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Preface

In this volume of British Archaeological Reports (BAR), we offer a selection of case studies on the interface between linguistics and archaeology. These case studies were presented at the session ‘Archaeology and Language – the Future of Archaeo-Linguistic Studies’ at the XV Nordic Theoretical Archaeology Group (Nordic TAG) hosted by the Departments of Archaeology and Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Copenhagen in April 2015.

The session resulted in a number of contributions, which we have ordered according to geographic location. We set off in the Americas, following the metallurgical links between South America and West Mexico as studied by Kate Bellamy. We remain here to enjoy John S. Henderson and Kathryn M. Hudson’s study of the archaeolinguistics of Mesoamerica, then move on to North America with Anna Berge’s re-examination of the linguistic pre-history of the Aleut languages. Somewhere along the heavily urbanized Atlantic coast of the United States, we take off with Jeff Benjamin’s archaeology of air, landing in Europe to engage in an archaeolinguistic survey of the Helsinki archipelago. From here Johanna Nichols guides us to the east, tracing the spread of the Uralic languages along the ancient Fur Road. Finally, we turn back to Europe with Birgit Olsen’s inroads into the Indo-European terminology for wool and textiles in Italic. Here, we conclude our journey with Debora Moretti’s archaeolinguistic study of the North-Italian folklore concerning witchcraft.

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