

My research focuses on the ways in which literary texts and literary studies more generally can be of social, cultural, pedagogical and individual use, among others in contexts of health and illness. To explore these potentials, I draw on theories of usability and adaptation and postcritical approaches to understand the multiple and unexpected affordances of (small) forms, such as metaphors, stereotypes and (serial) narratives. My research investigates the practices at work in between polar opposites such as beneficial/harmful (e.g., illness metaphors, age stereotypes) and success/failure (e.g., aging) by looking into the creative strategies artists use to navigate these dualities and to explore them for their healing, therapeutic and reparative capacities. My current research interest focuses on polarization, more specifically the aesthetics of polarizing discourses, for example in relation to older age and reproductive rights. I have worked with literary texts, autobiographical writing and visual media (e.g., films, TV series) and have long-standing experience with working across disciplines and at the intersections of academic fields, such as age studies, Narrative Medicine and Medical Humanities.