50% of the 7,000 languages spoken on the planet are endangered, 96% are spoken by only 4% of the world’s population and 90% are not represented on the web.

The vast majority of the languages which could soon disappear remains undescribed. There are currently no written, sound or video documents, dictionaries or grammars which would allow us to know more about these languages and preserve their memory. When the last speaker dies, it is not only the use of the language, but all the cultural heritage associated with it that is lost.

If ancient languages are no longer taught, they might fall completely out of use in the near future. Without mastering them, we would cut ourselves off from an important part of the cultural heritage of the ancient world, which forms an important pillar of the world as we know it.

Linguistic diversity and biodiversity go hand in hand. 91% of all available data pertaining to traditional medicinal botanical knowledge from the Northwest Amazon and 84% of that from Papua New Guinea come from only one indigenous language. Each time a language disappears, crucial ecological knowledge becomes inaccessible.

Each language is a way of subdividing and conceptualizing the world, and therefore a window into the way our brain functions. Each language that dies or remains unknown to researchers prevents us from measuring the extent of human cognitive abilities.

Mindful of these facts and faced with these challenges, the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) created in 2020 the Institute for Linguistic Heritage and Diversity (ILARA).
ILARA responds to three challenges:
- Raising awareness of the crucial role of rarely studied ancient and modern languages within intangible heritage of humanity.
- Support for the preservation of linguistic diversity.
- Communicating the most recent research findings in this field to the general public.

3 VALUES SPECIFIC TO ILARA:

1. **An original approach linking academic excellence to civil society.**

   In conducting its mission, at the heart of which are the sharing of scientific knowledge with the general public and involvement in current social and environmental issues, ILARA relies naturally on the scientific expertise of EPHE - PSL and of the research teams where its faculty members carry out their activity.

   It works in partnership with:
   - the Atelier National de Recherche Typographique (ANRT) involved in the creation of typographic fonts for rarely studied languages around the world,
   - the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and its laboratories specializing in rarely studied ancient and contemporary languages,
   - the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO).

   It seeks to cooperate with any institution, organization or association – French, foreign or international, governmental or non-governmental – which shares its interest in these issues.

   It is led by a steering committee and a board of directors consisting of qualified representatives of universities and leading international research laboratories. ILARA’s board of directors is chaired by Jean-Noël Robert, professor at the Collège de France and member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

   ILARA draws on the exceptional potential of its academic and social environment characterized by a great diversity of language families.

2. **An all-round and multi-audience training and awareness offer.**

   ILARA trains people from all walks of life, in basic, continuous or lifelong training, and attaches particular importance to initiation. Both remotely and face-to-face, it organizes:
   - classes,
   - intensive training courses,
   - cross-disciplinary lectures on languages and the different cultures associated with them.

   In addition, ILARA runs a YouTube channel where it shares videos available as series, such as interviews, round tables or talks given by international specialists, series of thematic lectures, presentations of languages or language families, and soon, documentaries on little-known cultures, interviews with speakers of endangered languages, as well as various content targeting children.

3. **A centre whose activity is unique in terms of its chronological extent and geographical coverage.**

   Few institutes today are able to offer such a variety of courses in rarely studied languages spoken on all continents and in different periods, from the written languages of Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt or China to indigenous languages spoken today around the world.

   This unique scope is possible thanks to a long-standing academic network of interdisciplinary and international collaboration, backed by high-performance digital tools and working towards societal and human needs.

A TRIPLE IMPACT

1. For the preservation of the linguistic heritage of the world

   #IYIL2019 was the year of indigenous languages, and given the stakes at issue, UNESCO has decided to make it into a decade (2022–2032). Rarely studied ancient and modern languages are part of the intangible heritage of humanity.

   > Passed from generation to generation through practice and teaching, these languages convey ways of thinking and seeing the world.

   > They express the history of peoples and are a driving force of cultures and of human knowledge in all its diversity, essential to consider in order to face the cultural, environmental and social challenges of the future.

   For the speakers today, passing on their language means:
   > claiming and preserving an identity that is sometimes threatened and often depreciated in a globalized world
   > passing on indigenous legacy and knowledge accumulated by their ancestors over centuries or millennia.

   Speaking one’s own language(s) and the languages of others and recognizing their value means better understanding oneself, others and the world in all its diversity, it means bonding, as well as recognizing and appreciating differences.

2. For science and knowledge

   > Preserving and documenting rarely studied languages is of interest to linguists and philologists as well as historians, ethnologists, archaeologists and anthropologists interested in ancient and contemporary civilizations.

   > Teaching them means training new generations who will embrace the knowledge and pass on the legacy.

3. Preserving and documenting rarely studied languages by:

   - Promoting rarely studied languages by:
     - Supporting science outreach activities
   - Supporting educators and parents in introducing the many facets of linguistic diversity to children and adolescents.

   - Strengthening collaborative science by endorsing the participation of civil society in research and by encouraging young people to get involved.
PROTECTING AND PASSING ON THE DIVERSITY OF THE WORLD’S LINGUISTIC HERITAGE

ILARA responds to three challenges:

1. Raising awareness of the crucial role of rarely studied ancient and modern languages within intangible heritage of humanity
2. Support for the preservation of linguistic diversity
3. Communicating the most recent research findings in this field to the general public

3 VALUES SPECIFIC TO ILARA:

1. An original approach linking academic excellence to civil society

ILARA trains people from all walks of life, in basic, continuous or lifelong training, and attaches particular importance to initiation. Both remotely and face-to-face, it organizes:
- classes,
- intensive training courses,
- cross-disciplinary lectures on languages and the different cultures associated with them.

In addition, ILARA runs a YouTube channel where it shares videos available as series, such as interviews, round tables or talks given by international specialists, series of thematic lectures, presentations of languages or language families, and soon, documentaries on little-known cultures, interviews with speakers of endangered languages, as well as various content targeting children.

A TRIPLE IMPACT

1. For the preservation of the linguistic heritage of the world

#IYIL2019 was the year of indigenous languages, and given the stakes at issue, UNESCO has decided to make it into a decade (2022–2032). Rarely studied ancient and modern languages are part of the intangible heritage of humanity.

> Passed from generation to generation through practice and teaching, these languages convey ways of thinking and seeing the world.
> They express the history of peoples and are a driving force of cultures and of human knowledge in all its diversity, essential to consider in order to face the cultural, environmental and social challenges of the future.

2. For the speakers

For the speakers today, passing on their language means:
- claiming and preserving an identity that is sometimes threatened and often depreciated in a globalized world
- passing on indigenous legacy and knowledge accumulated by their ancestors over centuries or millennia.

Speaking one’s own language(s) and the languages of others and recognizing their value means better understanding oneself, others and the world in all its diversity, it means bonding, as well as recognizing and appreciating differences.

3. For science and knowledge

> Preserving and documenting rarely studied languages is of interest to linguists and philologists as well as historians, ethnologists, archaeologists and anthropologists interested in ancient and contemporary civilizations.
> Teaching them means training new generations who will embrace the knowledge and pass on the legacy.

Promoting rarely studied languages by:
- Supporting science outreach activities
- Strengthening collaborative science by endorsing the participation of civil society in research and by encouraging young people to get involved
- Supporting educators and parents in introducing the many facets of linguistic diversity linguistic diversity and its to children and adolescents.
50% of the 7,000 languages spoken on the planet are endangered, 96% are spoken by only 4% of the world’s population and 90% are not represented on the web.

The vast majority of the languages which could soon disappear remains undescribed. There are currently no written, sound or video documents, dictionaries or grammars which would allow us to know more about these languages and preserve their memory. When the last speaker dies, it is not only the use of the language, but all the cultural heritage associated with it that is lost.

If ancient languages are no longer taught, they might fall completely out of use in the near future. Without mastering them, we would cut ourselves off from an important part of the cultural heritage of the ancient world, which forms an important pillar of the world as we know it.

Linguistic diversity and biodiversity go hand in hand. 91% of all available data pertaining to traditional medicinal botanical knowledge from the Northwest Amazon and 84% of that from Papua New Guinea come from only one indigenous language. Each time a language disappears, crucial ecological knowledge becomes inaccessible.

Each language is a way of subdividing and conceptualizing the world, and therefore a window into the way our brain functions. Each language that dies or remains unknown to researchers prevents us from measuring the extent of human cognitive abilities.

Mindful of these facts and faced with these challenges, the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) created in 2020 the Institute for Linguistic Heritage and Diversity (ILARA).

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

Do you want to help keep this project running? Contact us:

mecenat@ephe.psl.eu

Are you an individual?
Your donation is deductible up to 66% of your income tax provided it does not exceed 20% of your net taxable income.

Do you represent a company?
Your donation is deductible up to 60% provided it does not exceed 0.5% of your turnover.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT?

Language classes (teachers and course management) ........................ 95,000 €/year

A series of cultural and scientific mediation videos or podcasts (material, production and posting, communication) .......................... 55,000 €/year

An instructive video game for children (creation) .................................................. 600,000 €

Preserving linguistic diversity or the way ancient and contemporary languages – extinct or in danger of extinction, little taught and little studied – enrich our relationship with the present-day and future world.

BY SUPPORTING ILARA:

- You are contributing to promoting languages that are little studied but essential for humanity through the diversity of cultures and ways of thinking that they represent,
- You are supporting speakers in protecting their languages, celebrated by the Decade of Indigenous Languages (UNESCO 2022-2032),
- You are contributing to finding ways to overcome the challenges of the future by allowing the dissemination of cultural and ecological knowledge contained within indigenous and ancient languages,
- You are strengthening social bonds by working to achieve a better understanding among beings and among cultures across time and space.
- You allow researchers to continue their research documentation of rare languages, using technologies state-of-the-art digital technology while relying on experience in the field.

PROTECTING AND PASSING ON THE DIVERSITY OF THE WORLD’S LINGUISTIC HERITAGE

50% of the 7,000 languages spoken on the planet are endangered, 96% are spoken by only 4% of the world’s population and 90% are not represented on the web.

The vast majority of the languages which could soon disappear remains undescribed. There are currently no written, sound or video documents, dictionaries or grammars which would allow us to know more about these languages and preserve their memory. When the last speaker dies, it is not only the use of the language, but all the cultural heritage associated with it that is lost.

If ancient languages are no longer taught, they might fall completely out of use in the near future. Without mastering them, we would cut ourselves off from an important part of the cultural heritage of the ancient world, which forms an important pillar of the world as we know it.

Linguistic diversity and biodiversity go hand in hand. 91% of all available data pertaining to traditional medicinal botanical knowledge from the Northwest Amazon and 84% of that from Papua New Guinea come from only one indigenous language. Each time a language disappears, crucial ecological knowledge becomes inaccessible.

Each language is a way of subdividing and conceptualizing the world, and therefore a window into the way our brain functions. Each language that dies or remains unknown to researchers prevents us from measuring the extent of human cognitive abilities.

Mindful of these facts and faced with these challenges, the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) created in 2020 the Institute for Linguistic Heritage and Diversity (ILARA).