

Iris Tanza-Kamil

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Research Interests

- Narrow Morphology-syntax-semantics interfaces; aspect-voice interfaces; Semitic verbal templates; argument structure
- Broad Semitic & Afroasiatic linguistics; formal theoretical linguistics; comparative historical linguistics; diachronic change

Education

- Ongoing **M.A. Indo-European Studies and Historical Linguistics**,
University of Vienna, Expected graduation with honours
Thesis: *Once Upon A Middle. Usage and Functions of the Akkadian “iptaras” in the Archives Royales de Mari*, Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Melanie Malzahn
- 2025 **PhD Linguistics**, *University of Edinburgh*
Title: *Intention, Aspect, and Argument Structure: The Morphosyntax and Morphosemantics of the Akkadian Verb*, Supervisors: Dr. Itamar Kastner & Prof. Dr. Pavel Iosad
- 2022 **M.A. Ancient Near Eastern Philology and Near Eastern Archaeology**,
University of Vienna, Graduation with honors
Thesis: *From Zero to Hero. The Adad-Šuma-Ušur Epic in Its Late Babylonian Priestly Literature Context*, Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Michael Jursa
- 2019 **B.A. Linguistics**, *University of Vienna*

Employment

- October 2025 – September 2026 **Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Department of Humanities*,
Ominous Conditionals. Investigating the Ancient Near Eastern mental conceptualization of causation in Babylonian omens,
Advisor: Prof. Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal
- September 2023 – August 2025 **Tutor**, *University of Edinburgh, Linguistics and English Language*,
Teaching assistant for
Post-graduate course “Introduction to Syntax” and
Undergraduate & post-graduate course “Introduction to Historical Linguistics”
- October 2019 – June 2021 **Research Fellow**, *University of Vienna, Department of Near Eastern Studies*,
Late Babylonian Priestly Literature: Ideology in Context,
Project lead: Michael Jursa (University of Vienna), Nathan Wasserman (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)
Funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Stiftung

Funding and Scholarships

- 2024 **Workshop on the Afroasiatic Middle *t*-Morpheme**
Van Riemsdijk Foundation, 3000€
PPLS Training and Development grant, £1500
Philological Society of Great Britain, £473,90
Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics, £400
- 2022–2024 **University of Edinburgh Research Support Grants**, £1.567,88
- 2022–2025 **University of Edinburgh School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences PhD Scholarship**, £52.371,97
PhD Linguistics
- 2021–2022 **University of Vienna grant for outstanding academic achievement (*Leistungsstipendium*)**, 750€
M.A. Indo-European Studies and Historical Linguistics
- 2020–2021 **University of Vienna grant for outstanding academic achievement (*Leistungsstipendium*)**, 955€
M.A. Indo-European Studies and Historical Linguistics
- 2019–2020 **University of Vienna grant for outstanding academic achievement (*Leistungsstipendium*)**, 803,35€
M.A. Assyriology
- 2018–2019 **University of Vienna grant for outstanding academic achievement (*Leistungsstipendium*)**, 1135€
B.A. Linguistics

Publications

Editor

- Accepted Tanza-Kamil, Iris and Marwan Kilani (eds). *Messe-t up! Studies on the Afroasiatic verbal *t*-morpheme*. In *Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 18(1). Leiden: Brill.

Peer-reviewed Journal Publications

- In Preparation Tanza-Kamil, Iris. Aspect and causation: A new guide of the Akkadian stems and how to translate them.
- Accepted Tanza-Kamil, Iris. Accepted. The Adad-šuma-ušur epic as a Work of Late Babylonian Priestly Literature. In *Archiv für Orientforschung*.
- Forthcoming Tanza-Kamil, Iris. Submitted. Middle, Pluractional, and Progressive: Rise of the Voice-Aspect syncretism of the Akkadian *t*-Morpheme. In *Brill's Journal for Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics*.
- 2023 Kamil, Iris. 2023. *t*-Forms of the Akkadian Stative. *Brill's Journal for Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 15(1), 262–290.

Peer-reviewed Handbook Articles

- Forthcoming Grestenberger, Laura and Iris Tanza-Kamil. Forthcoming. Voice Alternations in Diachrony. In *Wiley Blackwell Companion for Diachronic Linguistics*, eds. Adam Ledgeway, Edith Aldridge, Anne Breitbarth, Katalin É. Kiss, Joseph Salmons, and Alexandra Simonenko.

Peer-reviewed Edited Volumes

- Forthcoming Tanza-Kamil, Iris. Forthcoming. Deriving the Akkadian Stative. Perspectives from the Adjectival Root. In *Deadjectival verb formation in Indo-European and beyond [Advances in Historical Linguistics]*, eds. Laura Grestenberger, Viktoria Reiter, and Melanie Malzahn. Berlin: LangSci Press.
- Forthcoming Tanza-Kamil, Iris. Accepted. Anticausatization Strategies in Akkadian – Innovated and Inherited. In *[Typological Studies in Language]*, eds. Guglielmo Inglese, Giulia Mazzola, Eugenio Gorla. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Essays

- 2017 Kamil, Iris. 2017. Die traurigsten, die grässlichsten und die besten Gefühle. Ein Bericht über meine Studienfahrt nach Auschwitz im Herbst 2015. In *Kindernöte* (Zeitschrift Für Museum Und Bildung 80–81), eds. Inge Hansen-Schaberg, Ulla Nitsch, Frank Tosch & Ina K. Uphoff, 136–145. Berlin: LIT Verlag.

Talks

Invited Talks

- 2026 **[Title TBD]**, *Affixation in Afroasiatic Workshop (AfAf3)*, Princeton, 9th–10th of October 2026
- 2026 **[Title TBD]**, *University of Texas at Austin*, Austin, TX, 6th of October 2026
- 2026 **[Title TBD]**, *University of Texas at Austin*, Austin, TX, 5th of October 2026
- 2025 **Theoretical linguistics on historical languages: Developing grammatical tests for dead languages by the example of the Akkadian verb**, *Historical Linguistics Workshop*, Harvard University (virtual), 31st of January 2025
- cancelled **Root-and-what-exactly morphology (with Itamar Kastner)**, *Ullendorff Conference*, Jerusalem, 10th–12th of January 2024 (cancelled)
- 2022 **t-Forms of the Akkadian Stative**, *Workshop on Semitic Prefixes and Suffixes (AfAf1)*, Paris, 11th–12th of March 2022
- 2021 **Akkadian Pluractionals in Old Babylonian Letters – a Reanalysis**, *Atelier de Phonologie*, Université de Paris VIII (virtual), 24th of November 2021

Conference Talks/Papers

- 2026 **Two causatives, four millennia – the Semitic causative templates from Old Akkadian to modern day**, 27. *Diachronic Generative Syntax conference*, Padova, 16th–19th of June 2026
- 2025 **Zwischen Syntax, Semantik und Morphologie: Verbale Templates im Akkadischen**, 35. *Deutscher Orientalistentag*, Erlangen, 8th–12th of September 2025
- 2025 **Aspect and Argument Structure. The Interfaces of Akkadian Verbal Morphology**, 58. *Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea*, Bordeaux, 26th–29th of August 2025
- 2025 **Decoding morphology, defining semantics: A new (and simple!) manual to the Akkadian verb**, 70. *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Prague, 7th–11th of July 2025
- 2024 **ConTemplating the argument structure of Akkadian verbal templates**, *North East Syntax Seminar*, Newcastle, 16th of December 2024
- 2024 **Intensive, factitive, and definitely not SIMPLE – Valency alternations in Akkadian INTENSIVE verbs**, 21. *International Congress of Linguistics*, Poznań, 8th–14th of September 2024

- 2024 **Valence and aspect – A re-evaluation of the morphosyntax and morphosemantics of the Akkadian verb**, 69. *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Helsinki, 8th–12th of July 2024
- 2024 **Verbs of Fine Quality: Aspect and Argument Structure in the Old Babylonian (Akkadian) Verbal System**, *LEL PGC 24*, Edinburgh, 3rd–5th of June 2024
- 2024 **Messe-t up! The Aspect-Voice syncretism of the Akkadian t-morpheme**, *Workshop on the Afroasiatic Middle t-Morpheme (WAMt)*, Edinburgh, 8th–9th of May 2024
- 2023 **Anticausativization Strategies in Akkadian – Innovated and Inherited**, *Workshop on Diachronic and Typological Perspectives on Anticausativization*, Torino, 9th–10th of November 2023
- 2023 **Categorizers in Diachrony (with Laura Grestenberger and Viktoria Reiter)**, 26. *International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, Heidelberg, 4th–8th of September 2023
- 2023 **Middles, Perfectives, Pluractionals. A reinvestigation of the usage and function of the -ta-infix in the old Babylonian Mari letters**, 67. *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Leiden, 17th–23rd of July 2023
- 2023 **Deadjectival Statives in Akkadian and Indo-European: comparative and theoretical considerations**, *Workshop on Deadjectival verb formation in Indo-European: Historical and theoretical perspectives*, Vienna, 10th–11th of March 2023
- 2022 **News on the Adad-Šuma-Ušur Epic**, 34. *Deutscher Orientalistentag*, Berlin, 12th–17th of September 2022
- 2022 **Tocharian periphrastic yām-constructions revisited (with Laura Grestenberger)**, 34. *Deutscher Orientalistentag*, Berlin, 12th–17th of September 2022
- 2022 **New Visions on Kingship in Late Babylonian Priestly Literature (with Céline Debourse)**, 66. *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale*, Mainz, 25th–29th of July 2022
- 2021 **Old Babylonian Pluractionals and Their Medial Nature**, 46. *Österreichische Linguistik-Tagung*, Vienna (virtual), 9th of December
- 2020 **Semitic Verbal Diminutives and Their Morphological Derivation**, 68. *Studentische Tagung der Sprachwissenschaft*, Berlin (virtual), 19th of November 2020
- Departmental Talks and Talk Series Presentations**
- 2024 **What's new in Old Babylonian grammar? Aspect and causation in the Akkadian Verb**, *Angus MacIntosh Center "Catchup Sessions"*, University of Edinburgh, 20th of November 2024
- 2023 **From Middle-marker to "Event-relator" – The Akkadian t-Morpheme**, *Meaning and Grammar Research Group*, University of Edinburgh, 28th of November 2023
- 2023 **Re-imagining the Akkadian Verb**, *Angus MacIntosh Center "Catchup Sessions"*, University of Edinburgh, 3rd of October 2023

Teaching

Guest Lectures

- Winter 2025 **The Akkadian Binyan**, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*, 18th of December 2025
 Elements of the Akkadian Language: Grammar and Texts (taught in Hebrew) (Instructor: Nathan Wasserman)

- Winter 2024 **Practice and Methodology of Comparative Reconstruction**, *University of Edinburgh*, 27th of January 2025
Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Instructor: Michael Ramsammy)
- Autumn 2024 **Islands**, *University of Edinburgh*, 12th of November 2024,
With Anna Laoide-Kemp and John Hotson
Introduction to Syntax (Instructor: Peter Ackema)
- Winter 2024 **Beyond Comparative Reconstruction**, *University of Edinburgh*, 31st of January 2024
Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Instructor: Bettelou Los)
- Autumn 2023 **Islands**, *University of Edinburgh*, 20th of November 2023
Introduction to Syntax (Instructor: Yueh Hsin Kuo)
- Tutoring (Teaching Assistant)**
- Winter 2025 **Tutorial**, *University of Edinburgh*
Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Instructor: Michael Ramsammy)
- Autumn 2024 **Tutorial**, *University of Edinburgh*
Introduction to Syntax (Instructor: Peter Ackema)
- Winter 2024 **Tutorial**, *University of Edinburgh*
Introduction to Historical Linguistics (Instructor: Bettelou Los)
- Autumn 2023 **Tutorial**, *University of Edinburgh*
Introduction to Syntax (Instructor: Yueh Hsin Kuo)
- Autumn/Winter 2018 **Voluntary tutorial**, *University of Vienna*
160111 VU Theory of Grammar (Instructor: Dalina Kallulli)

Language Skills

- native Modern Hebrew
- fluent German, English
- advanced French
- intermediate Yiddish, Italian
- basic Spanish (European), Japanese, Basque
- structural knowledge Kalaallisut (West Greenlandic), Mehri, Amharic

Philological Competence

- Akkadian With foci on Old Babylonian and Late Babylonian, but various other dialects from various loci and all periods studied, ...
- Ancient South Arabian Coursework.
- Aramaic Focus on (ancient) Judeo-Aramaic (Imperial, Biblical, Talmudic), but also a semester of Syriac.
- Classical Hebrew Through personal cultural background.
 - Gəʕəz Biblical, liturgical, epigraphic Gəʕəz.
 - Latin *Kleines Latinum* ('little examen Latinum').
 - Sanskrit Coursework.
- Sumerian Various corpora studied, from the administrative Šurrukak-texts to scholarly epics to royal inscriptions, ...
- Tocharian Coursework, as well as research into adjectival verbal derivations.
- Ugaritic Coursework.

Service to the field

Conferences

- 2024 **Fourth AMC Symposium: Contact and language change**, AMC 4, Edinburgh, 2nd–4th of December 2024
Organising Committee
- 2024 **Workshop on the Afroasiatic *t*-Morpheme**, WAMt, Edinburgh, 8th–9th of May 2024
Organiser (with Marwan Kilani and Itamar Kastner)
Funded by the Van Riemsdijk Foundation, UoE PPLS, The Philological Society of Great Britain, and the Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics
- 2023 **The Sixth Edinburgh Symposium on Historical Linguistics**, ESHP 6, Edinburgh, 4th–6th of December 2023
Organising Committee
- 2022 **Third AMC Symposium: Change in syntax and phonology: The same or different?**, AMC 3, Edinburgh, 3rd–5th of December 2022
Organising committee
- 2022 **Norbert Jokl Gedenksymposium**, University of Vienna, 3rd of May 2022
Co-organiser (with Alexander Robert Herren, Stefan Schumacher, and Melanie Malzahn)

Workshops in Conferences

- 2023 **Categorizers in Diachrony**, *Workshop*, ICHL 26 Heidelberg, 7th of September 2023
Co-organiser (with Laura Grestenberger and Viktoria Reiter)

Other

- 2021-2022 **Wiener Indogermanistik Stammtisch “Viennese Indo-European Studies Roundtable”**
Organiser (with Viktoria Reiter and Alexander Robert Herren)

Reviewing

- I have reviewed papers for
- **Studia Linguistica (Wiley)**
 - **GLOSSA**
 - **BJALL (Brill’s Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics)**
 - **Arabic Linguistics (John Benjamins)**

Memberships

International Association for Assyriology, Societas Linguistica Europaea, Philological Society of Great Britain