

* 26 September 1993 (Rottenmann, Austria)
Inselstraße 23, 64287 Darmstadt (Germany)
+49 1781407404

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

Methods — quantitative text analysis, word embeddings, metadata analysis, network analysis

Research Positions

2023 — present

Research assistant ('Landesstelle', 100%)

Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies

2024

Visiting scholar

McGill University, Montréal, .textlab (hosted by Andrew Piper)

2024

Visiting scholar

UC Berkeley, Department of German (hosted by Deniz Göktürk)

2020 — 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

2018 — 2019

Student researcher

Technical University of Darmstadt, Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies

Education

2020 — 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 June 25, 2025)

2017 — 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*

2013 — 2017

BA in English and American Studies

University of Vienna

2014

Erasmus exchange semester

University of St Andrews

2012 — 2015

BA in Comparative Literature

University of Vienna

Journal and Conference Publications (peer-reviewed)

under review

Patterns of Canon: A Multilingual Network Study

J. Brottrager, J. Barré, Y. Bizzoni, P. Feldkamp

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

V. Pöhls, J. Brottrager, T. Weitin

2024

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

T. Weitin, T. Fabian, A. Glawion, J. Brottrager, 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. Brottrager, A. Glawion, J. Doat

Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik 53, 595-622

Character Shifts in Harry Potter Fanfiction

J. Brottrager, 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. Brottrager, 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. Brottrager, A. Stahl, A. Arslan

Proceedings of the Conference on Computational Humanities Research

Research Monographs, Chapters in Collective Volumes

in preparation

Relating the Unread. Modelling Literary History

J. Brottrager

forthcoming

Unlocking the Archive: Exploring Literary History through Word Embeddings

J. Brottrager

University of Gothenburg Press

Selected Talks and Presentations

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

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

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

Funding, Fellowships and Awards

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

Summer 2025	LLMs, GPT and the Humanities Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.5
Winter 2024/25	Embedded Meaning: Word Embeddings in Theory and Practice Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Winter 2024/25	“Weltliteratur”: Literaturklassiker und ihre produktive Rezeption Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.2
Winter 2023/24	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2023	Metadata: Creating, Expanding, and Exploring Literary Datasets Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2023	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft II Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Winter 2022/23	Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2022	From Literature to Data: Metadata Analysis and Literary History Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.5

Supervision

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

Institutional Responsibilities

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

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), Latin