

# Stanford

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## Mitchell L. Stevens

Professor of Education and, by courtesy, of Sociology  
Graduate School of Education

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Admin. Support**

Monica Tabayoyong

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### Bio

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#### BIO

I am an organizational sociologist with longstanding interests in educational sequences, lifelong learning, alternative educational forms, and the formal organization of knowledge. At Stanford I convene the Pathways Network ([pathways.stanford.edu](https://pathways.stanford.edu)) and the Futures Project on Education and the Learning Society ([learningsociety.io](https://learningsociety.io)).

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Graduate School of Education
- Professor (By courtesy), Sociology
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Co-Director, Stanford Center on Longevity, (2022- present)

#### PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Science, Technology and Society

#### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Northwestern University (1996)
- BA, Macalester College (1988)

#### LINKS

- Pathways Network: <https://pathways.stanford.edu>
- Futures Project on Education and Learning for Longer Lives: <https://futures.stanford.edu>

### Research & Scholarship

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#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Alternative Schooling

- Educational Policy
- Higher Education
- Leadership and Organization
- Lifelong Learning

## PROJECTS

- Pathways Network - Stanford University (8/1/2016)

## Teaching

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### COURSES

#### 2025-26

- Stanford and Its Worlds: 1885-present: AMSTUD 147, EDUC 147, HISTORY 58E (Spr)

#### 2024-25

- Proseminar 1: EDUC 325A (Aut)
- Research Seminar in Higher Education: EDUC 346 (Win)
- Stanford and Its Worlds: 1885-present: EDUC 147, HISTORY 58E (Spr)

#### 2023-24

- Policy Practicum: "What's Next? After Students for Fair Admissions": LAW 809D (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Research Seminar in Higher Education: EDUC 346 (Spr)
- Stanford and Its Worlds: 1885-present: EDUC 147, HISTORY 58E (Spr)

#### 2022-23

- Organizational Analysis: EDUC 288 (Aut)
- Stanford Archive Lab: EDUC 147L, HISTORY 58EL (Spr)
- Stanford and Its Worlds: 1885-present: EDUC 147, HISTORY 58E (Spr)
- Workshop in Social Science History: EDUC 446 (Aut, Win, Spr)

### STANFORD ADVISEES

#### Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Daniela Ganelin, Isabel Salovaara

#### Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Bernardo Mackenna, Katie Spoon

#### Doctoral (Program)

Kelsey Conroy, Hansol Lee, Léon Marbach, Melanie Shimano

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **What was the Cold War? Theorizing a Medium Durée: Introduction to a special issue of Social Science History, 'What Was the Cold War?'** *SOCIAL SCIENCE HISTORY*  
Sendroui, I., Stevens, M.  
2025

- **Neither state nor market: competitive emulation in higher education** *STUDIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION*  
Levine, E. J., Stevens, M. L.  
2024
- **Financing Higher Education in America** *CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY-A JOURNAL OF REVIEWS*  
Stevens, M. L.  
2024; 53 (2): 103-107
- **Major Selection as Iteration: Observing Gendered Patterns of Major Selection Under Elective Curriculums** *AERA OPEN*  
Dalberg, T., Cortes, K. E., Stevens, M. L.  
2024; 10
- **From pipelines to pathways in the study of academic progress.** *Science (New York, N.Y.)*  
Kizilcec, R. F., Baker, R. B., Bruch, E., Cortes, K. E., Hamilton, L. T., Lang, D. N., Pardos, Z. A., Thompson, M. E., Stevens, M. L.  
2023; 380 (6643): 344-347
- **Forecasting Undergraduate Majors: A Natural Language Approach** *AERA OPEN*  
Lang, D., Wang, A., Dalal, N., Paepcke, A., Stevens, M. L.  
2022; 8
- **Application essays and the ritual production of merit in US selective admissions** *POETICS*  
Gebre-Medhin, B., Giebel, S., Alvero, A. J., Antonio, A., Domingue, B. W., Stevens, M. L.  
2022; 94
- **Should I Start at MATH 101? Content Repetition as an Academic Strategy in Elective Curriculums** *SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION*  
Harrison, M. H., Hernandez, P. A., Stevens, M. L.  
2022
- **Essay content and style are strongly related to household income and SAT scores: Evidence from 60,000 undergraduate applications.** *Science advances*  
Alvero, A. J., Giebel, S., Gebre-Medhin, B., Antonio, A. L., Stevens, M. L., Domingue, B. W.  
2021; 7 (42): eabi9031
- **What is educational entrepreneurship? Strategic action, temporality, and the expansion of US higher education** *THEORY AND SOCIETY*  
Kindel, A. T., Stevens, M. L.  
2021
- **Studying Undergraduate Course Consideration at Scale** *AERA OPEN*  
Chaturapruek, S., Dalberg, T., Thompson, M. E., Giebel, S., Harrison, M. H., Johari, R., Stevens, M. L., Kizilcec, R. F.  
2021; 7
- **Ambiguous Credentials: How Learners Use and Make Sense of Massively Open Online Courses** *JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION*  
Laryea, K., Paepcke, A., Mirzaei, K., Stevens, M. L.  
2021
- **Universities as peculiar organizations** *SOCIOLOGY COMPASS*  
Eaton, C., Stevens, M. L.  
2020
- **The Paradox of the Global University** *World Class Universities: A Contested Concept*  
Stevens, M. L., Giebel, S.  
Springer Nature.2020; 1: 123–37
- **Via: Illuminating Academic Pathways at Scale**  
Angus, G., Martinez, R., Stevens, M. L., Paepcke, A., Assoc Comp Machinery  
ASSOC COMPUTING MACHINERY.2019
- **Research Universities and the Future of Work** *ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY*  
Stevens, M. L.  
2018; 35 (1): 45–52

- **Seeing the World: How US Universities Make Knowledge in a Global Era**  
Stevens, M. L., Miller-Idriss, C., Shami, S.  
Princeton University Press.2018
- **How a data-driven course planning tool affects college students' GPA: Evidence from two field experiments**  
Chaturapruek, S., Dee, T. S., Johari, R., Kizilcec, R. F., Stevens, M. L., ACM  
ASSOC COMPUTING MACHINERY.2018
- **Higher Education Politics after the Cold War** *Change*  
Stevens, M. L.  
2018; 50: 13-17
- **The Evaluation Machine** *CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY-A JOURNAL OF REVIEWS*  
Stevens, M. L.  
2017; 46 (4): 403-405
- **From soldiers to students: The Tests of General Educational Development (GED) as diplomatic measurement** *Social Science History*  
Hutt, E. L., Stevens, M. L.  
2017; 41 (4): 731-755
- **Association, Service, Market: Higher Education in American Political Development** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY, VOL 42*  
Stevens, M. L., Gebre-Medhin, B.  
2016; 42: 121-142
- **Remaking College: The Changing Ecology of Higher Education**  
edited by Kirst, M. W., Stevens, M. L.  
Stanford University Press.2015
- **Football as a Status System in US Higher Education** *SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION*  
Lifschitz, A., Sauder, M., Stevens, M. L.  
2014; 87 (3): 204-219
- **A Sociology of Quantification** *ARCHIVES EUROPEENNES DE SOCIOLOGIE*  
Espeland, W. N., Stevens, M. L.  
2008; 49 (3): 397-432
- **Sieve, incubator, temple, hub: Empirical and theoretical advances in the sociology of higher education** *Annu. Rev. Sociol*  
Stevens, M. L., Armstrong, E. A., Arum, R.  
2008; 34: 127-151
- **Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites**  
Stevens, M. L.  
Harvard University Press.2007
- **Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Homeschooling Movement**  
Stevens, M. L.  
Princeton University Press.2001