

Stanford



Megan Formato

Advanced Lecturer
Writing and Rhetoric Studies

Bio

BIO

Meg Shields Formato is a lecturer in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford and a tutor in the Hume Center for Speaking and Writing. She holds a PhD in History of Science from Harvard University and a BA in English from Amherst College. As a historian of modern science and technology, Meg brings methods from book history, history of science, and literary theory to bear on questions about scientific communication and culture. In her research and teaching, she engages in sustained ways with both the history and rhetoric of science, teaching students to read scientific and technological sources as sets of choices made by their authors to persuade specific audiences and readers. Before coming to Stanford, Meg taught writing and research intensive courses at Harvard and MIT.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, Writing and Rhetoric Studies

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

SPECIALIZATION: History of Science and Technology; Literature and Science; Science and Technology Studies; Scientific Writing Practices; Women and Science; Revision Practices; Learning Portfolios; Science Communication

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Exploration: ESF 22A (Aut)
- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Tropical Exploration: ESF 22 (Aut)
- Intermediate Writing: Introduction to Science Communication: PWR 91NSC (Win)
- Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford: UAR 45WR (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Imagining Technology: The Rhetoric of Humans and Machines: PWR 1MO (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- PWR 1 Workshop: PWR 1WW (Win, Spr)
- PWR 6 Leland Scholars Program: Exploring Your Voice in Academic Writing: PWR 6LSP (Aut)
- Science as Culture: ESF 20 (Aut)
- Science as Culture: ESF 20A (Aut)

- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Imagining Technology: The Rhetoric of Humans and Machines: PWR 1MO (Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Intermediate Writing: Introduction to Science Communication: PWR 91NSC (Win)
- PWR 1 Workshop: PWR 1WW (Spr)
- PWR 6 Leland Scholars Program: Exploring Your Voice in Academic Writing: PWR 6LSP (Aut)
- Science as Culture: ESF 20 (Aut)
- Science as Culture: ESF 20A (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: March for Science? Social Justice and the Rhetoric of Science: PWR 2MFC (Win, Spr)

2022-23

- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Exploration: ESF 22A (Aut)
- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Tropical Exploration: ESF 22 (Aut)
- Intermediate Writing: Introduction to Science Communication: PWR 91NSC (Win)
- PWR 1 Workshop: PWR 1WW (Spr)
- PWR 6 Leland Scholars Program: Exploring Your Voice in Academic Writing: PWR 6LSP (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: March for Science? Social Justice and the Rhetoric of Science: PWR 2MFC (Win, Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Last Man Who Knew Everything The Life and Times of Enrico Fermi, Father of the Nuclear Age (Book Review)** *SCIENCE*
Book Review Authored by: Formato, M.
2018; 359 (6373): 282