

# Ivo Spira – CV

## PROFILE

Top level expertise in languages and linguistics. Specialization in language history, multilingualism and language technology. I speak a range of different languages, among them Russian, Arabic and Chinese (Mandarin). Many years of experience as a language teacher.

I have advanced skills in programming and computer science, especially natural language processing (NLP). Proficient in conceptual analysis, ontology development and conceptual history.

I am very curious about the world around me and like to learn new things. I am reliable, sociable and easy to work with. I am ambitious in terms of long-term goals but still realistic in practical planning. Strong intercultural skills.

## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, 2007–2010.

### PH.D. IN CHINESE STUDIES, CONCEPTUAL HISTORY AND LINGUISTICS

My dissertation “Chinese –Isms and Ismatization: A Case Study in the Modernisation of Ideological Discourse” (published by Brill in 2015) is an investigation of how isms (e.g. 'capitalism', 'nationalism', 'militarism') contributed to the modernization of the Chinese language. The dissertation was supervised by Professor Christoph Harbsmeier. For my Ph.D. I did coursework in semantics, natural language processing, language and evolution, and the theory of science.

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, 2004–2005.

### MASTER'S DEGREE IN ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

MA Thesis: "Chinese Translations of the Qur'ān: A Close Reading of Selected Passages." A Comparative analysis of three Chinese translations of the Qur'ān.

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, 2002.

### INTENSIVE COURSE IN ARABIC–NORWEGIAN INTERPRETING

A solid practical introduction to the techniques, ethics and linguistics of interpreting (ca. 200 hours).

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, 1998–2002.

### BACHELOR IN SINOLOGY (CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE)

## COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, Autumn 2010

### Courses in University Pedagogy

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, Spring 2007

### MA Course in Natural Language Processing

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT, October 2006

### Summer Academy "Travelling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literatures"



✳ JULY 06, 1978, Vienna

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## LANGUAGES

native/bilingual  
NORWEGIAN  
GERMAN

advanced level  
ENGLISH  
CZECH  
CHINESE (Mandarin)  
RUSSIAN  
ARABIC  
FRENCH  
ITALIAN  
SPANISH  
LATIN

basic level  
POLISH  
ANCIENT GREEK

## COMPUTING

NLP  
Python  
Html/JavaScript  
Unix/Linux  
Git  
Regular Expressions

## OTHER SKILLS

Driving License (cat. B)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

10.2017 - present  
SPIRA LANGUAGE  
SOLUTIONS, OSLO

### LINGUIST, OWNER

Delivering Computational Linguistics services for clients, e.g.  
For **Appen**: developing grammar checking rules for Norwegian for a major word processing application. For **Artificial Solutions**: developing morphologic models for Norwegian. For **Apple Computer** (through **Menlo Technologies**): Norwegian morphology and lexicon curation. For **TransPerfect**: LRD, ontology development, QA, ITN, transcription (NO), Translation (ZH-NO, EN)

08.2019 - present  
NORWEGIAN  
INSTITUTE OF  
PHILOLOGY/MF

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, FELLOW

Teaching Classical Chinese, Classical Arabic, Arabic Dialects and Biblical Hebrew, as well as participating in research seminars.

02.2013 - present  
STORE NORSKE LEKSIKON

### SUBJECT CONSULTANT FOR CHINESE HISTORY

Composition, editing and fact-checking encyclopaedic articles on Chinese history in the *Great Norwegian Encyclopaedia*.

01.2018 - 01.2022  
LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

### SENIOR LECTURER, CHINESE LANGUAGE

Research and teaching in Chinese language, literature and history.

12.2016 - 10.2017  
JOBLEARN AS, OSLO

### LINGUIST, TENDER WRITER AND TEACHER OF NORWEGIAN

Responsible for the implementation of the in-house Language Programme. I taught Norwegian and gave career advice. I also developed new course plans and wrote tender bids.

02.2005 - 11.2018  
ANACYEPHER LANGUAGE  
PROCESSING DA

### FOUNDER AND ANALYTICAL LINGUIST

Development of linguistically sophisticated natural language processing software based on a vision of humanistic computing for the future. Start-up.

08.2012 - 07.2016  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

Project Leader of the research project "The Development of the Dungan Language". Research on Dungan, a Chinese dialect spoken in Central Asia. Ethnographic and linguistic fieldwork with

03.2013 - 05.2013  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
OF CENTRAL ASIA.  
08.2011 - 06.2012  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### GUEST LECTURER

Introduction to sinology and Chinese language for a very diverse student body.

03.2007 - 03.2010  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHINESE

Research and teaching in Chinese language and culture.

09.2006 - 12.2006  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, CHINESE

Ph.D. project on the modernization and ideologization of modern Chinese. Teaching Chinese language and history.

09.2004 - 06.2006  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Coordinator of the internal evaluation of Asian Studies at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages

09.2005 - 12.2005  
UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

### TEACHING ASSISTANT IN LINGUISTICS

Introduction to linguistics for students of African and Asian languages, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages.

### PROJECT COORDINATOR

Coordinator of project to improve the teaching on the "Exfac" propedeutic programme for students of African and Asian Languages, especially through the use of information technology.

## AWARDS

2011 **His Majesty the King of Norway's Gold Medal** for young, excellent researcher, awarded for the dissertation "Chinese -isms and Ismatization: A Case Study in the Modernisation of Ideological Discourse"

2005 **Prize for the best MA thesis in Asia Studies** at a Norwegian University, awarded by the Asia Network (Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo)

## COMMISSIONS OF TRUST

**BOARD MEMBER, 01.2008 - 12.2008**

Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo