Presenter information:

Jeffrey R. Tharsen

Computational Scientist for the Digital Humanities

Research Computing Center, Office of Research and National Laboratories

Lecturer in the Humanities and in the College

Digital Studies Program, Division of the Humanities

The University of Chicago

tharsen@uchicago.edu

Category:

Tolkien, Philology, Languages, and Linguistics

Equipment:

Projector or other means of projecting a series of computer visualizations  
(not needed if virtual)

Title:

Comparative Vector Space Modeling of Tolkien’s Works

Abstract:

Use of word vectors and cosine similarities has become commonplace as a primary computational approach to literary analysis. This talk presents the works of J.R.R. Tolkien through the interrogation and visualization (via [projector.tensorflow.org](https://projector.tensorflow.org) ) of multiple vector space models, focusing on his primary oeuvre: *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* (3 vols), *The Silmarillion* (ed. Christopher Tolkien) and *The Book of Lost Tales* (2 vols, ed. Christopher Tolkien). The models will then be released to the public via GitHub so that others to perform their own analyses of specific words, names and phrases within and throughout Tolkien’s works.