POLICY ON ENGAGING EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

PhilSoc
The Philological Society

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The talks delivered by the Society's invited speakers, at our regular meetings or at special events, are central to the activity of the Philological Society. The Society is committed to ensuring that invited speakers who deliver our talks align with our values and objectives. Some of our speakers will be members of the Society and some will not be. We aim to provide a platform for individuals who can inspire, educate, and motivate our members and others who attend, while maintaining the highest ethical standards.

All members of the Society are invited to suggest specific speakers or an area of linguistics that they think would be of interest to the membership. The list is considered by the Programme Committee, who may add their own suggestions to the list. The Programme Committee's proposed list of speakers for the year is put to Council, where the final decision is made.

Criteria for inviting speakers is that their activities align with the objectives and values of the Philological Society, that their topic is of interest to the membership, that they are known for academic excellence as well as being engaging speakers. As in all its activities, the Philological Society aims for diversity and inclusion in the selection of its speakers and topics.

Speakers who have been selected by Council are invited by the Honorary Secretary. This normally happens at least 12 months before the date of the talk. Speakers are made aware of what audience can be expected and told that the talks are normally streamed so as to make them accessible to members who are prevented from attending in person.

Speakers are also asked if they agree to their talk being recorded and uploaded to the Society's YouTube site after the event. No talk is recorded or uploaded without the speaker's explicit agreement. Speakers are also told that if they have agreed to have a recording of their talk uploaded, but change their mind once they have presented their talk, the recording will not be uploaded, as long as they let us know within five working days after the talk.

Members of the Society receive a list of speakers for the following academic year in July, including information about the time, the venue and the fact that the talk will be streamed. One week before the event all members receive a reminder including a link for the streamed talk and, where required, further details about the venue. If a recording of the talk will be made available, the message also contains information about this. Once the recording has been uploaded, the membership is informed of this.