

# Preface

In May 2014, under the auspices of the Berlin-based cluster of excellence TOPOI II, a workshop took place at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin that attempted to look at ancient terminologies with an interdisciplinary focus. While the initial motivation of our discussions was to understand terminologies as creating and maintaining microcosms of expertise, with its gains and losses, soon a more general awareness of a certain lack emerged: it seemed to us that currently the only ones who happily worked on terminologies were linguists, and all others mainly worked *with* terminologies, often even under their constraints. Therefore, one of the basic tenets of the workshop was to say more about terminologies, both ancient and modern ones, beyond the standard questions of morphology or usage. In particular, strategic and aesthetic reasons, such as authority and beauty, respectively, to opt for one set of terms or one morphological principle among many and instead of others seemed to call for our attention. In some cases, these hidden agendas are easy to find, in others less so. I hope that some of the chapters collected here still transmit that interest.

For various reasons, notably due to the long lapse of time between workshop and publication, for which I alone am to blame, many among the participants of the 2014 workshop eventually decided against publishing their contributions. Besides Matthias Schemmel (now Hamburg University), Anna-Maria Gasser, Werner Golder (Aix-en-Provence), and myself, whose papers are part of the present volume, among the members of the original group were Reviel Netz (Stanford), Mark Geller (then FU, now UCL), Gerd Grasshoff (HU), Nalini Kirk (FU), Werner Kogge (FU), Jens-Olaf Lindermann (FU), Gerhard Seher (FU), and Chiara Thumiger (then HU, now CAU Kiel). In the course of the years, Dominik Berrens, Sabine Föllinger, Marcel Humar, Loren Marsh, Courtney Roby, Francesca Schironi, Thomas Stolz, and Ingo Warnke kindly agreed upon contributing papers to the developing collection. In the end, the present collection emerged, which is admittedly heterogeneous, but, perhaps, therefore transmits an idea of what we can do with terminologies without any ambition to exhaust the topic. As we all know, terminology is everywhere: As the zoologist had to a long time ago, the terminologist, too, happily quotes Heraclitus: *et heic di sunt* (in the words of Aulus Gellius).

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Markus Asper

