

* 26 September 1993 (Rottenmann, Austria)
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Residenzschloss 1, 64283 Darmstadt
+49 1781407404

Research interests — computational humanities, digital humanities, cultural analytics, quantitative (literary) history, operationalisations of literary concepts, modelling (historical) reception, canonisation processes, comparative approaches to computational literary studies

Methods — quantitative text analysis, embedding structures, metadata analysis, network analysis

Research Positions

- 04/2023–present **Research associate ('Landesstelle', 100%)**
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies
- 05/2024–08/2024 **Visiting scholar**
McGill University, Montréal, .textlab (hosted by Andrew Piper)
- 02/2024–05/2024 **Visiting scholar**
UC Berkeley, Department of German (hosted by Deniz Göktürk)
- 01/2020–03/2023 **Research assistant (DFG Priority Programme "Computational Literary Studies", 100%)**
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Project: "Relating the Unread: Network Models in Literary History" in cooperation with Ulrik Brandes, Social Network Analysis, ETH Zürich
- 01/2018–12/2019 **Student researcher**
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies

Education

- 01/2020–06/2025 **Doctorate in German Philology / Computational Literary Studies (*summa cum laude*)**
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Supervisors: Thomas Weitin and Evelyn Gius
Thesis: *Relating the Unread. Modelling Literary History* (defended on 25 June 2025)
- 12/2017–10/2019 **MA in Linguistic and Literary Computing (passed with distinction)**
Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies
Supervisor: Thomas Weitin
Thesis: *The Signal and the Noise: Differentiating Stylometric Signals in the Analysis of Literary Texts*
- 10/2013–09/2017 **BA in English and American Studies**
University of Vienna
- 09/2014–12/2014 **Erasmus exchange semester**
University of St Andrews

10/2012–12/2015

BA in Comparative Literature
University of Vienna

Publications

Journal and Conference Publications (peer-reviewed)

forthcoming

Character Perception and Story Message in Re-reading Contexts. A Case Study on Zweig's Schachnovelle with High School Students

V. Pöhls, J. Brotrager, T. Weitin
Scientific Study of Literature

2025

Patterns of Canon: A Multilingual Network Study

J. Brotrager, J. Barré, Y. Bizzoni, P. Feldkamp
Anthology of Computers and the Humanities 3, 76-94

2024

Is badfiction processed differently by the human brain? An electrophysical study on reading experience

T. Weitin, T. Fabian, A. Glawion, J. Brotrager, Z. Pilz
Frontiers in Human Neuroscience 17

2023

Autorschaft und literarische Kommunikation in Fanfiction-Portalen: Harry Potter auf Fanfiction.de

T. Weitin, J. Bühler, J. Brotrager, A. Glawion, J. Doat
Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik 53, 595-622

Character Shifts in Harry Potter Fanfiction

J. Brotrager, J. Doat, J. Häußler, T. Weitin
Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik 53, 623-654

2022

Modeling and Predicting Literary Reception: A Data-Rich Approach to Literary Historical Reception

J. Brotrager, A. Stahl, A. Arslan, U. Brandes, T. Weitin
Journal of Computational Literary Studies 1

2021

Predicting Canonization: Comparing Canonization Scores Based on Text-Extrinsic and -Intrinsic Features

J. Brotrager, A. Stahl, A. Arslan
Proceedings of the Conference on Computational Humanities Research 2021

Research Monographs, Chapters in Collective Volumes

in preparation

Relating the Unread. Modelling Literary History

J. Brotrager

2026

Unlocking the Archive: Exploring Literary History through Word Embeddings

J. Brotrager

Flows & Frictions: Mixed Methods for AI-Driven Research on Historical Media, ed. by Daniel Brodén und Lina Samuelsson, Gothenburg University Press, 115-135

Selected Talks and Presentations

2026

Literaturgeschichte modellieren: Ähnlichkeitsstrukturen, Kanonisierung und Netzwerkperspektiven

J. Brotrager

DHd2026, Vienna, 25 February 2026

Der BookTok-Kanon: Eine netzwerkanalytische Untersuchung populärer Bücher

C. Schmeller, J. Brottrager

Poster presentation at DHd2026, Vienna, 26 February 2026

2025

Networked Resemblance: Networks Models as Comparative Frameworks

J. Brottrager

“Comparative Literature Goes Digital” DH2025 Mini-Conference, DH2025, Lisbon, 14 July 2025

From Canon to Score: Quantifying, Measuring, and Comparing Canonisation

J. Brottrager

DH2025, Lisbon, 16 July 2025

2024

Echoes Unveiled: Quantifying Literary Historical Scholarship with Word Embeddings

J. Brottrager

DH2024, Washington, DC, 8 August 2024

Unlocking the Archive: Exploring Literary History through Word Embeddings

J. Brottrager

Flows & Friction: Integrating Mixed Methods for Data-rich Research on Historical Media, University of Gothenburg, 23 May 2024

Modeling Canonization: Computational Approaches to Literary History

J. Brottrager

Noon Colloquium, Department of German, UC Berkeley, 19 April 2024

Von Adaption zu Transformation: Eine quantitative Untersuchung von Charakterverschiebungen in Harry-Potter-Fanfiction

J. Brottrager

Workshop Fanfiction & Aneignung, Forschungszentrum für historische Geisteswissenschaften der Goethe Universität Frankfurt, 14 February 2024

2023

Encoded Literary History: A Word Embedding Approach to Literary History

J. Brottrager

Poster presentation at CHR2023, Paris, 6-8 December 2023

Networks at Scale. A Metadata-Based Approach to Detecting Links Between Fanfiction-Communities

J. Brottrager, A. Glawion, K. Herget, T. Weitin

DH2023, Graz, July 14 2023

2022

Modeling and Predicting Literary Reception: A Data-Rich Approach to Literary Historical Reception

J. Brottrager, A. Stahl, A. Arslan, U. Brandes, T. Weitin

CCLS2022, Darmstadt, 1 June 2022

Kanonisierungs- und Wertungsscore: Modellierungen literaturwissenschaftlicher Konzepte

J. Brottrager

Poster presentation at the Germanistentag 2022, Paderborn, 27 September 2022

Relating the Unread: A Data-Rich Approach to the Literary Canon and the “Great Unread”

J. Brottrager

DH2022, Tokyo (online), 27 July 2022

Relating the Unread: Modellierungen der Literaturgeschichte

J. Brottrager

DHd2022, Potsdam (online), 9 March 2022

2021 **Relating the Unread: Network Models in Literary History**
J. Brottrager, A. Stahl
 Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the SPP Computational Literary Studies (online)

Experience with Third-Party Funded Projects

2022 — 2026 **Zwischen Recht und Literatur: Die Kriminalfallsammlung des neuen Pitaval in der literaturwissenschaftlichen Korpusanalyse (DFG)**
 Collaborated on grant proposal

2022 — 2025 **Evidenzbasiertes Literaturverstehen im Deutschunterricht (LOEWE-Exploration)**
 Collaborated on grant proposal and project publication

2020 — 2023 **Relating the Unread. Network Models in Literary History (DFG)**
 Collaborated on grant proposal, responsible for project management and project work

Third-Party Funding, Fellowships and Awards

Total: 16.279,95 €

2026	Funding for conference “Mapping the Canon: Quantitative Approaches to Literary History”	10.000,00 €
	Fritz Thyssen Stiftung	
2025	HERMES research study programme	
	KANON-EX: The School Canon as a Canonisation Experiment	3.750,00 €
	German National Library, Frankfurt	
2024	Fund for the promotion of gender equality	1.394,95 €
	Department of History and Social Sciences, Technical University of Darmstadt	
2020	Award for outstanding Master’s projects in the research area of “Digital Humanities”	300,00 €
	Technical University of Darmstadt	
2017	CLARIN-D fellowship	425,00 €
	European Summer University, Leipzig	
2016	CLARIN-D fellowship	410,00 €
	European Summer University, Leipzig	

Teaching

**Technical University of Darmstadt
 Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies**

Summer 2026	Der Schulkanon: Literaturgeschichte und -vermittlung	
Summer 2026	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft II	
Summer 2026	Discourse Analysis Project	
Winter 2025/26	Embedded Meaning: Word Embeddings in Theory and Practice	Course evaluation: 1.9
Winter 2025/26	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I	Course evaluation: 1.4
Summer 2025	Discourse Analysis Project	
Summer 2025	LLMs, GPT and the Humanities	Course evaluation: 1.5
Winter 2024/25	Discourse Analysis Project	

Winter 2024/25	Embedded Meaning: Word Embeddings in Theory and Practice	
Winter 2024/25	“Weltliteratur”: Literaturklassiker und ihre produktive Rezeption	Course evaluation: 1.2
Winter 2023/24	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I	
Summer 2023	Metadata Analysis: Creating, Expanding, and Exploring Literary Datasets	Course evaluation: 1.8
Summer 2023	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft II	
Winter 2022/23	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I	
Summer 2022	From Literature to Data: Metadata Analysis and Literary History	Course evaluation: 1.5

**University of Vienna
Department of English and American Studies**

Summer 2017	Literature Survey II (Tutorial)
Summer 2017	Literature Survey I (Tutorial)
Winter 2016/17	History of Literatures in English (Tutorial)
Winter 2016/17	Literature Survey II (Tutorial)

**University of Vienna
Department of Comparative Literature**

Summer 2016	Literary Research I (Tutorial)
Winter 2015/16	Literary Research I (Tutorial)

Supervision

2025	Chiara Schmeller: Der BookTok-Kanon: Eine netzwerkanalytische Untersuchung populärer Bücher (BA thesis)
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Institutional Responsibilities

2023 — 2025	Course organisation and coordination of student researchers and tutors for the Department of German Studies – Digital Literary Studies, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Germany
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Commissions of Trust

since 2025	Early Career Researcher Representative, CHR Board
since 2024	Reviewer for Journal of Computational Literary Studies
since 2024	Reviewer for ADHO conferences
since 2023	Reviewer for Digital Humanities Benelux Journal
since 2023	Member of the program committee for Computational Humanities Research conferences

Memberships of Scientific Societies

since 2023	Member of DHd / EADH / ADHO
since 2025	Mentoring Hessen (Mentoring and training network for women in academia)

Additional Training

- 2025 **Practice on Proposal Writing in Research Funding**, Ingenium - Young Researchers at TU Darmstadt
- 2025 **Drittmittel karrierestrategisch nutzen**, Mentoring Hessen
- 2025 **Publikationen strategisch planen**, Mentoring Hessen
- 2024 **Make an Impact - Networking and Self-Marketing for Female Scientists**, Mentoring Hessen
- 2023 **Konferenzen selbst organisieren**, GRADE - Goethe Research Academy for Early Career Researchers
- 2023 **Grundlagen der Wissenschaftskommunikation**, Nationales Institut für Wissenschaftskommunikation
- 2023 **Leading Teams Successfully**, Ingenium - Young Researchers at TU Darmstadt
- 2023 **Research Funding**, Ingenium - Young Researchers at TU Darmstadt
- 2022 **Personnel Management for Doctoral Students**, Ingenium - Young Researchers at TU Darmstadt
- 2022 **Agile Project Management**, Google (Coursera)

Computational Skills

Computational & Analytical Methods, Python (pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, gensim, Hugging Face/Transformers, spaCy), R (tidyverse, igraph), text analysis and NLP (embeddings, topic modelling, annotation), network analysis, data visualisation (seaborn, matplotlib, ggplot2)

Digital Text & Corpus Work, OCR/TEI-based text digitisation (OCR4all, Abbyy FineReader), corpus creation and management, web scraping

Digital Knowledge & Platforms, Wikidata/Wikiverse integration, Linked Open Data (LOD), OpenRefine, web publishing (Jekyll)

Language Skills

German (native), English (fluent), French (basics), Qualification in Latin