

“Deep Indo-European-Semitic Contact”
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This talk will compare three modern Semitic languages that show profound effects of intense, long-term bilingual contact with Indo-European languages: Maltese (Arabic in contact with Sicilian and Italian), Aramaic (in contact with Kurdish), and Hebrew (influenced by Yiddish and other Eastern European languages). The nature of the historical social relationships are very different in the three cases, and so are the linguistic effects. A sampling of several features of phonology, morphology, and syntax will illustrate both conservatism and innovation.