

Stanford



Melissa Stevenson

Student Service Officer 4, Academic Advising Operations

Bio

BIO

Melissa Stevenson (Stanford Class of '96) is a Lead Undergraduate Advising Director in the office of Academic Advising at Stanford, where she serves as an academic advisor for undergraduates. Her advising conversations with students include academic planning, exploring interests, identifying goals, choosing majors, assessing academic progress, connecting with faculty, enhancing study habits and other academic skills, finding opportunities for research and service, applying for grants and fellowships, navigating university requirements and policies, and other aspects of students' academic endeavors. As the first in her family to attend a four-year college, Melissa is particularly sensitive to the concerns of other first gen students.

Prior to joining Academic Advising in 2011, Melissa was a teaching fellow in the Introduction to the Humanities Program here at Stanford where she served as a teaching fellow for classes like World History of Science, Humans & Machines, and Technological Visions of Utopia. She has also designed and taught courses at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of California Santa Barbara.

Melissa earned her PhD in English from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2005. Her dissertation "Conversations with Ghosts and Machines: Encounters with Technology & the (Re)definition of the Human in 20th Century Science Fiction" explored evolving definitions of the human through the lens of Science Fiction Literature and Film.

Here at Stanford, Melissa has taught introductory seminars about the representation of women in Science Fiction from Frankenstein to the present and about current trends and culture in 21st Century Science Fiction and Fantasy.

While the concern of Melissa's dissertation is science fiction, her professional interests and teaching experience include contemporary American literature, cultural studies, film theory, new media studies, short fiction, graphic narratives, and children's and young adult literature.

CURRENT ROLE AT STANFORD

Lead Undergraduate Advising Director

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2016 Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award, Stanford University (2016)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- B.A., Stanford University , English (1996)
- Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara , English (2005)

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Reflecting on Your Education: Making Sense of Your Time at Stanford: UAR 301 (Win)

2024-25

- Reflecting on Your Education: Making Sense of Your Time at Stanford: UAR 301 (Win)

2023-24

- After 2001: A 21st Century Science Fiction Odyssey: ENGLISH 17Q (Spr)
- Reflecting on Your Education: Making Sense of Your Time at Stanford: UAR 301 (Win)

2022-23

- After 2001: A 21st Century Science Fiction Odyssey: ENGLISH 17Q (Spr)
- Reflecting on Your Education: Making Sense of Your Time at Stanford: UAR 301 (Win)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Trying to plug in: Posthuman cyborgs and the search for connection (Donna Haraway's 'Cyborg Manifesto')** *SCIENCE-FICTION STUDIES*
Stevenson, M. C.
2007; 34: 87-105

PRESENTATIONS

- Forgive But Not Forget: Truth, Reconciliation, and _Fables_ - Comics Arts Conference at ComicCon (7/27/2014)
- Shall We Play A Game? : Artificial Intelligence and the Girls Who Are Plugged In in Portal & Portal 2 - Science Fiction Research Association Conference / WisCon (May 23, 2014)
- Ready Reader One?: Near Future Science Fiction, Nostalgia & Identification in Ernest Cline's "Ready Player One." - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (4/13/2013)
- Women in the Wasteland: The Other Gender in the Post-Apocalyptic Genre - The Comics Arts Conference at Comic Con. (July 2011)
- Turns Out Robots Are Scary After All: De-engineering Complexity in the Series Finale of "Battlestar Galactica" - Science Fiction Research Association Conference. (6/13/2009)
- "I'm Every Woman?": Iterations of Female Identity in Joss Whedon's "Dollhouse" - International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts 3 (March 20, 2009)
- Automata, Movie Magic, and the Dream Machine: Meditations on Media in Brian Selznick's "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (6/13/2008)
- A Future Beyond Conception: Productive Discomfort in "Children of Men" - National Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference (3/22/2008)
- Like Science Fiction, Only Good: Genre & the Reception of Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (6/22/2006)
- Portrait of the Protagonist as a Young Clone: Nancy Farmer's "The House of the Scorpion" - National Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference (April 14, 2006)
- No Place Like Home: Real Identities/Virtual Realities - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (June 24, 2005)
- Forget Me Not?: Love and Loss in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" - National Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference (March 23, 2005)
- The Soulless Masses: Meditations on Machines & Mechanical Men - International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (3/18/2005)
- Single Cyborg Seeking Same: The Post-Human and the Problem of Loneliness - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (June 4, 2004)
- The Code is Not the Text: Genetics and Programming in Science Fiction - National Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. (April 7, 2004)

- Beyond Sex-bots and Cyborgs: Femininity, Embodiment, & the Mechanical Woman - International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (March 25, 2004)
- The Technological Uncanny: The Living, The Non-Living, and the Dead - Science Fiction Research Association Conference (June 27, 2003)
- Ghosts in the Machine: Cyberculture and the Meaning of Digital Life - Critical Cyberculture Studies: Mapping an Evolving Discipline
- Mulan: All-American Girl?: Race, Nationality, Gender, and the Legend of Fa Mulan - Rethinking Disney: Private Control and Public Dimensions (November 10, 2000)
- An Abundance of Light: A short story - "(Re) Visionary Approaches: Literature and the 21st Century, UNLV (June 2, 2000)