

# PROF. DR. ALEXANDER BRENNING – CURRICULUM VITAE

---

Department of Geography, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Löbdergraben 32, 07743 Jena, Germany  
Email: alexander.brenning@uni-jena.de, phone +49-3641-948850 (direct), -948851 (secretary)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

10/2014 –	<b>Full Professor (W3) of Geographic Information Science</b> , Department of Geography, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
10/2017 – 09/2020	<b>Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences</b> , Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
07/2012 – 08/2015	<b>Associate Professor (tenured)</b> , Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
01/2007 – 06/2012	<b>Assistant Professor (tenure track)</b> , Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
02/2006 – 10/2006	<b>Research Associate in Geostatistics</b> , Department of Soil Landscape Research, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Müncheberg, Germany
03/2005 – 01/2006	<b>Research Associate in Biometry</b> , Department of Medical Informatics, Biometry, Epidemiology, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
09/2002 – 02/2005	<b>Research and Teaching Assistant, Geomorphology and Geovisualization</b> , Geographical Institute, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
08/2001 – 08/2002	<b>Research Assistant, Geovisualization</b> , Department of Geography, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

## EDUCATION

10/2005	<b>Doctor rerum naturalium in Geography (<i>magna cum laude</i>)</b> , Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on rock glaciers in the Andes
06/2001	<b>Diplom-Mathematiker</b> , Technical University of Freiberg, Germany on non-stationary geostatistics
11/1995 – 06/2001	<b>Studied Mathematics with a Minor in Physical Geography</b> , Technical University of Freiberg, Germany, Catholic University of Chile (DAAD scholarship), and University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

## VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS AND SELECTED RESEARCH VISITS

Since 09/2015	<b>Adjunct Professor</b> , Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo
02/2014 – 08/2014	<b>Humboldt Research Fellow (sabbatical)</b> , Department of Geography, University of Heidelberg, Germany
04/2013 – 06/2013	<b>Visiting Professor</b> , Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna, Austria
01/2011 – 04/2011	<b>Distinguished Visiting Professor (sabbatical)</b> , Dept. of Geography, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

## AWARDS

2021	<b>LiP Award</b> for outstanding dedication to teaching during the pandemic, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany
------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## EXTERNAL FUNDING HELD AS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

---

2018 – 2021	<b>German Aerospace Center (DLR)</b> , “Multiscale data analysis”, PI, within the Visual Analytics group of the DLR Institute of Data Science
2019 – 2020	<b>CETAQUA Chile</b> , “Mass movement processes in the upper Maipo basin”, PI
2019	<b>German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)</b> , international summer school on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling
2017 – 2019	<b>German Ministry of Education and Research</b> , “Network for environmental modeling of Earth surface processes,” PI
2015 – 2019	<b>LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency Project</b> , EU, “Early detection and advanced management systems to reduce forest decline caused by invasive and pathogenic agents” (LIFE14 ENV/ES/000179), Co-PI
2015 – 2018	<b>German Scholars Organization / Carl Zeiss Foundation</b> , program to support German researchers abroad returning to Germany
2013 – 2015	<b>NSERC Discovery Grant – Individual</b> , “Statistical Geocomputing”
2014	<b>Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers</b> , sabbatical at the University of Heidelberg, Germany
2014	<b>Contract Research</b> , Aguas Andinas, “Potential effects of dust on glaciers”
2008 – 2013	<b>NSERC Discovery Grant – Individual</b> , “Improved Spatial Classification in Mountain Geomorphology”

## RECENT TEACHING

---

2014/15 –	<b>Graduate student seminar</b> for GIScience M.Sc. and Ph.D. students
2014/15 –	<b>Advanced Statistics + Machine Learning for Geospatial Modeling</b> (~10-15 students each, M.Sc. level)
2014/15 –	<b>Intro. + Advanced Statistics</b> for Geographers (~30-50 students, B.Sc.)
2014/15 –	Various <b>GIScience</b> courses at different levels (~20-110 students, B.Sc.)
2012 - 2014	<b>Advanced Environmental Research Methods</b> (~300 students, B.Sc.)
2010 – 2013	<b>On Becoming a Geographer</b> (~100 students, B.Sc. year 1)
2008 – 2013	<b>Spatial Statistics</b> (~10-20 Master's/PhD students)
2007 – 2013	<b>Spatial Analysis</b> (~10-45 students, year 3 B.Sc.)

## SERVICE AND CONSULTING

---

<b>Service to the University</b>	<b>Dean</b> (2017-2020) and <b>Vice-Dean</b> (2016-17) of the Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Friedrich Schiller University Jena <b>Chair of the Examinations Committee</b> , B.Sc. Geography (2014-17) <b>Senator</b> , University of Waterloo (2012-14)
<b>Associate Editor</b>	Remote Sensing (since 2020) Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment (2016-20) Open Geospatial Data, Software and Standards (since 2018)
<b>Scientific Committees</b>	Geomorphometry, 2009–; Earth Obs. for Global Changes, 2009–2017; Int. Assoc. for Mathematical Geosciences 2015; Ecological Informatics, 2018
<b>Proposal Reviewer</b>	Conicyt (Chile), DFG (Germany), FWF (Austria), Humboldt Foundation (Germany), NSERC (Canada), NSF (USA), among others
<b>Consulting</b>	<b>Freelance geostatistical consultant</b> (intermittently since 2006)

## ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

---

<b>Languages</b>	German: first language; English, Spanish: fluent; French: intermediate
------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------

## PUBLICATIONS

ORCID: 0000-0001-6640-679X	ResearcherID: E-6022-2011
Number of Publications in Web of Science: 88	<i>h</i> -index: 28
Times Cited: 3070	Average Citations per Item: 34.89

### Peer-Reviewed Publications since 2018

- Cortés, J., Mahecha, M.D., Reichstein, M., Myneni, R.B., Chen, C., **Brenning, A.** (2021). Where are global greening and browning trends significant? *Geophysical Research Letters*, 48(6): e2020GL091496.
- Estupinan-Suarez, L.M., Gans, F., **Brenning, A.**, Gutierrez-Velez, V.H., Londono, M.C., Pabon-Moreno, D.E., Poveda, G., Reichstein, M., Reu, B., Sierra, C.A., Weber, U., Mahecha, M.D. (2021). A regional Earth system data lab for understanding ecosystem dynamics: An example from tropical South America. *Frontiers in Earth Science*, 9: 613395. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2021.613395>
- Knevels, R., **Brenning, A.**, Gingrich, S., Heiss, G., Lechner, T., Leopold, P., Plutzar, C., Proske, H., Petschko, H. Towards the use of land use legacies in landslide modeling: Current challenges and future perspectives in an Austrian case study. *Land*, 10(9), 954. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10090954>
- Knevels, R., **Brenning, A.**, Gingrich, S., Gruber, E., Lechner, T., Leopold, P., Petschko, H., Plutzar, C. (2021). Kulturlandschaft im Wandel: Ein indikatorenbasierter Rückblick bis in das 19. Jahrhundert. Fallstudie anhand der Gemeinden Waidhofen/Ybbs und Paldau. *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft*, 162: 255-285. <https://doi.org/10.1553/moegg162s255>
- Urquiza-Munoz, J.D., Magnabosco-Marra, D., Negrón-Juárez, R.I., Tello-Espinoza, R., Alegria-Muñoz, W., Pacheco-Gómez, T., Rifai, S.W., Chambers, J.Q., Jenkins, H.S., **Brenning, A.**, Trumbore, S. (2021). Recovery of forest structure following large-scale windthrows in the Northwestern Amazon. *Forests*, 12(6): 667.
- Wang, Z., **Brenning, A.** Active-learning approaches for landslide mapping using support vector machines. *Remote Sensing*, 13(13), 2588.
- Brock, J., Schratz, P., Petschko, H., Muenchow, J., Micu, M., **Brenning, A.** (2020). The performance of landslide susceptibility models critically depends on the quality of digital elevations models. *Geomatics Natural Hazards & Risk*, 11: 1075-1092.
- Cortés, J., Mahecha, M., Reichstein, M., **Brenning, A.** (2020). Accounting for multiple testing in the analysis of spatio-temporal environmental data. *Environmental and Ecological Statistics*, 27: 293-318.
- Knevels, R., Petschko, H., Proske, H., Leopold, P., Maraun, D., **Brenning, A.** (2020). Event-based landslide modeling in the Styrian Basin, Austria: accounting for time-varying rainfall and land cover. *Geosciences*, 10, 217.
- Linscheid, N., Estupiñán-Suárez, L.M., **Brenning, A.**, and 7 others (2020). Towards a global understanding of vegetation-climate dynamics at multiple timescales. *Biogeosciences*, 17: 945-962.
- Muenchow, J., Dieker, P., Boettcher, T., ..., **Brenning, A.** and 12 others (2020). Monitoring and predictive mapping of floristic biodiversity along a climatic gradient in ENSO's terrestrial core region, NW Peru. *Ecography*, 10.1111/ecog.05091
- Shen, Y.-J., Shen, Y.J., Guo, Y., Zhang, Y.C., Pei, H.W., **Brenning, A.** (2020). Review of historical and projected future climatic and hydrological changes in mountainous semiarid Xinjiang (northwestern China), central Asia. *Catena*, 187, 104343.
- Goetz, J., **Brenning, A.** (2019). Quantifying uncertainties in snow depth mapping from structure from motion photogrammetry in an alpine area. *Water Resources Research*, 55: 7772-7783.
- Goetz, J., Fieguth, P., Kasiri, K., Bodin, X., Marcer, M., **Brenning, A.** (2019). Accounting for permafrost creep in high-resolution snow depth mapping by modelling sub-snow ground deformation. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 231, 111275.
- Knevels, R., Petschko, H., Leopold, P., **Brenning, A.** (2019). Geographic Object-Based Image Analysis for Automated Landslide Detection Using Open Source GIS Software. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 8, 551.

- Marcer, M., Serrano, C., **Brenning, A.**, Bodin, X., Goetz, J., Schoeneich, P. (2019). Evaluating the destabilization susceptibility of active rock glaciers in the French Alps. *The Cryosphere*, 13: 141-155.
- Schratz, P., Muenchow, J., Iturritxa, E., Richter, J., **Brenning, A.** (2019). Hyperparameter tuning and performance assessment of statistical and machine-learning algorithms using spatial data. *Ecological Modelling*, 406: 109-120.
- Flach, M., Sippel, S., Gans, F., Bastos, A., **Brenning, A.**, Reichstein, M., Mahecha, M. D. (2018). Contrasting biosphere responses to hydrometeorological extremes: revisiting the 2010 western Russian heatwave. *Biogeosciences*, 15: 6067-6085.
- Goetz, J., **Brenning, A.**, Marcer, M., Bodin, X. (2018). Modeling the precision of structure-from-motion multi-view stereo digital elevation models from repeated close-range aerial surveys. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 210(1): 208-216.
- Shen, Y.-J., Shen, Y., Fink, M., Kralisch, S., Chen, Y., **Brenning, A.** (2018). Trends and variability in streamflow and snowmelt runoff timing in the southern Tianshan Mountains. *J. Hydrol.*, 557: 173-181.
- Shen, Y.-J., Shen, Y., Fink, M., Kralisch, S., Chen, Y., **Brenning, A.** (2018). Unraveling the hydrology of the glacierized Kaidu basin by integrating multisource data in the Tianshan Mountains, Northwestern China. *Water Resources Research*, 54: 557-580.

### **Selected Earlier Peer-Reviewed Publications (before 2018)**

- Azócar, G.F., **Brenning, A.**, Bodin, X. (2017). Permafrost distribution modelling in the semi-arid Chilean Andes. *The Cryosphere*, 11: 877-890.
- Flach, M., Gans, F., **Brenning, A.**, Denzler, J., Reichstein, M., Rodner, E., Bathiany, S., Bodesheim, P., Guanche, Y., Sippel, S., Mahecha, M.D. (2017). Multivariate anomaly detection for Earth observations: a comparison of algorithms and feature extraction techniques, *Earth System Dynamics*, 8: 677-696.
- Muenchow, J., Schratz, P., **Brenning, A.** (2017). RQGIS: Integrating R with QGIS for statistical geocomputing. *R Journal*, 9: 409-428.
- Peña, M.A., Liao, R., **Brenning, A.** (2017). Using spectrotemporal indices to improve the fruit-tree crop classification accuracy. *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing*, 128: 158-169.
- Steger, S., **Brenning, A.**, Bell, R., Glade, T. (2017). The influence of systematically incomplete shallow landslide inventories on statistical susceptibility models and suggestions for improvements. *Landslides*, 14: 1767-1781.
- Steger, S., **Brenning, A.**, Bell, R., Petschko, H., Glade, T. (2016). Exploring discrepancies between quantitative validation results and the geomorphic plausibility of statistical landslide susceptibility maps. *Geomorphology*, 262: 8-23.
- Albuquerque, J. P., Herfort, B., **Brenning, A.**, Zipf, A. (2015). Geographic approach for combining social media and authoritative data towards improving information extraction for disaster management. *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*, 29(4): 667-689.
- Goetz, J.N., **Brenning, A.**, Petschko, H., Leopold, P. (2015). Evaluating machine learning and statistical prediction techniques for landslide susceptibility modeling. *Computers & Geosciences*, 81: 1-11.
- Peña, M.A., **Brenning, A.** (2015). Assessing fruit-tree crop classification from Landsat-8 time series for the Maipo Valley, Chile. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 171: 234-244.
- Petschko, H., **Brenning, A.**, Bell, R., Goetz, J., Glade, T. (2014). Assessing the quality of landslide susceptibility maps – case study Lower Austria. *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sci.*, 14: 95-118.
- Boeckli, L., **Brenning, A.**, Gruber, S., Noetzli, J. (2012). A statistical approach to modelling permafrost distribution in the European Alps or similar mountain ranges. *The Cryosphere*, 6, 125-140.
- Brenning, A.** (2012): Spatial cross-validation and bootstrap for the assessment of prediction rules in remote sensing: the R package ‘sperrorest’. *Proceedings, 2012 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS)*, 23-27 July 2012, 5372-5375.
- Goetz, J., Guthrie, R., **Brenning, A.** (2011). Integrating physical and empirical landslide susceptibility models using generalized additive models. *Geomorphology*, 129: 376-386.