

From Katpatuka to Ionanistan

The Rise, Demise and Reawakening of Cappadocian (Asia Minor Greek)

Mark Janse

Ghent University / Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University

mark.janse@ugent.be

Cappadocian (Asia Minor Greek) is a Greek-Turkish mixed language spoken in Cappadocia (Central Turkey) until the population exchange between Greece and Turkey in the 1920s. Cappadocian speakers were forced to emigrate to Greece, where they were resettled in various locations, especially in Central and Northern Greece. The Cappadocians rapidly shifted to Standard Modern Greek and/or regional varieties thereof and their language was thought to be extinct since the 1970s (*Ethnologue*, 15th edition, 2005). In June 2005, Mark Janse (Ghent University) and Dimitris Papazachariou (University of Patras) discovered Cappadocians in Central and Northern Greece who could still speak their native language. Amongst them are middle-aged, third-generation speakers who take a very positive attitude towards the language as opposed to their parents and grandparents. The latter are much less (if at all) inclined to speak Cappadocian and normally switch to Greek and/or Turkish in their conversations. In his lecture, Professor Janse will relate the linguistic history of Cappadocia and the fascinating story of his search and ultimately discovery of the lost Cappadocian language. The lecture will be followed by the documentary film 'Last Words'.

Mark Janse is BOF-ZAP Research Professor in Ancient & Asia Minor Greek at Ghent University and Associate in Greek Linguistics at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies. He was a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford (2007 & 2014) and Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies (2013), an A1 Foreign Fellow of the Onassis Foundation, Greece (2008 & 2015), an Onassis Senior Visiting Scholar at Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and the University of Arizona (2012). In 2020 he will deliver the Kenneth E. Naylor Memorial Lecture in South Slavic Linguistics at the Ohio State University and the Gaisford Lecture in Oxford. His research covers the entire history of the Greek language, from Homer and Classical Greek via Biblical and other Postclassical Greek varieties to Medieval and Modern Greek. His research interests include language contact in the ancient and modern world, with particular attention to Greek-Semitic and Greek-Turkish contacts, Homeric and Byzantine metre and versification, Ancient Greek word order, obscene language and female speech in Old Attic Comedy, Septuagint and New Testament Greek, and Modern, especially Asia Minor Greek dialectology. He is best-known for his long-term study of Cappadocian Greek on which he has published extensively, including a grammar. His personal involvement with its speakers has earned him the honorary title 'Ambassador of the Cappadocians' and is the topic of the documentary film 'Last Words' (seriousFilm, 2014).