



# ILARA

The Institute for Linguistic Heritage and Diversity



École Pratique  
des Hautes Études

PSL 

with the support of



in partnership with



ILARA

Institut des langues rares

un institut de l'EPHE - PSL



<https://ilaraen.hypotheses.org/>



## AN INSTITUTE

ILARA is a centre for training in, expertise on and resources relating to rare and precious languages. Founded in 2020, it is one of the four institutes of the École Pratique des Hautes Études – Université Paris Sciences et Lettres.

It offers innovative and varied courses in languages that are poorly described, rarely taught or little spoken, sometimes in danger of extinction, or already extinct.

Through its language classes,  
its talks and its online videos,  
ILARA responds to a triple challenge:

It aims to raise awareness among diverse audiences of the vast intangible heritage of humanity: rare, precious languages both ancient and modern, and the unique worldviews they convey.

It seeks to support the preservation of linguistic diversity, which is inseparable from ecosystem conservation.

It shares the latest research findings on languages that are little-known, rarely taught, and sometimes completely undocumented with its audiences.

ILARA relies on a steering committee which brings together directors of studies from EPHE-PSL and researchers from the CNRS who have contributed to its design, and on an international board of directors chaired by Jean-Noël Robert (Collège de France) consisting of prominent specialists involved in the transmission of ancient or living languages.



## TRANSMIT BEFORE OBLIVION

**89 videos  
on YouTube**

**850 participants**

**70+  
languages**

**225,800  
views**

**95%  
satisfaction  
rate**

**covering 5  
continents**

At the instigation of Anne-Marie Turcan-Verkerk and with the help of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, EPHE-PSL created a unique platform for sharing knowledge with the goal of promoting interest and awareness of ancient and living precious languages, known as ILARA.

ILARA transmits to all audiences the fruit of high-level research on lesser-known languages from all continents and from different periods, from the ancient languages of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Ancient China to contemporary oral indigenous languages; those attested only through writings preserved to this day and those whose written but also audio-visual documentation is yet to be carried out.

ILARA contributes, through its means of outreach, to the preservation of a linguistic diversity which goes hand in hand with the preservation of ecosystems and cultural knowledge transmitted from generation to generation (for example on flora, fauna, and the environment), including the transmission of religions, philosophies, poetry and so on.

When a language dies without leaving a  
trace, with it disappears an invaluable  
portion of human thought and wisdom.

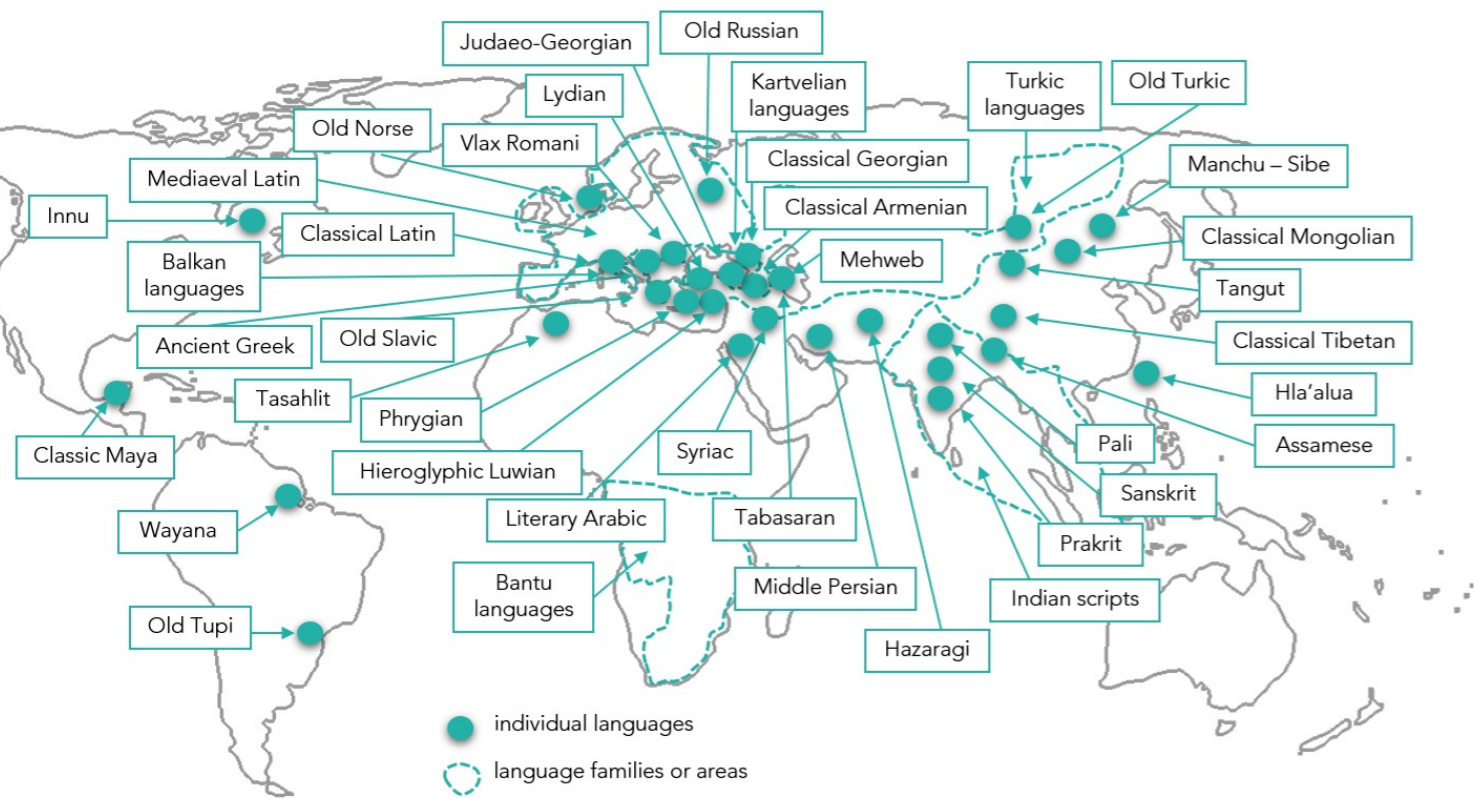
<https://ilaraen.hypotheses.org/>

# UNIQUE STUDY PROGRAMS

ILARA offers regular classes and intensive courses in languages or language families, primarily at the introductory level.

Some languages are taught at two or three levels, either within one year or as alternating year-long classes.

Course participants come from various social backgrounds. Our classes are for all ages, with minors accessing our courses for free.



**Fees and registration:**

<https://ilaraen.hypotheses.org/fees-and-registration>

## ILARA – List of classes 2024–2025

Cross-disciplinary classes	Ancient languages: intensive course S2	
	Introduction to philology: S2	
Africa	Bantu languages: S2	
	Tasahlit: intensive course S2	
Americas	Innu-aimun: S1 & S2	
	Classic Maya: lev. 1 & 2, S1 & S2	
	Old Tupi: S1	
	Wayana: intensive course 1, S1, and 2, S2	
East Asia	Hla'alua: intensive course S1	
	Manchu-Sibe: S2	
	Classical Mongolian: lev. 1, S1 & S2	
	Tangut: intensive course, S1 / S1 & S2	
	Classical Tibetan: lev. 1 & 2, S1 & S2	
South Asia	Assamese: S1 & S2	
	Indian scripts: S1 & S2	
	Pali : S1 & S2	
	Prakrit: lev. 2, S1 & S2	
	Sanskrit: intensive course 1, S1, et 2, S2	
Europe	Balkan languages: S2	
	Ancient Greek: intensive course 1, S1, and 2, S2, lev. 1, 2 & 3, S1 & S2	
	Classical Latin: intensive course 1, S1, and 2, S2, lev. 1, 2 & 3, S1 & S2	
	Mediaeval Latin : lev. 2, S1	
	Vlach Romani: S2	
	Old Norse: lev. 2, S1 & S2	
	Old Russian: S1 & S2	
	Old Slavic: S1 & S2	
	Turkic, Caucasian and Iranian worlds	Classical Armenian: lev. 1 & 3, S1 & S2
		Classical Georgian: lev. 1 & 3, S1 & S2
Hazaragi: S2		
Judaean-Georgian: lev. 2, S1 & S2		
Kartvelian languages: lev. 2, S1 & S2		
Turkic languages: S2		
Mehweb: S1		
Middle Persian: lev. 2, S1 & S2		
Tabasaran : S1 & S2		
Old Turkic: S1		
Ancient Near East	Literary Arabic, intensive course 1, S1, and 2, S2 / S1 & S2	
	Hieroglyphic Luwian: lev. 1, S1 & S2	
	Lydian: S1	
	Phrygian: S1	
	Syriac: lev. 3, S1 & S2	





## ONLINE OPTIONS

The ILARA Online offer is free, available at all times and accessible to all. It is constantly growing, including with series of talks on rare Jewish languages, and on writing systems in the ancient world, given by leading experts in the field.

### Among our online mediation resources

An exhibition of photographs on the relationship between ecosystems and rare languages : taking cultural diversity into account is essential for initiating global action in favour of sustainable development. This exhibition is in hybrid mode: physical and digital. In order to take full advantage of the exhibition, you need your smartphone as well as your headphones, in order to flash our QR codes and access the audio and video recordings of the rare languages presented.

<https://ilaraen.hypotheses.org/2754>

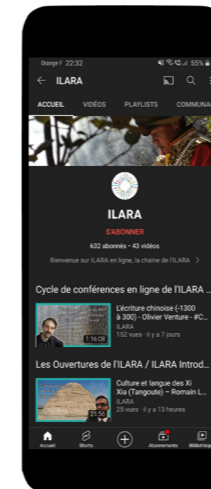
A book currently in preparation, featuring short informative texts, accompanied by photos, which showcase the languages of ILARA. Each text is associated with a QR code, providing access to ILARA's online content, ensuring a dynamic combination of both physical and digital presentation.

### Among our projects:

A series which tell the story of the Austronesian languages (Nicholas Evans and Isabelle Bril), it will take the viewers on a journey from Taiwan to French Polynesia.

A conference devoted to translating *The Little Prince* into lesser-known languages (Collège de France, October 2023), with the support of the Jean-Marc Probst Foundation for *The Little Prince*.

Covering more languages per learners' request, tripling the number of course participants, achieving a participation rate of 20% among those aged 18 and under, reaching a wider audience



ILARA Online broadcasts talks, roundtables, interviews and other video formats, devoted to rare and precious languages of the world, streamed Live or uploaded on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ILARA-EPHE>



### ILARA Introductions / Themed Talks

Series of talks introducing rare and precious languages and their cultures.



### ILARA Invitations

LIVE streaming of interviews and talks given by internationally recognized specialists in the field of rare languages.



### ILARA Cultures

Original documentaries or reports, contributed by anthropologists, archeologists, historians...



### Speakers of ILARA

Filmed content, interviews or original reports, produced by or in cooperation with speakers of these languages.



### ILARA for Kids

Fun and educational content on or in rare and precious languages, intended for children, parents and instructors.



### ILARA for Researchers

Specialized conferences, at the forefront of research on rare and precious languages, designed by and for researchers.



## ILARA INVITATIONS

### CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGES



#### **Nicholas Evans (Australian National University)**

A presentation of the riches of the Dalabon language, an endangered language of Australia.

<http://bit.ly/Ilara-NicholasEvans>

### ANCIENT LANGUAGES



#### **Stephen Houston (Brown University)**

A presentation of ancient Maya writing, and its graphic pluralism full of vitality and humanity.

<http://bit.ly/ilara-StephenHouston>

### THEMATIC ROUND TABLES

#### **MULTILINGUALISM ON A SMALL SCALE**



Two round tables coordinated by **Friederike Lüpke (University of Helsinki)**, focusing on how multilingual rural communities around the world interact on a daily basis.

#### **In Africa, Amazonia and the Atlantic area**

<http://bit.ly/ilara-MultilingualismAtlantic>



## ILARA INTRODUCTIONS AND THEMED TALKS

### INTRODUCTIONS



#### **Denis Bertet (DDL-CNRS Lyon)**

An introduction to Tikuna, an Amerindian language of the Amazon.

<https://bit.ly/introduction-tikuna>



#### **Amina Mettouchi (EPHE-PSL, LLACAN) Massinissa Garaoun (EPHE-PSL, LLACAN)**

If you are heir to or speaker of an Amazigh (Berber) language, ILARA offers you training in self-documentation: the recording, by the Amazighs themselves, and in their languages, of knowledge, know-how and oral tradition of their cultures, in order to preserve them and pass them on to future generations. The training is methodological and technical, it was designed within the self-documentation project «Amazigh languages in danger». This video explains what self-documentation is, why it is necessary and gives examples of achievements in this context.

<https://bit.ly/auto-documentation-langues-amazighes>



### CYCLES



#### **Nicholas Evans (Australian National University)**

These talks address the question of the evolution of language diversity since prehistory, by relating the currently observed extraordinary variation with the cultural and environmental conditions in which these languages emerged.

<https://bit.ly/cycle-LinguisticDiversity-ilara-youtube>

## ILARA CULTURES



### **Interview with Marie Lorin, director of *Kedodaa maayo / Listen to the River***

This documentary gives voice to the unique and poetic perspectives that have emerged on the banks of the Senegal River, in the midst of the significant changes that have occurred in the Catchment Area of the river.

<https://bit.ly/cultures-Keoaa-maayo>

### ***The Awiakay and the Meakambut of Papua New Guinea*, by Darja Hoenigman**

From never-before-seen videos filmed in the field, we learn about the Awiakay – a largely endogamous community of nearly 400 people living in the village of Kanjimei in the lowland rainforest of the South Sepik floodplain in Papua New Guinea – and their mountain neighbours, the Meakambut, a group of hunter-gatherers numbering about 60 individuals.

<https://bit.ly/cultures-Darja-Hoenigman>



## SPEAKERS OF ILARA

### **Interview with Marie-Rose Ta Nui Agnie *Je suis Ta Nui, l'île de ma mère***

This documentary gives voice to the unique and poetic perspectives that have emerged on the banks of the Senegal River, in the midst of the significant changes that have occurred in the Catchment Area of the river.

<https://bit.ly/speakers-ta-nui>



## ILARA FOR RESEARCHERS



### **Interview with Claude Rilly *contemporary languages to the aid of ancient languages***

Claude Rilly is a linguist, egyptologist and archaeologist, specializing in Meroitic and Nilo-Saharan languages. He presents his research methodology (related languages for the decipherment of Meroitic).

<https://bit.ly/chercheurs-claude-rilly>

More videos on our YouTube channel :

<http://bit.ly/ilara-youtube>

ILARA generates a great deal of enthusiasm because it makes it possible to transmit knowledge which otherwise would sink into oblivion and remain largely ignored. This community has contributed to the revitalization of studies on some language families: this is particularly the case for the languages of the Caucasus. ILARA has thus fulfilled an important social purpose. The current aim is to provide it with the means to pursue its development.

### CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

[ilara@ephe.psl.eu](mailto:ilara@ephe.psl.eu)

ILARA, Campus Condorcet  
Bâtiment de recherche Nord  
14, cours des Humanités  
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

# Training, expertise and resources on rarely studied languages

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