

\* 26 September 1993 (Rottenmann, Austria)  
Inselstraße 23, 64287 Darmstadt (Germany)  
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**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

## Submitted Project Proposals

2025	<b>MAPLICA: Mapping Processes of Literary Canon Formation in Austria</b> Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship Funding amount applied for: 214,344.72€
2025	<b>ATLAS: Austrian Literary History in Data. Mapping Canonisation across Present and Future</b> Early-Career Fellows of the Vienna Center for Advanced Studies Funding amount applied for: 63,000.00€

## Teaching

Summer 2025	<b>LLMs, GPT and the Humanities</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.5
Winter 2024/25	<b>Embedded Meaning: Word Embeddings in Theory and Practice</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Winter 2024/25	<b>"Weltliteratur": Literaturklassiker und ihre produktive Rezeption</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.2
Winter 2023/24	<b>Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2023	<b>Metadata: Creating, Expanding, and Exploring Literary Datasets</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2023	<b>Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft II</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Winter 2022/23	<b>Grundkurs Literaturwissenschaft I</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	
Summer 2022	<b>From Literature to Data: Metadata Analysis and Literary History</b> Technical University of Darmstadt Institute of Linguistics and Literary Studies	Course evaluation: 1.5
Summer 2017	<b>Literature Survey II and History of Literatures in English (Tutorial)</b> University of Vienna Department of English and American Studies	
Winter 2016/17	<b>Literature Survey I and Literature Survey II (Tutorial)</b> University of Vienna Department of English and American Studies	
Summer 2016	<b>Literary Research I (Tutorial)</b> University of Vienna Department of Comparative Literature	
Winter 2015/16	<b>Literary Research I (Tutorial)</b> University of Vienna Department of Comparative Literature	

## 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)

## Previous and Current Cooperation Partners

Ulrik Brandes (ETH Zürich)

Thomas Weitin (TU Darmstadt)

Anastasia Glawion (FAU Erlangen)

Victoria Pöhls (University College Dublin)

Pascale Feldkamp (Aarhus University)

Yuri Bizzoni (Aarhus University)

Jean Barré (École Normale Supérieure / PSL University)

## 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