

Growing Migrant Knowledge: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives



Pilot 5 brings together historical and comparative perspectives on migration and engages lay citizens to work with a digital collection of diaries and correspondence sent from German-speaking lands to families and friends who migrated across the Atlantic between 1800-1950. Through this process, participants engage in transatlantic dialogue and develop an international perspective on migration.

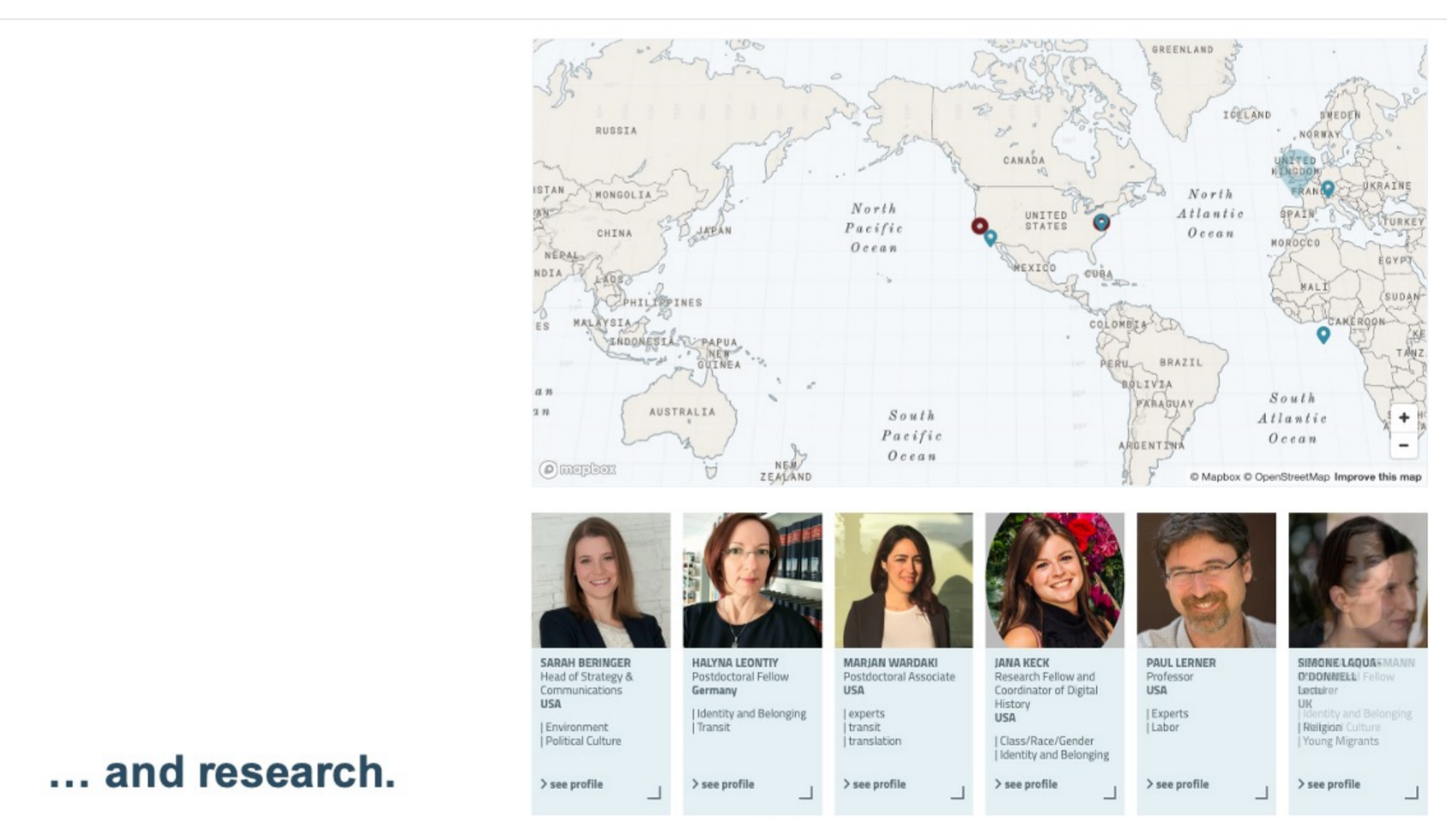
Together with citizen scholars, we collect, digitize, transcribe and translate sources to study mobile lifeworlds of the past.



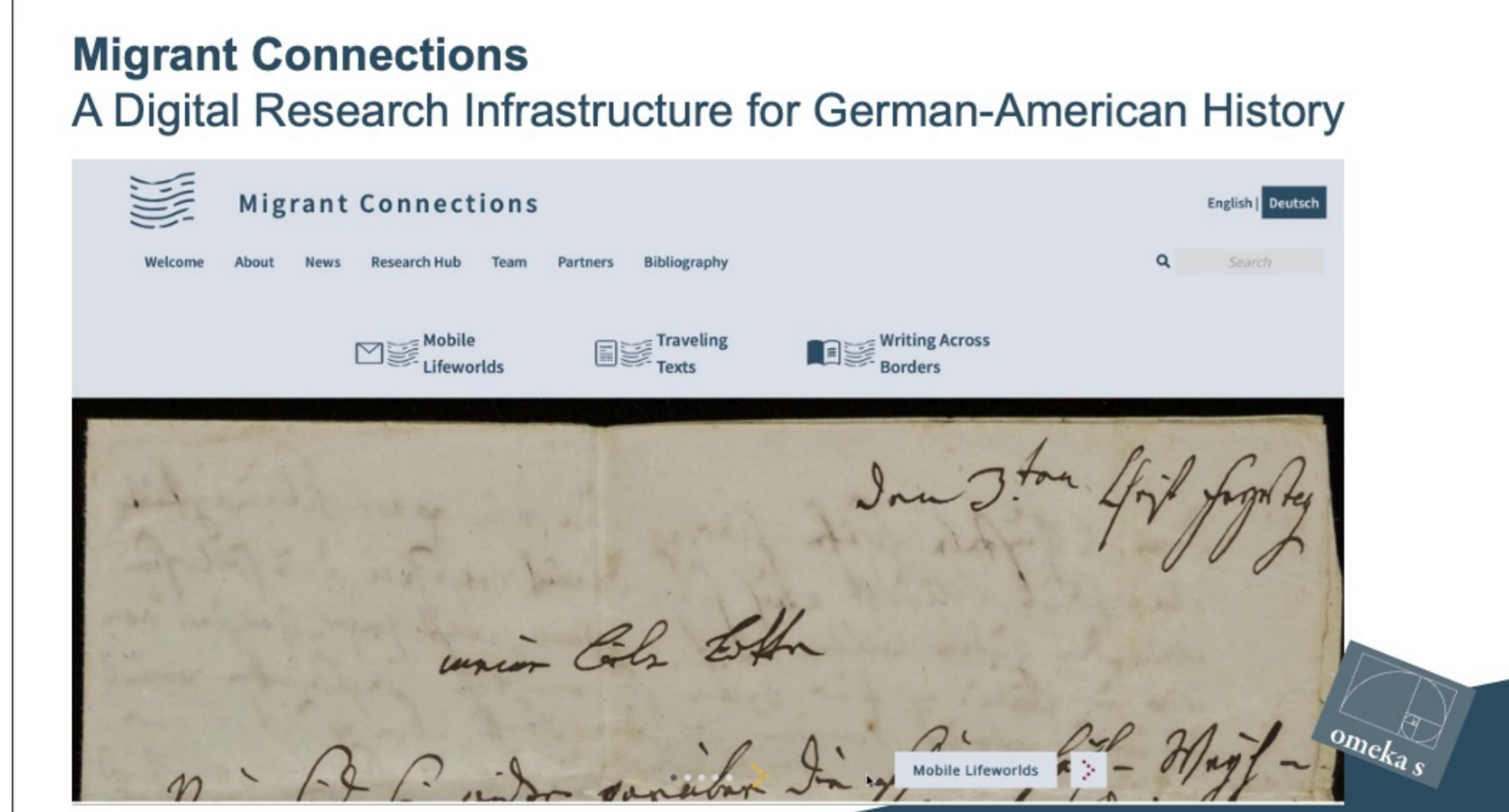
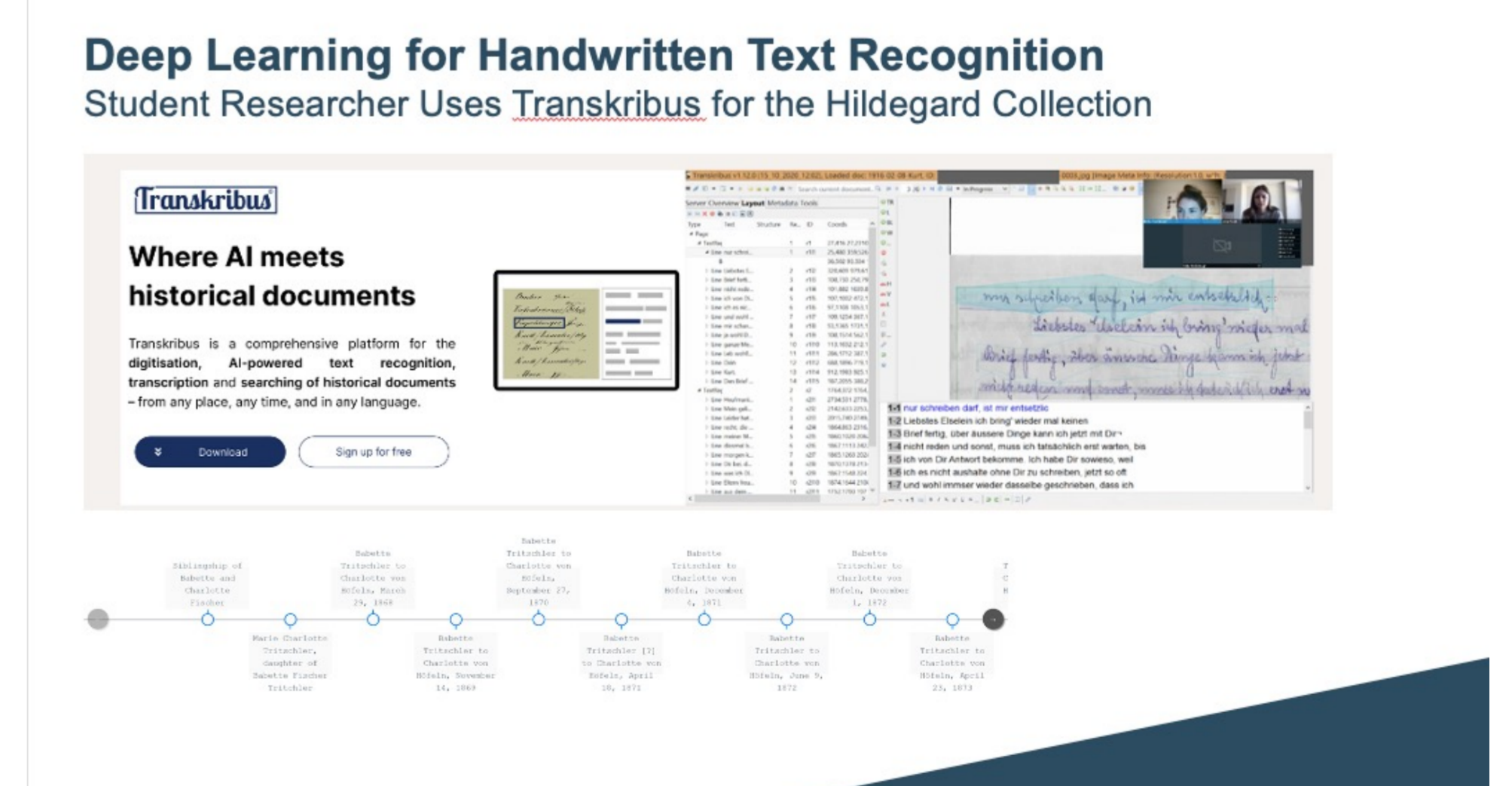
"Migrant Connections" is an interactive platform for data exploration and research. It also opens up a digital space for educators and citizen scholars and for actors from migration research, administration and politics.




The aim is to inspire transatlantic dialogues between people and groups concerned with knowledge and migration who do not usually interact with each other. Throughout this process, community building and support enable citizen scholars to gather knowledge from scholars and local experts about the material they are uncovering.



The digitization and publication of these sources has the great potential to contribute new voices to historical research, especially from groups which have been neglected. They are important sources for learning more about the effects of immigration to the United States on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. These ego-documents unveil the networks, practices, and knowledge needed to cope with often vastly changing environments.





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Project Partners "Migrant Connections"

We collaborate with the Max Kade Institute of the University of Wisconsin and the Horner Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania, which serve as repositories for physical ego-documents donated to the collection, the Leo Baeck Institute, and the Auswandererbriefe aus Nordamerika project in Germany.

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