

Preface

The concept of Connected Philology was developed in the context of the conference “Beyond Comparison: Towards a Connected Philology.” This event took place between 14 and 16 June 2023 at the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung in Munich, Germany, as part of the curriculum of the International Doctorate Programme (IDK) “Philology: Practices of Pre-modern Cultures, Global Perspectives and Future Concepts” at LMU Munich, funded by the Elite Network of Bavaria. The conference aimed to transcend the usual approach of simply pointing out similarities and differences between philological methods and traditions across cultures: instead, the papers delved into the underlying connections leading to these parallels and divergences. The contributions exceeded our expectations: not only did they go beyond comparison, but they also adopted a transcultural approach. The discussions underscored the value of Connected Philology explored through a transcultural and interdisciplinary lens, opening up promising perspectives for future research. Inspired by these insights, several IDK members contributed their papers to this volume.

The conference and the subsequent publication were a joint effort by the PhD students of the IDK. The conceptualisation and organisation of the conference were coordinated by Sophie Florence, Simon Haffner, Luis Schäfer, Elisabeth Seidel, Bastian Jürgen Wagner, and Nikola Wenner. Unfortunately, Sophie Florence left the IDK before the event took place, but we are grateful for her contributions in the early stages of the development of Connected Philology as a concept.

All PhD students of the IDK contributed to the preparation of this volume, guided by four editors-in-chief. We are especially grateful for the help of Laura Noll and our student assistants. Our thanks also go to the programme’s spokespersons, Prof Dr Beate Kellner and Prof Dr Susanne Reichlin, for their support and for providing us with the opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary context. Lastly, we extend our gratitude to our Principal Investigators for their insights into their respective disciplines. Their commitment to this project was invaluable in shaping the concept of Connected Philology and enriching it with perspectives drawn from diverse academic and personal backgrounds.

Munich, May 2025

Korinna Gonschorek and Nikola Wenner

