In pre-Roman Italy and Sicily, dozens of languages and writing systems competed and interacted, and bilingualism was the norm. Using frameworks from epigraphy, archaeology and the sociolinguistics of language contact, this book explores the relationship between Greek and Oscan, two of the most widely spoken languages in the south of the peninsula. Dr McDonald undertakes a new analysis of the entire corpus of South Oscan texts written in Lucania, Bruttium and Messana, including dedications, curse tablets, laws, funerary texts and graffiti. She demonstrates that genre and domain are critical to understanding where and when Greek was used within Oscan-speaking communities, and how ancient bilinguals exploited the social meaning of their languages in their writing. This book also offers a cutting-edge example of how to build the fullest possible picture of bilingualism in fragmentary languages across the ancient world.

Katherine McDonald is Research Fellow in Classics at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and an affiliated post-doctoral researcher on the project ‘Greek in Italy’, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council. Her current research interests include the Italic languages, ancient bilingualism, personal names and gender linguistics.
OSCAN IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND SICILY
Evaluating Language Contact in a Fragmentary Corpus

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CONVENTIONS

The following conventions apply to the forms given in the text. ‘Native’ alphabets include Central Oscan, Umbrian, Etruscan, etc.

**Fonts**

- **tanginúd** epigraphically attested form, ‘native’ alphabet
- **tanginom** epigraphically attested form, Latin alphabet
- **ταυγυνδ** epigraphically attested form, Greek or South Oscan alphabet

**Single letters**

- /f/ phoneme
- [f] phone, allophone of phoneme
- *f* unattested or reconstructed form
- <F> epigraphic form
- *<F>* unattested epigraphic form
- <φ> epigraphic form (Greek letter)

**Transcriptions of inscriptions**¹

- πακ(ις) abbreviated form, expanded form supplied
- λεκ(?) abbreviated form, expanded form cannot be supplied
- [2–3]iom damaged text, space for 2–3 letters
- [-?]- damaged text, unknown number of letters

¹ These transcription conventions are based on those used by Michael Crawford in his *Imagines Italicae* edition: see Crawford 2011b. See also the conventions recommended by Cooley 2012: 352–5.
Conventions

\( \gamma \)\( \alpha \)\( \varphi \)\( \iota \)\( \sigma \) damaged text, missing letter(s) supplied by editor
\( \sigma \) partially visible letter(s), identifiable in context
\( \tau \{ \alpha \} \)\( \alpha \gamma \iota \nu \delta \) letter(s) inscribed in error, removed by editor
\( <k> \)\( \lambda \rho \sigma \omega \tau \) letter(s) left un-inscribed in error, and supplied by the editor; or inscribed as different letter in error, and corrected by the editor
\( \sigma \alpha \lambda \varphi \sigma \). \( \varphi \alpha \) word divider in the form of a dot or point (where no word dividers are used, the transcription will divide the words with spaces only)
\( \pi \omega \lambda \varepsilon \nu \tau \alpha \) ancient correction or addition to the text
\( \alpha \sigma \alpha \mu \xi \tau e \upsilon \) letters in ligature
\( [v \alpha c] \) small vacat
vacat vacat of whole line length
ABBREVIATIONS

Linguistic abbreviations

Verb forms

PRES. present
PERF. perfect
IMPERF. imperfect
AOR. aorist
FUT. future
IMP. I imperative I
IMP. II imperative II
INDIC. indicative
SUBJ. subjunctive
OPT. optative
ACT. active
PASS. passive
MID. middle
PART. participle
GDV. gerundive

Noun forms

NOM. nominative
ACC. accusative
GEN. genitive
DAT. dative
ABL. ablative
LOC. locative

Other

ADV. adverb
ADJ. adjective
SING. singular
PL. plural

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List of abbreviations

Collections of inscriptions

Bresson = Bresson 2002.
Capialbi V. Capialbi, 1845, *Inscriptionum Vibonensium specimen*, Naples.


*CIG* *Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum*, 1828–77, Berlin.

*CIL* *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 1868 onwards, Berlin.

DTA *IG* volume 3, part 3, 1897, Berlin. Appendix: ‘*Defixionum Tabellae*’.

DT Audollent = A. Audollent, 1904, *Defixionum tabellae quotquot inmotuerunt tam in Graecis orientis quam in totius occidentis partibus, praeter Atticas in corpore inscriptionum Atticarum editas*, Paris.


*DVA* = Lazzarini 1976.


List of abbreviations

**IG**  
*Inscriptiones Graecae*, 1873 onwards, Berlin.

**ILLRP**  

**Imagines**  
= Crawford 2011b.

**Kropp**  

**LSAG**  

**LGPN**  

**NGCT**  

**Pocc.**  

**RV**  
= Lejeune 1990.

**SEG**  
*Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, 1923 onwards, Leiden.

**SGD**  

**ST**  
= Rix 2002.

Other abbreviations follow the conventions of the third edition of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. 
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