# Multivariate Statistics: A toolbox for linguistic analysis
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*Quote from Thomas, The awful truth about statistics in archaeology (1978):*

> "There is a rapidly growing clutch of statistically-sophisticated archaeologists *(here: linguists)* who seemed perched, rotating factor analyses in hand, prepared to pounce on the first clump of unmanipulated data that should have the misfortune of stumbling into their path".

The purpose of this presentation is to point to the role multivariate statistics can play in assisting linguistic scholars in answering questions they have about analysing the numerical information they have gathered during their research.

In my book on the subject, *Multivariate Humanities* (Springer, 2021), I deal with a variety of topics, such as the comparability of bible translations of the same (Masoretic) text and accentual prose rhythm in mediaeval Latin. For this presentation", I will focus on "The Royal Book of Oz: Baum of Thompson?", while I will also briefly touch upon the question of who is Elena Ferrante. This latter case study, interesting and topical though it is, I have unfortunately not been able to analyse statistically myself due to data unavailabililty.

This presentation is not specifically meant to teach statistics, but instead to show its versatility in assisting answering linguistic questions. I am assuming that this audience has a basic knowledge of statistical methodology, and can fruitfully talk to a statistician about their research and data.