# Patrick Sims-Williams
## Mechanising Historical Phonology

The neogrammarian approach to historical phonology involves propounding sound-change laws and explaining exceptions by means such as sub-laws, rearranging the relative chronology, and appeal to special factors such as analogy, borrowing, incomplete lexical diffusion, and sporadic phenomena like metathesis. Progress is mostly made manually, but in the second half of the 20th century some linguists looked forward to the 'triumph of the electronic neogrammarian'. Although this hasn't been realized yet, I'll argue that there are opportunities to make important advances with comparatively little effort.