A key aspect of the rapidly growing field of Digital Humanities is the application of computational tools to problems in humanistic research, a process which can lead to exciting new knowledge. In this lecture, I will explain how the recent development of machine learning algorithms has made it possible to investigate more fully insights based on a theory of meaning (distributional semantics) which is over 60 years old. I will illustrate this development with examples from my own research and from that of colleagues in the field.

Simon Musgrave is a lecturer in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University, where he also co-ordinates the undergraduate major in Digital Humanities. His research interests include the use of computational tools in linguistic research, Austronesian languages, and the influence of communities of practice in language description.

The lecture will be followed by a discussion chaired by Paul Turnbull who is an honorary professor in Digital Humanities and History at the Universities of Tasmania and Queensland.

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