

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Ivo Spira**

史易文

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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Name:** Ivo SPIRA

**Academic degree:** Ph.D.

**Date and place of birth:** July 6, 1978, Vienna, Austria

**Nationality:** Norwegian

**Website:** [ivospira.github.io](https://ivospira.github.io)

### EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D. in Chinese Studies, Conceptual History and Linguistics, with the dissertation “Chinese -Isms and Ismatism: A Case Study in the Modernisation of Ideological Discourse” (now published by [Brill](#)), supervised by Professor Christoph Harbsmeier. Coursework in semantics, natural language processing, language and evolution, theory of science.
- 2005 M.A. in Asian and African Studies, University of Oslo. M.A. thesis: “[Chinese Translations of the Qur’ān: A Close Reading of Selected Passages](#).”
- 2002 Intensive Course in Arabic–Norwegian interpreting at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Oslo (ca. 200 hrs).
- 2002 BA in Sinology (Chinese language and civilisation) from the University of Vienna.
- 2000–2001 Exchange student at the Charles University in Prague, Department of Sinology. Courses in Classical Chinese and Early Chinese History.

### CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2016– Independent author and researcher
- 2005– Co-founder of AnaCypher Language Processing, a research company devoted to the research and development of natural language processing technology.

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2012–2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo.
- 2011–2012 Associate Professor, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo.
- 2010–2011 Research Fellow at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo, with teaching duties.
- 2007–2010 Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo.
- 2005 Compiler and editor of the character index in *Kinesisk-norsk ordbok* (Chinese Norwegian Dictionary, Kunnskapsforlaget 2005).
- 2004–2006 Teaching Assistant in introductory linguistics for students of African and Asian Languages at the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo
- 2002 Research Assistant under Professor Christoph Harbsmeier at the Department of East European and Oriental Studies of the University of Oslo: work on the Thesaurus Linguae Sericae database (<http://tls.uni-hd.de/>).

## AWARDS

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| 2011 | H. M. The King's Gold Medal for outstanding academic work by young scholars. Awarded by the King of Norway for the dissertation "Chinese -Isms and Ismatisation: A Case Study in the Modernisation of Ideological Discourse" |
| 2005 | Award for the Best Master Thesis in Asian Studies at a Norwegian University, awarded by the Network for Asian Studies at the Norwegian Centre for Development and the Environment.   |

## ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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| 2014 | "Dungan Folk Literature," international conference, University of Oslo September 14–18, 2014.   |
| 2014 | "Dungan Lexicography", international workshop, University of Oslo May 14–16, 2014   |
| 2013 | "Dungan Linguistics", international workshop, University of Oslo Oct 10–Nov 2, 2013,  |
| 2013 | "First International Forum of Dunganologists", international conference, International University of Central Asia, Tokmok, Kyrgyz Republic, April 19th, 2013. |

## COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

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| 2008 | Board Member, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo. |
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## MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS

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| 2006–2010 | Participant in the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action "Stability and Adaptation of Classification Systems in a Cross-Cultural Perspective" |
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## OTHER COURSES

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|--------------|---|
| 2010         | Practical courses in university pedagogy at the University of Oslo.   |
| 2009         | "China in the World, China Global: Nation, State, Ethnicity," postgraduate research summer school, Oslo, 21–24 July, 2009.  |
| 2007–present | Regular participant in the <a href="#">Oslo Arabic–Greek Seminar</a> (close reading of Ancient Greek texts and their Arabic translations side by side)  |
| 2006         | Summer Academy "Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures," at the American University in Beirut, Oct 2–13, 2006, arranged by the research project "Europe in the Middle East — The Middle East in Europe." |
| 2004         | Courses in university level physics and mathematics at the University of Oslo.  |
| 2003–2005    | Regular participant in the Buddhist Text Seminar held at the The Norwegian Institute for Palaeography and Historical Philology (close reading of Sanskrit, Chinese, and Tibetan versions in parallel)   |
| 1996         | Supplementary High School level exams in advanced German, English, Italian, and Latin   |

## NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2005–present Co-founder of AnaCypher Language Processing, a research company devoted to the research and development of natural language processing technology.
- 2006 Coordinator for the 2006 Internal Evaluation of the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo
- 2005 Coordinator of a pilot project in introductory linguistics and culture theory for students of African and Asian Languages at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo. Partly focussed on the use of web-based technology in introductory courses.
- 1996–2005 Freelance translator and interpreter (English–Norwegian, German–Norwegian, Arabic–Norwegian).

## LANGUAGES

**Native languages:** Norwegian and German

**Non-native languages**, according to level of proficiency:

1. English, Mandarin Chinese, Czech, Swedish, Standard Arabic, Russian (*high*)
2. Spanish, Italian, French, Latin (*high*, but *primarily reading skills*)
3. Japanese, Ancient Greek (*basic skills*)

## PUBLICATIONS

- forthcoming “Chinese Isms”. *Journal of Political Ideology*.
- forthcoming “The Formation of Central Asian Hui Chinese (Dungan)”.
- forthcoming “Naming the World Across Languages. Comparative Notes on Diversity in Concept Formation”. In: *Conceptualizing the World*, Berghahn Books.
- 2016 “Calques”, *Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics*, ed. Rint Sybesma. Leiden: Brill 2015.
- 2016 “Japanese Borrowings”, *Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics*, ed. Rint Sybesma. Leiden: Brill 2015.
- 2015 *A Conceptual History of Chinese -Isms. The Modernization of Ideological Discourse, 1895–1925*. Leiden: Brill 2015.
- 2012 “*Donggan minjian gushi chuanshuo ji* 東干民間故事傳說集 (Collection of Dungan folktales and legends). By Li Fuqing 李福清 (Boris Riftin). Transcriptions from the Dungan language by Hai Feng 海峰. Translations from the Russian by Lian Shusheng 連樹生. Shanghai: Shanghai wenyi, 2011. 4 + 41 + 534 pp. RMB 39.00.” Review, *CHINOPERL Papers* 31 (2012): 236–246.
- 2005 “[Chinese Translations of the Qur’ān: A Close Reading of Selected Passages](#).” M.A. thesis, University of Oslo, 2005.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND GUEST LECTURES

- 2016 “Chinese Isms,” paper given at the workshop “The Political Rhetoric of Isms” at the university of Helsinki, June 14–15, 2016.
- 2014 “Dungan Folklore Texts as Sources for the Study of the Dungan Language” («Тексты дунганского фольклора как источники для исследования дунганского языка»). Presentation given at the international conference “Dungan Folk Literature,” held at the University of Oslo September 14–18, 2014.

- 2014 “‘Endangered Languages’ — A Conceptual Analysis.” Presentation given in June 2014 as a part of a series of theoretical seminars given at the The Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan at the University of Oslo.
- 2014 “The Dungan Lexicography Project”, paper given at the workshop “Dungan Lexicography” at the University of Oslo, May 14–16, 2014.
- 2013 “Chinese as a Post-Soviet Minority Language. The Muslim Dungans of Central Asia” paper given at the East Asian Lunch Seminar at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo, September 4, 2013.
- 2013 “Basic Problems in Dungan Linguistics”, presentation held at the workshop “Dungan Linguistics”, University of Oslo, Oct 30–Nov 2, 2013.
- 2013 “The Project of a Lexical Database of the Dungan Language” («Проект лексической базы данных дунганского языка»), paper held at the “First International Forum of Dunganologists” in Tokmok, Kyrgyz Republic, on April 19th, 2013.
- 2012 “Хуэйзү йүян 回族語言. Language among the Dungans and the Hui”. Presentation given at a seminar on Muslims in China held at the Confucius Institute in Cracow, Poland, on November 26, 2012.
- 2011 “The Digital Archive of Dungan Studies,” paper given at the conference “Central’no-aziatskie dungane: istorija, kul’tura i byt” (The Central Asian Dungans: History, Culture, Way of Life), Bishkek Humanities University, Kyrgyzstan, September 27–28, 2011.
- 2011 “Naming ‘the World’ Across Languages. Comparative Notes on Diversity in Concept Formation.” Paper given at the conference “Conceptualizing the World”, University of Oslo, September 13–16, 2011.
- 2010 “The *Organon* Knowledge Editor,” paper given at the double conference “Early Chán Manuscripts among the Dūnhuáng Findings” and “Resources in the Mark-up and Digitization of Historical Texts,” University of Oslo, Sept 28–Oct 2, 2010.
- 2010 “The Global Mobility of -Isms: The “Ismatisation” of Chinese in a Comparative Perspective,” guest lecture at the Afrika-Asien-Institut at the University of Hamburg, June 9, 2010.
- 2010 “Philosophical Ontology and Computer Ontologies as Tools in Semantics,” paper given at the conference “Categorizing Human Experience: Classification in Languages and Knowledge Systems.” Paris, École Normale Supérieure, May 14th–16th, 2010.
- 2010 “The Global Mobility of -Isms: The “Ismatisation” of Chinese in a Comparative Perspective,” paper given at the conference “Culture, Civilization and the World – the Semantics of Globalization,” University of Oslo, January 25–27, 2010.
- 2008 “Categories, Ideals, and Ideologies. The Conceptual History of -isms/-zhǐyì in Modern Chinese.” Guest lecture at the University of Heidelberg, May 2008.
- 2006 “Classifiers in TLS, preceded by Some Reflections on Classification Terminology,” paper given at a workshop of the European Council on Science and Technology project “Stability and Adaptation of Classification Systems in a Cross-Cultural Perspective,” Berlin, December 8–10, 2006.
- 2006 “The Pragmatics of -Isms in Modern Chinese: On the Development of Ideology-Related Concepts in the Modernisation Process.” Paper given at the conference “Crossroads: Writing Conceptual History Beyond the Nation State,” University of Uppsala, August 24–26, 2006.

**CONTACT**

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