

# International Linguistic Association

## *Monthly Lecture Series*

**Saturday, May 3, 2025. 11 AM – 12:15 PM (EST) on Zoom**

**Dr. Pierluigi Cuzzolin**

*Academia Europaea*

### **On the Relation between Historical Linguistics and Typology**

**Abstract:**

A discussion concerning the relation between historical linguistics and typology can only be possible when based on three clear assumptions:

1. Historical linguistics is different from diachronic linguistics and the two perspectives only partially overlap. Central to the notion of historical linguistics is history in its broadest sense, whereas diachrony basically describes developments of linguistic structure at any level over time, trying to formalize possible generalization. This crucial difference is very frequently disregarded in the literature on historical linguistics.
2. Strictly speaking, typology is not a theory of language, but an empirical method to discover and recognize differences among languages at any level.
3. A philological scrutiny of the material under investigation is a necessary condition in order to correctly and profitably evaluate the linguistic documents on which the research is based.

In the lecture some cases will be illustrated taken from different languages, not only belonging to the Indo-European family. The linguistic analyses of the instances provided intend to show how the three points mentioned above interact with one another.

**Date & Time: May 3, 2025 at 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**ZOOM LINK:** <https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/j/84880150066>

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## About the Speaker

# Dr. Pierluigi Cuzzolin



**Pierluigi Cuzzolin** is an outstanding scholar: his scientific expertise is a rare blend of profound and acute understanding of language functions and changes, an impeccable mastering of the classical languages and their philology, and a wide knowledge of many world's languages. His contributions to research in general and historical linguistics, Greek and Latin linguistics, and typology are fundamental and inspiring. His individual research and painstaking work as coordinator of international research projects and as editor of the most important journal of Latin linguistics has marked the cornerstone in the fields mentioned above.

Pierluigi Cuzzolin's intense and inspiring activity as a scholar, professor of linguistics, promoter and coordinator of international scientific networks is remarkable. His scholarly contributions are highly relevant to various branches of linguistic research, range over general and historical linguistics, Greek and Latin linguistics, typology, translation theory. Thanks to his impressive command of the classical and the modern European languages (even the less known like the Celtic languages) and his knowledge of other language families including Semitic, he has developed profound and innovative views on many crucial linguistic problems like language contact, internally and externally induced syntactic changes, comparison, the theory of impersonals, the theory of modality and evidentiality. His approach to socio-historical linguistics is at the cutting-edge of European research on these hotly debated subjects. His monograph on the Latin syntactic structure *dicere quod* has marked the cornerstone in the field of historical syntax, masterly combining analysis of historical data and typological interpretation, opening new perspectives on the general issue on how the interaction of these two dimensions should be envisaged.