

## Rewriting the law: diachronic variation and register in Greek and Hittite legal language.

Ancient Greek legal inscriptions and the Hittite law codes are texts that were frequently modified, and amendments and additions are often signposted: a number of the Hittite laws state that the punishment was formerly (*karū*) something else, but has now been reduced (e.g. §57, 58, 59), and there are additional provisions added as part of a later revision of the text (e.g. §IX, X). Similarly, Greek legal inscriptions sometimes have amendments added later (e.g. the Gortyn Code), and older laws are reinscribed or republished (e.g. Drakon's law on homicide, IG<sup>3</sup> 104). Consequently, they provide interesting material for examining the diachronic development of linguistic register.

This paper will consider two linguistic features which are relevant to the (re)writing and amendment of laws: lexical marking in the protasis of conditional constructions, and the use of asyndeton. In the Hittite law codes, both the conjunction *takku* 'if' (mainly found in the law codes and omen texts, Zorman 2017), and the more common *mān* 'if, when' occur in complex protases. In the earliest Cretan legal inscriptions, connective particles are used in amendments or additions to laws, as well as to indicate alternative provisions, whereas asyndeton is used to indicate a new section or subject, but this only appears to be totally systematic in the Gortyn Code (Gagarin 1982, Gagarin and Perlman 2016). Using methodology informed by both sociolinguistic studies of register and construction grammar-based approaches, I will explore how these features are used and what this can show about the development of 'legal language'.