Editorial

Indo-European historical and comparative linguistics ranks among the best established of the historical and social sciences, with a tradition stretching back to the beginnings of the nineteenth century. Despite longstanding reports of its imminent demise, the field continues to flourish and attract a new generation of students, and Indo-Europeanists have made great advances in our understanding of a wide range of ancient and medieval languages, as well as of language change in general. The field of linguistics as a whole is also experiencing a boom in popularity, with tens of thousands of practitioners active on six continents, investigating fundamental questions on the nature and structure of human language and engaging with data from thousands of language varieties. All of this scholarly activity is represented in a wealth of conference publications, collected volumes, and journals, which have steadily grown in number over the last few decades.

Why then a new journal called *Indo-European Linguistics*? Simply put, it is our desire to bridge the gap between traditionally philologically-oriented historical linguistics on the one hand, and contemporary theoretical linguistics on the other. Although this gap has narrowed in recent years, it is still unfortunately the case that Indo-European specialist journals tend to shy away from research conducted in a theoretical framework, while major linguistics journals are not always receptive to studies of older languages. Conversations over the years confirmed our impression that the need for such a journal was also felt by many colleagues, especially the increasing number who receive training in phonology, syntax, semantics, cognitive linguistics, language acquisition, and/or sociolinguistics, in addition to the standard Indo-European curriculum.

We are hereby proud to inaugurate the first journal specifically devoted to the study of the ancient and medieval Indo-European languages from the perspective of contemporary theoretical linguistics. The articles contained in this first issue nicely illustrate the kinds of results to be gained by applying the insights of contemporary linguistic scholarship to data from the older Indo-European languages, or Proto-Indo-European (PIE). Adam Cooper investigates the typological plausibility of the system of syllabic sonorants standardly reconstructed for PIE, adducing a rich array of data from well over 100 languages. David Goldstein offers an in-depth description of the semantics of the Latin scalar adverb *nēdum* ‘let alone’ and proposes a plausible account of its

evolution. Götz Keydana builds upon the latest work in Indo-European accentology to propose a new account of the accentual pattern of the largest class of nouns in PIE and the ancient Indo-European languages, those characterized by a uniform stem-final vowel *-o-. Finally, Holly Lakey examines the morphosyntax of verbs denoting fear in Indo-European languages, and relates their case patterning to other expressions of physical or metaphorical distance.

Indo-European Linguistics will appear in both print and electronic form and, thanks to the generous support of the Program in Indo-European Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, will be a fully Open Access journal, accessible free of charge to scholars working anywhere in the world. Future issues will contain contributions on linguistic variation in Oscan, morphological and semantic reconstruction of the Baltic verb, and Hittite clausal syntax, among other exciting topics. We hope that *Indo-European Linguistics* will not only provide a welcome forum for such research, but also contribute to further collaboration between traditional Indo-European and contemporary theoretical linguistics.

May 2014

Joseph F. Eska

Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

Ronald I. Kim

Sośnie, Poland