saturday 15 March Tocharian party! [details forthcoming]