

**GSAS Indo-European Workshop  
Louise Skydsbjerg Friis (University of Copenhagen)**

**Wednesday, April 26 – 5:45 pm  
Boylston Hall Room 335**

**The phylogenetic position of Lydian: Current Indications**

Despite more than a hundred years of study, the Lydian language still plays an obscure part within Anatolian historical linguistics. In addition to major gaps in our understanding of its synchronic and diachronic phonology, morphology and lexicon, its phylogenetic position within the Anatolian branch of IE is disputed. In my bachelor's thesis from 2015, I assembled all the evidence relating to this problem, in an attempt to create a current picture of our knowledge. This talk is based on that paper with due updates and revisions.

I am working from the hypothesis of two major dialectal groups in Anatolian, Hittite-Palaic and Luwian (Luvian, Lycian, Carian, Pisidian and Sidetic). I will discuss isoglosses linking Lydian to each of these, as well as evidence suggesting that Lydian constitutes a sub-branch of its own. A recurring problem with these isoglosses is distinguishing between innovations, archaisms and areal features. This overview will show that hardly any of them can be established as clear-cut significant innovations, but a picture of the position of Lydian will emerge, albeit somewhat blurry.