Hasso Plattner Institut
Digital Engineering · Universität Potsdam

January 30, 2026

Linea Schmidt
Hasso-Plattner-Institut für Digital Engineering gGmbH
Prof.-Dr.-Helmert-Straße 2–3
14482 Potsdam
E-mail: linea.schmidt@hpi.de

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to apply for the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. By July, I will be a third-year PhD candidate in Digital Health, Economics and Policy at the Hasso Plattner Institute (University of Potsdam, Germany), supervised by Professor Ariel Dora Stern. The letter of reccomendation for attending the NBER boot camp will be written and submitted by her.

My doctoral research focuses on innovation in healthcare delivery, and more generally, the economics of innovation in regulated markets with a focus on digital therapeutics and remote patient monitoring as software-based innovations operating in highly regulated markets. A central set of questions in my dissertation concerns how policy design, evidence requirements, and market institutions shape experimentation, learning, and investment incentives for innovative firms. The Innovation Research Boot Camp strongly aligns with my research agenda, particularly its emphasis on the economics of ideas, innovation policy, and the interaction between entrepreneurship, regulation, and economic growth.

Before starting my PhD, I completed a Master's degree in Digital Health and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Business Informatics. While my PhD program does not mandate formal coursework, I completed extensive graduate-level training during my Master's degree, including advanced coursework in statistics and quantitative methods. This training has been further complemented by advanced research training in economics, innovation, and health policy through my dissertation work, close collaboration with faculty in the United States and Europe (including a semester in 2025 spent visiting Professor Scott Stern at MIT), and participation in graduate-level courses and seminars in innovation economics and entrepreneurship during a research stay at MIT, including Scott Stern's MBA course on Entrepreneurial Strategy and the MIT TIES department seminars on Innovation Research and on the Economics of Ideas, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

I would be highly motivated to participate actively in the boot camp, both to deepen my conceptual and empirical foundations in innovation research and to engage with fellow participants and faculty working on related questions across different domains and institutional settings. Thank you very much for considering my application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Linea Schmidt

NBER Boot Camp Motivation and Current Research Agenda

I am a PhD candidate in Digital Health, Economics and Policy at the Hasso Plattner Institute (University of Potsdam, Germany), supervised by Prof. Ariel Dora Stern. My research focuses on innovation in healthcare delivery, and more generally on the economics of innovation in regulated markets. At a high level, I study how institutions, incentives, and information frictions influence entrepreneurial experimentation, the generation of evidence, and the diffusion of new technologies, and how these processes shape market entry, adoption, and value creation in healthcare. Much of my research considers applications from digital health, such as digital therapeutics and remote patient monitoring as emerging, software-based modes of health care. I bring a transatlantic perspective, drawing on both German and U.S. contexts.

A central theme of my work is how highly regulated markets influence firms' innovation strategies. In joint work with Professor Scott Stern (MIT Sloan), whom I visited during the Fall 2025 semester, I study how digital therapeutic companies generate and sequence evidence when reimbursement regimes allow market entry prior to final clinical evaluation, as in Germany's *DiGA Fast-Track*, a unique combined regulatory and reimbursement pathway for therapeutic digital health applications. This setting allows me to ask how firms choose when and how to produce evidence, how early market access shapes experimentation and learning, and how regulatory design affects entrepreneurial behavior and investment incentives. This research motivates a more systematic integration of innovative evidence-generation approaches, such as real-world evidence, into regulatory frameworks for new medical technologies.

Another major research project examines whether and how innovation in digital therapeutics aligns with societal needs. In this project, I empirically map the global burden of disease to R&D activity in digital therapeutics, combining data from clinical trial registries and venture capital sources (PitchBook). By comparing where disease burden is greatest with where innovation, product development, and capital concentrate, this project aims to uncover systematic gaps and distortions in the direction of innovation. This sheds light on how disease characteristics, market forces, funding structures, and regulatory pathways may bias innovative efforts toward certain conditions while neglecting others. The research project sits at the intersection of innovation economics, health policy, and the economics of ideas, and speaks directly to questions of allocative efficiency and mission-oriented innovation.

Complementing this work, I am involved in a large-scale research project with the Mount Sinai Health System that leverages electronic health records to study remote patient monitoring in patients with chronic conditions. This project focuses on how digital monitoring technologies are adopted, how they affect patient outcomes, and how their reimbursement shapes subsequent health care costs. Working with rich clinical data allows me to study innovation and technology adoption, not only at the firm or policy level, but also at the point of implementation.

Beyond my research, I am actively engaged in innovation education. I co-developed and continue to teach a hands-on, need-driven innovation seminar inspired by the Stanford Biodesign methodology, in which interdisciplinary student teams conduct clinical shadowing, identify unmet needs, and develop early solution concepts. The course is accompanied by an innovation study examining how participation affects students' self-confidence, skills, and knowledge related to technology transfer, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This integrated teaching and research experience has sharpened my interest in the foundations of innovation, including how problems are identified, how constraints shape solution spaces, and how institutional environments influence which ideas advance in real-world settings.

I have actively sought exposure to the broader innovation research community, including attending Scott Stern's MBA course on Entrepreneurial Strategy as well as the MIT TIES seminars on Innovation Research and on the Economics of Ideas, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. The NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp would be a natural and highly complementary next step. I am particularly excited to learn from leading scholars how to approach complex innovation questions that span entrepreneurship, financing, and policy, and how to disentangle causal mechanisms in highly regulated markets. Equally important, I value the opportunity to engage with a diverse cohort of researchers working on innovation across sectors and countries, to identify parallels, contrasts, and transferable insights that inform my own work.

I see the boot camp as a path to deepen my conceptual grounding in the economics of innovation, refine my empirical agenda, and connect my health-focused research to broader innovation policy debates.

Linea Schmidt

Curriculum Vitae

Breite Straße 23A
14467 Potsdam, Germany
+49(0)174 248 6613
info@lineaschmidt.de



Digital Health researcher and PhD candidate conducting data-driven research on emerging health care delivery models such as digital therapeutics and remote patient monitoring.

Personal Information

Name	Linea Schmidt
Date of Birth	October 25, 1998

Education

Mar. 2024 – Present	**PhD Candidate**, *Chair "Digital Health, Economics and Policy" at the Hasso Plattner Institute at the University of Potsdam*.
Oct. 2023 – Mar. 2024	**PhD Candidate**, *Chair "Data Analystics and Computational Statistics" at the Hasso Plattner Institute at the University of Potsdam*.
Oct. 2020 – Sept. 2023	**M.Sc. in Digital Health**, *Hasso Plattner Institute at the University of Potsdam*, Germany. Graduated with distinction; Final grade: 1.1
Oct. 2017 – Sept. 2020	**B.Sc. in Business Administration (Focus : Business Informatics)**, *Freie Universität Berlin*, Germany. Graduated with distinction; Final grade: 1.1

Professional Experience

Oct. 2023 – Present	**Research Associate**, *Hasso Plattner Institute*, Germany. Research on new health care delivery models.
Feb. 2024 – Mar. 2024	**"Digital Health Spark" Program Organizer**, *School of Entrepreneurship at the Hasso Plattner Institute*, Germany.
May 2023 – Dec. 2023	**Freelancing Researcher**, *University Hopsital Düsseldorf*, Neurology Department - Remote Patient Monitoring, Germany.
Apr. 2022 – Mar. 2023	**Student Assistant**, *Hasso Plattner Institute*, Germany.
May 2021 – Jul. 2023	**Working Student**, *Praxis Dr. Wunderlich*, Development of: Remote monitory system for chronic heart failure, Germany.
Oct. 2018 – Apr. 2021	**Tutor and working student**, *Freie Universität Berlin*, Germany.
Aug. 2018 – Sep. 2018	**Internship**, *IAV Berlin*, Global Employment Department of HR, Germany.

Nov. 2016 – Feb. 2017 **Internship**, *Protestant Hospital Ludwigsfelde*, Nursing Care, Germany.

Theses

Master's Thesis *Natural Language Processing for Behavioral Phenotyping of Crohn's Disease* — Grade: 1.0

Bachelor's Thesis *Mobiles Herzinsuffizienzmonitoring - Erstellung eines Applikations-Prototypen für den Einsatz von Digital Wearables* — Grade: 1.0

Publications

Google Scholar: `https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=deS2XigAAAAJ&hl=de&oi=ao`

ORCID: 0009-0006-3014-4058

Teaching Experience

Winter Term 25/26 **Digital Health Spark – Igniting need-driven Innovation**, *Main organizer, concept and teaching*.

Master Project: TRACED - Trials Research: Analysis, Connectivity, Exploration, and Digital Health Technologies, *Main Instructor, Mentor*.

Summer Term 25 **Building Products for Digital Health**, *Program manager, coach*.

Winter Term 24/25 **Digital Health Spark – Igniting need-driven Innovation**, *Main organizer, concept and teaching*.

Master Project: AUDiCT - Analyzing and Understanding the Digital Transformation of Clinical Trials, *Main Instructor, Mentor*.

Summer Term 24 **Product Builder Digital Health**, *Program manager, coach*.

Current Developments in Electronic Health Records, *Co-Organizer*.

Winter Term 23/24 **Digital Health Spark – Igniting need-driven Innovation**, *Main organizer, concept and teaching*.

Summer Term 20 **Entscheidungsunterstützungssysteme**, *Tutor*.

C# Programmierung für Wirtschaftswissenschaftler, *Tutor*.

Winter Term 19/20 **Einführung in die Wirtschaftsinformatik**, *Tutor*.

Summer Term 19 **Grundlagen Interner Unternehmensrechnung**, *Tutor*.

Winter Term 18/19 **Grundlagen Externer Unternehmensrechnung**, *Tutor*.

Supervision and Mentoring

Master Thesis **1 finished; 5 ongoing**.

Bachelor Thesis **1 ongoing**.

Association Work

Since January 2025 **Board Member**, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Digitale Medizin e.V.*.

2025 **Co-Founder and Board Member**, *FemTech Germany e.V.*.

July 2022 – July 2023 **Board Member**, *beyond medicine e.V.*.

Member of Search Committees

2025 *Member of the search committee for the open topic (W1) professorship at the Hasso Plattner Institute, Germany*

2024 *Member of the search committee for two professorships (W3) at the Hasso Plattner Institute (Digital Health), Germany*

Languages

German **Native speaker**.

English **Fluent - C1**.

Spanish **Fundamentals - B1**.

Additional Training

Design Thinking **Design Thinking Basic Track at the Hasso Plattner Institute**.

Awards and Scholarships

2024 **Add-On Fellowship**, *Joachim Herz Foundation*.

2024 **2nd Place Best Poster Award**, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Digitale Medizin*.

2023 **Master Thesis Award**, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Digitale Medizin*.

2023 **Research School PhD Scholarship**, *Hasso Plattner Institute*.

2023 **1st Place ADLIFE Hackathon**, *OptiMedis AG*.

2022 **Deutschlandstipendium**, *University of Potsdam*.

2021 **Deutschlandstipendium**, *University of Potsdam*.

2019 **3rd Place Funpreneur**, *Freie Universität Berlin*.

2019 **1st Place Start-up Bootcamp**, *Hasso Plattner Institute*.

Technical Skills

Programming **Python, R, SQL, C#**.

Applications **Office Suite, LaTeX**, *Experienced in academic writing and data-driven project documentation*.

Berlin, January 31, 2026 

Linea Schmidt

Hasso-Plattner-Institut | Prof.-Dr.-Helmert-Straße 2-3 | 14482 Potsdam

Potsdam, 30.01.2026

Letter of Recommendation: Linea Schmidt

Dear Kevin, Ina, and Kyle,

It is a joy to enthusiastically recommend Linea Schmidt for the 2026 NBER Innovation Research Bootcamp. Linea is conducting her dissertation research in the field of healthcare innovation. Her work combines technical and regulatory aspects to improve healthcare efficiency.

Linea is truly a talented young researcher: she has a gift for understanding the intuition and execution of empirical research and can thoughtfully discuss its policy implications at a level that is comparable with some of the best final-year doctoral students I encountered during my ten years at Harvard.

At a technical level, Linea's programming and data management skills are outstanding. Her work applying natural language processing methods to the unstructured text data in electronic health records prior to beginning her PhD, and a natural talent for analytic thinking, have given Linea a top-notch set of programming skills, which are already serving her well and will undoubtedly help her execute novel, high-quality research moving forward. More generally, Linea is the kind of student who simply *gets things done*. She has already published a few short articles during her PhD, which underscores her competence and commitment to research.

I think of Linea as a perfect candidate for this opportunity: she will not only be prepared, engaged, and make the most of the Innovation Bootcamp, but also become a successful member of its alumni community. I support her application with my strongest recommendation.

Warm regards,

Ariel Dora Stern | ariel.stern@hpi.de
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Chair, Digital Health, Economics & Policy
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