

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

Drew B. Thomas

Universität Salzburg
Rudolfskai 42
5020 Salzburg
Austria
drew.thomas@plus.ac.at
www.drewbthomas.com

EDUCATION

2018 PHD University of St Andrews, School of History
2012 MTS Harvard University, Divinity School
2010 BA Saint Louis University, College of Arts and Sciences

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2026-present University of Salzburg, Department of History
Assistant Professor
2022-2026 University College Dublin, School of History
Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Pathway Programme Research Fellow
2021-2022 University of St Andrews, School of History
Postdoctoral Research Assistant
2019-2021 University College Dublin, School of History
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Research Fellow
2017-2019 University of St Andrews, School of History
Postdoctoral Research Assistant

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Industry of Evangelism: Printing for the Reformation in Martin Luther's Wittenberg (Leiden: Brill, 2022).

Edited Volumes

Print Culture at the Crossroads: The Book in Central Europe, eds. Elizabeth Dillenburg, Howard Louthan and Drew Thomas (Leiden: Brill, 2021).

Articles and Chapters

“The Business of Bibles in Reformation Printing” in *Bestsellers in the Pre-Industrial Age*, eds. Warren Boutcher and Shanti Graheli (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2027).

“Transferring AI-Based Iconclass Classification Across Image Traditions: A RAG Pipeline for the Wenzelsbibel,” with Julia Hintersteiner. *Histories* 6:1 (2026): 17.

“Automating Iconclass: LLMs and RAG for Large-Scale Classification of Religious Woodcuts”, *Digital Culture and Education*, 16:3 (2026), pp. 161-82.

“Michael Lotter und der Buchdruck in Magdeburg zur Zeit der Reformation” in *Großstadt und Reformation*, eds. Harmut Kühne and Christoph Volkmar, Magdeburger Schriften, (Halle: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2026).

“Provenance and Deception: Tracking Counterfeit Luther Pamphlets in Wittenberg”, *Reformation*, 30:1 (2025), pp. 1-40.

“A Crowded Field in Luther’s Wittenberg: Collaboration and Sub-Contracting in the Reformation Book Trade” in *The Book World of Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honour of Andrew Pettegree*, vol. 2, eds. Arthur der Weduwen and Malcolm Walsby (Leiden: Brill, 2022), pp. 36-50.

“The Lotter Printing Dynasty: Michael Lotter and Reformation Printing in Magdeburg” in *Print Culture at the Crossroads: The Book in Central Europe*, eds. Elizabeth Dillenburg, Howard Louthan and Drew Thomas (Leiden: Brill, 2021), pp. 245-268.

“Selling Luther: Printing Counterfeits in Reformation Augsburg” in *Communities of Print: Books and their Readers in Early Modern Europe*, eds. Rosamund Oates and Jessica Purdy (Leiden: Brill, 2022), pp. 17-38.

“Circumventing Censorship: The Rise & Fall of Reformation Print Centres” in *Negotiating Conflict and Controversy in the Early Modern Book World*, eds. Alexander Wilkinson and Graeme Kemp (Leiden: Brill, 2019), pp. 13-37.

“Cashing in on Counterfeits: Fraud in the Reformation Print Industry” in *Buying and Selling: The Business of Books in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Shanti Graheli (Leiden: Brill, 2019), pp. 276-300.

“Reconstructing Broadsheet Production in Wittenberg” in *Broadsheets: Single-sheet Publishing in the First Age of Print*, ed. Andrew Pettegree (Leiden: Brill, 2017), pp. 114-137.

Book Reviews

Review of Justyna Kiliańczyk-Zięba and Magdalena Komorowska, *Early Modern Catholicism and the Printed Book: Agents—Networks—Responses* (Leiden: Brill, 2024), *Church History*, 94:1 (2025).

Review of Jonas Nordin, Gustavs Strenga and Peter Sjökvist, *The Baltic Battle of Books: Formation and Relocation of European Libraries in the Confessional Age (c. 1500-1650) and Their Afterlife* (Leiden, Brill, 2023), *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, 11:4 (2024), pp. 714-16.

Review of Avner Shamir, *Incombustible Lutheran Books in Early Modern Germany* (Routledge, 2021), *Theological Librarianship*, 15, no. 1 (2022), pp. 19-21.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“From Image to Identity: Using AI to Uncover the Anonymous Printers of the Protestant Reformation”, article currently in progress; writing phase.

“Unveiling Provenance: Did Collectors Know Their Luther Editions Were Counterfeit?”, article currently in progress; writing phase.

Visualizing Faith: Print, Piety and Propaganda, monograph currently in progress; research and writing phase. Sections of this work have been presented at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and Digital Humanities Congress, among others.

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Enterprise Ireland Proof of Concept Grant (€100,000)
- 2025 Google Cloud Education Program (€5,000)
- 2024 Enterprise Ireland Feasibility Grant (€15,000)
- 2022 Long list, Reformation Research Consortium (REFORC) Book Award
- 2021 Science Foundation Ireland/Irish Research Council, University College Dublin Pathway Programme Research Fellowship (€477,454)
- 2020 Emory University, Pitts Theology Library
Kessler Reformation Research Fellowship (\$5,000)
- 2019 Irish Research Council, University College Dublin
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (€91,850)
- 2019 Folger Shakespeare Library (\$7,500)
- 2019 Reformationsgeschichtliche Forschungsbibliothek, Wittenberg (€5,000)
- 2019 John Rylands Research Institute and Library, University of Manchester (£2,800)
- 2017 Economic History Society, University of St Andrews (£500)
- 2015 Printing Historical Society, University of St Andrews (£1,700)
- 2015 Bibliographical Society, University of St Andrews (£1,700)

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “Beyond Vision: Metadata-Augmented AI for Iconclass Classification in Medieval Manuscripts,” AI and Artworks: Object Detection, Image Classification and Iconographic Analysis, Austrian Academy of Sciences, 16-17 April

- 2025 “From Print to Prediction: Multimodal AI for Iconclass Classification of Religious Images”, NFDI4Culture and HERMES-Hub Iconclass Workshop, 1 July
- 2025 “Captions, Codes & Clusters: A Multimodal AI Framework for Analyzing Reformation-Era Illustrations”, Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne, 19-20 June
- 2025 “From Text to Image: Visual and Multimodal AI in the Digital Humanities”, Italian-German Historical Institute, Trento, Italy, 29 April
- 2024 Intermediality and Computational Humanities Hackathon, University of Vienna, 14-15 November
- 2024 “Early Reformation Printing in Magdeburg,” Landeshauptstadt Magdeburg Stadtarchiv, 26-28 June
- 2024 “Multi-Modal Insights into Early Modern Religious Visual Culture,” Computing the Page in Early-Modern Europe, University of Oxford, 15 March
- 2023 “Visual Communication During the Reformation: Applying Computer Vision to the Ornamento Image Corpus,” Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne, 6-7 April
- 2022 “Using artificial intelligence to study religious identity and propaganda during the Protestant Reformation,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 23 May
- 2021 “Ornamento Europe: An Atlas of the Visual Geography of the Renaissance Book,” University of Venice, 1 October
- 2020 “Research in the Collections: A Kessler Conversation,” Emory University, 19 November
- 2019 “The Business of Bibles in Reformation Printing,” University of Glasgow, 23-24 May
- 2019 “Decorating Books in the Holy Roman Empire in the First Age of Print,” University College Dublin, 1 April
- 2018 “Early European Books: A Researcher’s Perspective,” Tel-Aviv University, 19-20 November
- 2017 “The Reformation and Popular Print: Production, Counterfeits, and the Role of Fraud in Spreading Luther’s Message,” European Dimensions of Popular Print Culture, University of Manchester, 16-17 November
- 2016 “Medieval Manuscript Digital Projects: The Programmer’s Perspective,” University of Pennsylvania, 17-19 November

CONFERENCES

Conferences Organized

- 2026 DigiHist2026, AG Digitale Geschichtswissenschaft im Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands (VHD), University of Salzburg, 28 Sept.-1 Oct.
- 2017 The Printed Book in Central Europe, University of St Andrews, 29 June-1 July

Papers Presented

- 2026 “Tracing Printers through Images: Network Analysis of Woodcut Reuse in Early Modern Print Culture,” DigiHist2026, University of Salzburg, 28 September-1 October
- 2026 “From Miniature to Metadata: Transferring AI-Assisted Iconography to Medieval Manuscripts,” DHd 2026, University of Vienna, 23-27 February
- 2024 “Leveraging Computer Vision and Multi-Modal Language Models to Understand the Visual Media of the Protestant Reformation,” Digital Humanities & Artificial Intelligence, University of Reading, 17 June
- 2022 “Fabricated Origin Stories: Disguising Counterfeits in the Reformation Book Trade,” Renaissance Society of America virtual conference, 30 November-3 December
- 2022 “Investigating Visual Communication During the Reformation and Counter-Reformation with Computer Vision,” Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, 27-30 October
- 2022 “Applying Machine Learning and Image Recognition to the Visual Culture of the Protestant Reformation,” Digital Humanities Congress, 8-10 September
- 2022 “Using AI to Study Visual Communication During Times of Religious Persecution,” Digital Humanities 2022 Tokyo, 25-29 July
- 2021 “Collecting Luther’s Counterfeits: The Undetected Migration of False Imprints Across Centuries and Collections,” Migrations of the Book Conference, Texas A&M University, 14-15 October
- 2019 “Fraud and Authenticity in Reformation Printing,” Faking It: Forgery and Fabrication in Early Modern and Late Medieval Culture, University of Gothenburg, 15-17 August
- 2018 “Big Books, Big Money: Rethinking Reformation Printing in Wittenberg,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, 22-24 March
- 2017 “Der Bibeldrucker: Hans Lufft and the Importance of Bibles to the Wittenberg Print Industry,” German History Society Conference, 30 August-1 September
- 2017 “The Reformation & the Digital Humanities: Overcoming Barriers of Accessibility for the Crawford Collection,” CILIP Library and Information Association Conference, 1 July
- 2017 “Luther and the Media: Wittenberg and Beyond,” Luther in Italy Conference, Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom and the Biblioteca Casanatense, 22-24 February
- 2016 “Printing Luther: Re-analyzing the Reformation Print Trade,” Reformation Colloquium, 14-16 September
- 2016 “Developing New Bibliographic Tools for the Digital Age: Distribution of German Books by Sheets in Early Modern Germany,” Digital Humanities Congress, 8-10 September

- 2016 “Cashing in on Counterfeits: Fraud in the Reformation Print Industry,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, 18-20 August
- 2016 “Circumventing Censorship: The Rise & Fall of Reformation Print Centres,” Conflict & Controversy: The 9th Annual St Andrews Book Conference, University of St Andrews, 16-18 June

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Salzburg

Undergraduate

The Protestant Reformation — Proseminar, Winter Semester 2025/26

Applied Digital History: Methods and Projects — Proseminar, Summer Semester 2026

The Holy Roman Empire in Early Modern Europe — Proseminar, Summer Semester 2026

Undergraduate and Graduate

Digital History: An Introduction — Lecture, Winter Semester 2025/26

University College Dublin

Undergraduate

The Making of Modern Europe, 1500-2000

Introduction to the Digital Humanities

Masters

Renaissance Europe

Introduction to the Digital Humanities

Research Collaboration Module

University of St Andrews

Undergraduate

The Early Modern Western World

Print, Progress and Public Opinion

Vertically Integrated Project: Media Transformations

Masters

Directed Reading in Modern History

Material Bibliography

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2024 Peer reviewer for special edition of *Religions*, “The Swiss Reformation 1525–2025: New Directions”
- 2024 Peer reviewer for *Journal on Computing and Cultural Heritage*
- 2023 External reviewer for European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant Call

- 2023 Peer reviewer for *Playing it by The Book: Printed and Manuscript Materials as a Vehicle for Play in Early Modernity* (Brill)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH

- 2025 Guest speaker for Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 5 January
- 2024 Guest speaker for World Stride Tours, Erfurt, Germany, October 7
- 2024 Guest speaker for “Großstadt und Reformation: Metropolen als Innovationsräume,” Stadtarchiv Magdeburg, Ev. Kirchenkreis Magdeburg, und Historische Kommission für Sachsen-Anhalt, June 26-28
- 2021 Guest Curator for “Der gefälschte Luther. Taschung im Buchhandel der Reformationszeit,” Reformationsgeschichtliche Forschungsbibliothek, Wittenberg, Germany, September 17-December 22
- 2021 Guest Curator for online exhibition “Reformation Counterfeits: How 16th Century Printers Counterfeited the Works of Martin Luther,” Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
- 2017 Guest Curator for “Popular Print of the Protestant Reformation,” The John Rylands Research Institute and Library, University of Manchester, November 16

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2025 ‘The Future of the Past: Using AI to Re-Examine Reformation Communication,’ Kessler Conversations, online web series, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, 5 November
- 2024 Web interview for “Diaries from the Digital Humanities & Artificial Intelligence Conference,” University of Reading, August 6
- 2022 Podcast Interview for UCD Institute for Discovery, University College Dublin, 8 November
- 2021 ‘Luther gefälscht!’, *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung*, 16 September
- 2021 ‘Uncovering Hidden Identities: Using Artificial Intelligence to Identify Counterfeit Printers’, *Reformation Notes*, 57 (Summer 2021), Emory University
- 2020 ‘Research in the Collection: Kessler Conversation with the 2020-2021 Research Fellows’, online web series, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, 19 November

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

MS Access, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, Python
Coursera certificates in Convolutional Neural Networks; TensorFlow Developer
Specialization; and Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning

LANGUAGES

German (good, can read with dictionary)

Latin (good, can read with dictionary)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS OR AFFILIATIONS

Royal Historical Society, FRHistS

Bibliographical Society

Economic History Society

German History Society

Print History Society

Renaissance Society of America

Sixteenth Century Society