Dr Ryan Heuser

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Cambridge, Cambridge Digital Humanities and Faculty of English
Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities, 2024–

University of Cambridge, King's College
Official Fellow, 2024–

King's College London, King's Digital Lab
Sr Research Software Engineer, 2024

Princeton University, Center for Digital Humanities
Research Software Engineer II, 2022–2024

University of Cambridge, King's College
Junior Research Fellow, 2019–2022

Stanford University, Literary Lab
Associate Research Director, 2011–2015

Stanford University, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA)
Humanities Research Programmer, 2010–2011

EDUCATION

Stanford University
Ph.D., English, 2019
Dissertation: *Abstraction: A Literary History*
Committee: John Bender, Mark Algee-Hewitt, Mark Greif

M.A., English, 2013

University of Florida
B.A., English (summa cum laude), 2008

PUBLICATIONS

"Ordinary Style Philosophy". *Paradigmi: Rivista di critica filosofica* (Jan–Apr 2026). (Co-authored with Jonathan Ettel).

"Computational Hermeneutics: Evaluating Generative AI as a Cultural Technology". *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence* 9 (2026). (Co-authored with Cody Kommers, Drew Hemment, et al).

"Cultural Collapse: Toward a Generative Formalism for AI Cultural Production". *Anthology of Computers and the Humanities* 3 (2025).

"Generative Aesthetics: On formal stuckness in AI verse". *Journal of Cultural Analytics* 10.3 (2025), special issue on Computational Formalism.

"Computing Koselleck: Modelling Semantic Revolutions, 1720–1960". Explorations in the Digital History of Ideas. Ed. Pete de Bolla. Cambridge University Press (2024).

"Enlightenment Entanglements of Improvement and Growth". Explorations in the Digital History of Ideas. Ed. Pete de Bolla. Cambridge University Press. (2024). (Co-authored with Pete de Bolla and Mark Algee-Hewitt).

"Mapping London's Emotions". *New Left Review* 101 (2016): 63–91. (Co-authored with Franco Moretti and Erik Steiner).

"Mapping the Emotions of London in Fiction, 1700–1900: A Crowdsourcing Experiment". *Literary Mapping in the Digital Age*. Ed. David Cooper, Chris Donaldson, and Patricia Murrieta-Flores. Ashgate. 2016. (Co-authored with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Van Tran, Annalise Lockhart, and Erik Steiner).

"Phonological and Metrical Variation across Genres". *Proceedings of the 2015 Annual Meeting on Phonology* (2016). (Co-authored with Arto Anttila).

"Learning to Read Data: Bringing out the Humanistic in the Digital Humanities". *Victorian Studies* 54.1 (2011): 79–86. (Co-authored with Long Le-Khac).

LITERARY LAB PAMPHLETS

Reprinted in *Canon/Archive: Studies in Quantitative Formalism from the Stanford Literary Lab*, ed. Franco Moretti (New York: n+1, 2017)

"The Emotions of London". *Stanford Literary Lab* 13 (2016). (Co-authored with Franco Moretti and Erik Steiner).

"Canon/Archive: Large-scale Dynamics in the Literary Field". *Stanford Literary Lab* 11 (2016). (Co-authored with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Sarah Allison, Marissa Gemma, Franco Moretti, and Hannah Walser).

"On Paragraphs: Scale, Themes, and Narrative Form". *Stanford Literary Lab* 10 (2015). (Co-authored with Mark Algee-Hewitt and Franco Moretti).

"Style at the Scale of the Sentence". *Stanford Literary Lab* 5 (2013). (Co-authored with Sarah Allison, Marissa Gemma, Franco Moretti, Amir Tevel, and Irena Yamboliev).

"A Quantitative Literary History of 2,958 Nineteenth-Century British Novels: The Semantic Cohort Method". *Stanford Literary Lab* 4 (2012). (Co-authored with Long Le-Khac).

"Quantitative Formalism: An Experiment". *Stanford Literary Lab* 1 (2011). (Co-authored with Sarah Allison, Matthew Jockers, Franco Moretti, and Michael Witmore).

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Libidinal Language Models". (Article in progress).

Abstraction: A Literary History. (Expected completion 2027).

"Antimetricality and the Rhythms of Prose". *Language*. (Submitted).

GRANTS

Principal Investigator

"Creative Collapse: Operationalising and Mitigating Homogeneity in AI-Driven Cultural Production". 18-month AHRC- and SSHRC-funded project. 2026–2028.

Collaborations

Toward a new Collaborative Computational Project for Arts, Humanities, and Culture research (CCP-AHC). Three-year UKRI-funded project. Advisory group. 2025–2026.

WhatEvery1Says (WE1S). Directed by Alan Liu at the University of California–Santa Barbara. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Advisory group. 2018–2019.

Textual Geographies. Directed by Matthew Wilkens at the University of Notre Dame, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Researcher. 2017–2018.

Crowdsourcing in the Humanities. Directed by Zephyr Frank at Stanford University, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Researcher. 2011–2014.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Alden Dissertation Prize, Stanford University, 2019. Awarded to the best dissertation in the English Department that year.

Paul Fortier Prize, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, 2017.

INVITED TALKS

"Libidinal Language Models". Peterhouse Theory Group. Cambridge. 2026.
"The Great Vector of Being". Lovejoy and His Discontents. Johns Hopkins University. 2026.
"Explorations in the Digital History of Ideas". Open Lecture Series, Cambridge Digital Humanities. 2025.
"Computing Koselleck: Modelling Semantic Revolutions, 1720–1960". Computational Humanities Research Group, King's College London. 2024.
"Cultures of Abstraction: Artificial Intelligence and Distant Reading". Observatoire des Textes, des Ideés et des Corpus. Sorbonne University. 2021.
"Computing Intellectual History: Word Embedding Models and Lexical Semantic Change, 1720–1960". University of Birmingham Department of English Language and Linguistics. 2021.
"*Sattelzeit* and Semantic Change". Revolutionary Translations; Translators as Revolutionaries. King's College London. 2020.
"Abstract Realism". Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies Graduate Seminar. University of Cambridge. 2020.
"Computational Keywords: Historical Semantics and Cultural History, 1660–1830". University of Trier. 2018.
"Computational Keywords: Abstractions of Value, 1750–1850". Yale DHLab and the 18th/19th-Century Colloquium. 2018.
"Word Vectors in the Eighteenth Century". Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics: Workshop IV: Mathematical Analysis of Cultural Expressive Forms: Text Data. Los Angeles. 2016.
"Affect and Space as Mediating Technologies: Reflections from and on the 'Emotions of London' Literary Lab Project". Cultural Analytics. Chicago. 2015.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Statistical Unconscious: Noise, Desire, and the Law of AI Alignment". Noisy Systems: Aesthetics, Epistemology, and Computation. Bibliotheca Hertziana. Rome. 2026.
"Malign Logits: Computing the Libidinal Economy of Large Language Models". Accelerationism Revisited. University College Dublin; CRASSH, Cambridge. 2026.
"Cultural Collapse: Toward a Generative Formalism for AI Cultural Production". Computational Humanities Research. Luxembourg. 2025.

"Samuel Johnson and the Algebra of Syntax". American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Toronto. 2024.

"Historical Prosody and Mechanical Form". American Comparative Literature Association. Montreal. 2024.

"The Concrete, the Particular and the Punctilio". Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Los Angeles. 2023.

"Abstract Realism". American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Baltimore, MD. 2022.

"Prose Rhythm and Antimetricality". Linguistics Society of America. Washington, DC, USA. 2022. (with Arto Anttila and Paul Kiparsky).

"The Rise and Fall of Antimetricality". Bridging Gaps, Creating Links: The Qualitative-Quantitative Interface in the Study of Literature. Padua, Italy. 2018. (with Paul Kiparsky).

"Word Vectors in the Eighteenth Century". Digital Humanities. Montreal. 2017. *[Awarded Paul Fortier Prize]*

"Associationism, Analogy, and Computationalism". Annual Meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (WSECS). Santa Barbara. 2017.

"ELIZA, Virtual Therapist: or, Notes toward a Virtual Humanities". Modern Language Association. Philadelphia. 2017.

"Building Blocks of Fiction: Literary Lexical Bundles, 1700–1900". Digital Humanities. Krakow. 2016. (with Marissa Gemma).

"Knowledge Networks, Juxtaposed: Disciplinarity in the Encyclopédie and Wikipedia". Digital Humanities. Sydney. 2015. (with Mark Algee-Hewitt and John Bender).

"Phonological and Metrical Variation across Genres". Annual Meeting of Phonology. Vancouver. 2015. (with Arto Anttila).

"Phonological and Metrical Variation across Genres". Linguistics Society of America. Washington, D.C. 2015. (with Arto Anttila).

"Virtual Poetics: A Thought Experiment". SyncDH. Santa Barbara. 2015.

"Mapping the Emotions of London in Fiction, 1700–1900: A Crowdsourcing Experiment". Digital Humanities. Sydney. 2015. (with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Van Tran, Annalise Lockhart, and Erik Steiner).

"Transhistorical Poetry Project Phase II: Metrical Form". Digital Humanities. Lausanne. 2014. (with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Maria Kraxenberger, J.D. Porter, Jonathan Sensenbaugh, and Justin Tackett).

TEACHING

Instructor

"Critical AI" (Cambridge Digital Humanities, DH MPhil, 2025–)

"Distant Reading" (Cambridge Digital Humanities, DH MPhil, 2025–)

"Critical Technical Practice" (Cambridge Digital Humanities, DH MPhil, 2025–)

"Practical Criticism and Critical Practice" (Cambridge, English, 2020, 2025–)

"Introduction to Digital Humanities" (Cambridge, King's College, 2026–)
"Ballad, Sonnet, Lyric, Line: The Stories of Poetic Forms" (Princeton, PhD seminar, co-taught with Meredith Martin, 2023)
"Literary Text Mining" (Stanford English, 2019)

Workshop Instructor
"Humanities and Data Science Faculty Institute" (Princeton, 2023)
"Python for Poets" (Princeton, 2023)
"Automating the Bechdel Test: Computing Gender Bias across Media" (Cambridge Digital Humanities, 2022)
"Introduction to Word Embedding Models for the Humanities" (University of Trier, 2017)

Supervision
Doctoral (principal supervisor)
Ruicen Li, PhD, 2025–
Liz Stevenson, PhD, 2025–
Yvonne Wang, PhD, 2025–
Jamie McGarry, PhD, 2026–
Yuchen Wang, PhD, 2026–

MPhil
16 dissertations supervised, Cambridge Digital Humanities, 2024–

Undergraduate
23 students supervised, Cambridge, King's College, Faculty of English, 2020, 2025–

SERVICE

University and College
PhD Convenor, Cambridge Digital Humanities, 2025–
Visiting Programme Lead, Cambridge Digital Humanities, 2024–2026
Fellowship Programme Lead, Cambridge Digital Humanities, 2024–2026
Member, Institute for Technology and Humanity, Executive Management Board, Cambridge, 2025–
Member, Research Computing Advisory Group, Cambridge, 2025–
Member, College committees, King's College: IT (2025–); Fellowship Remuneration (2025–); Church Patronage (2020–22, 2024–25)

Discipline
Peer reviewer: Journals: *Journal of Cultural Analytics*; *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*; *Cambridge Forum on AI: Culture and Society*; *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*. Presses: Bloomsbury, Stanford UP.

PRESS COVERAGE

"Art-ificially aesthetic". Yulianna Nunno. *Varsity*. Mar 10, 2026.
"How Data Analysis Can Enrich the Liberal Arts". *The Economist*. Dec 19, 2020.
"The Book Crunchers". Jennifer Schluesser. *The New York Times*. Oct 30, 2017.
"Why the London of British Literature Barely Changed for 200 Years". Sarah Laskow. *Atlas Obscura*. Feb 2, 2017.
"Stanford Researchers Map the Feelings Associated With Different Parts of London". Emily Matchar. *Smithsonian Magazine*. Apr 4, 2017.
"Stanford Literary Lab Maps 'Emotions in Victorian London'". Ralph Blumenthal. *The New York Times*. Apr 13, 2015.

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

English: fluent/native
German: proficient reading, writing, and speaking
French: proficient reading
Programming: fluent in Python; proficient in R, Java, javascript, PHP, other languages
Data science: fluent in NLP, data visualization and analysis, machine learning