

## About this volume

The contents of this volume were subject to a double-blinded peer review process in which two anonymous reviewers received anonymized versions of the papers (with metadata meticulously removed). Only a select number of publications were exempt from the review process:

- Most of the introductory Section I, “Päivänsankari”, pertaining to the jubilarian herself. The contributions “The etymology of Finnish *laakso* ‘valley’” and “The name *Johanna*: some historical, etymological, and cultural notes” were, however, peer reviewed.
- The contents of Section II, “Reports”.
- The artistic contributions gracing the pages introducing sections.

We hereby vouch that we adhered to best scientific practices when administering the peer review, even when it was painful. As some members of the editorial team sent in scientific contributions of their own, I had to keep them in the dark regarding the choice of reviewers as well.

For the volume at hand, we accepted contributions in any language the jubilarian can realistically be expected to read. Manifold as the contributions were, they do not actually fully cover the spectrum afforded by this restriction. This was to our advantage, as it meant we could offer native proof-reading for almost all meta languages used in this volume: English, German, Hungarian, Finnish, Estonian. While there was a general style sheet for the volume, we gave our contributors significant liberties, insisting only that the chosen conventions were followed consistently within one contribution. This was necessitated by the great differences in conventions between the different disciplines and meta languages represented by this volume.

All online sources referenced in this volume were checked on 24 May 2022.

## To *Festschrift* or not to *Festschrift*?

Irrespective the ongoing discussions on the validity of the abstract concept of a *Festschrift*, there never was much doubt that we wanted to assemble and publish *this particular one*. Strong appetite for it was apparent both in Vienna and abroad (i.e., scholars reaching out to us far and wide making sure we were planning one), and, critically: while *Festschriften* are often criticized for being thematically disjoint collections of articles, a collection of articles centred around the interests of Johanna Laakso sounded like *an incredibly interesting book to read*. Potential topics we singled out in the call for papers were: Uralic languages and language history, multilingualism, literary and cultural studies, gender studies, minority activism, cats.

There is a common saying in German that self-praise stinks, but we are confident that we managed to create a volume that does justice to our ambitions. Figure 1 below is a word cloud based<sup>1</sup> on the content of this book. While the overlap between it and a word cloud created on the basis of Johanna's academic works (see page 42) is not perfect, it is clearly notable.

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<sup>1</sup> Created using [www.wordclouds.com](http://www.wordclouds.com)



## Acknowledgements

It takes a village to compile a Festschrift. This project would not have been possible without the broad support we enjoyed from our network of scholars. We owe a special debt of gratitude to **Beáta Wagner-Nagy** of the University of Hamburg for her assistance in obtaining funding for this undertaking. The open-access fees for this volume were crowd-funded; in alphabetical order, thanks are due to: **Rogier Blokland, Márta Csire, Melinda Deréky, Pál Deréky, Erika Erlinghagen, Ulla-Maija Forsberg, Johannes Hirvonen, Sampsa Holopainen, Mikko Kajander, Triinu Viilukas, Ferenc Vincze**, and a number of sponsors who wished to remain anonymous.

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