

Vanessa Chang

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer, Visual & Critical Studies, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA. 2017- present.

Lead Curator, CODAME Art + Tech, San Francisco, CA. 2017- present.

Curatorial Resident, SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA. 2019-2020.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Modern Thought and Literature (2017), Stanford University, Stanford, CA.

Dissertation: "Tracing Electronic Gesture: A Poetics of Mediated Movement"

Committee: Scott Bukatman, Sianne Ngai (Co-advisors), Jisha Menon

M.A. Humanities (2006), The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

B.A. English (2003), Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY.

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Catching the Ghost: The Digital Gaze of Motion Capture."

Journal of Visual Culture 18.3 (December 2019): 305-326.

"Animating the City: Street Art, Blu and the Poetics of Visual Encounter"

Animation: an interdisciplinary journal 8 (November 2013), pp. 215-233.

"Records that Play: The Present Past in Sampling Practice."

Popular Music 28.2 (2009):143-159.

REVIEWS

Music Review, DJ Shadow, "The Mountain Will Fall."

American Music 36:2 (Summer 2018).

OTHER ACADEMIC WRITING

Curator and Contributor, "Street Art." *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project* (Jan 26-30, 2015).

"Melos Opsis Lexis." *The Chicago School of Media Theory* (2006).

OTHER WRITING

"The Post-Pandemic Style." *Slate* (April 19, 2020).

"Ghost Hands, Player Pianos, and the Hidden History of A.I." *Los Angeles Review of Books* (Oct 5, 2019).

"Sing On, Vocal Deepfakes." *Slate: Future Tense* (Aug 16, 2019).

"How Phone Taps and Swipes Train Us to Be Better Consumers." *Wired Magazine* (July 10, 2019).

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

“Lines and Vectors: Disabling the Drawing Body”

Intended for submission to *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED SPEAKER

Invited Talk, “Art and Technology in the Uncanny Valley.” Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria 2020
(March 26, postponed due to COVID-19 crisis).

Invited Talk, “A Poetics of Mediated Movement,” 2019
Leonardo Arts & Science Evening Rendezvous,
University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA (July 9).

Symposium Panelist 2017
Choreotech II: Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces,
Brown University, Providence, RI (March 10-11)

Invited Talk, “Tracing Electronic Gesture: A Poetics of Mediated Movement.” 2016
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (March 16).

Panelist, “Whither Gesture” 2016
Choreotech: Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces,
Brown University, Providence, RI (March 4-5).

PAPERS PRESENTED

“Digital Automata: Art and Machine Learning in *Galatea 2.2*, *Deep Dream* and *Sunspring*.” 2018
American Comparative Literature Annual Conference, University of California Los
Angeles, Los Angeles CA (March 29-April 1).

“Catching the Ghost: Motion Capture and the Body Recorded.” 2017
Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, IL (March 22-26).

“From Playback to Play: Digital Music and Gestural Invention.” 2016
The Material Imagination: Sound, Space and Human Consciousness,
Stanford Humanities Center Research Workshop, Stanford, CA (June 3).

“Bodies in Motion: Gesturing Bodies in Early Film & Motion Capture.” 2016
American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference,
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (18-20 March).

“Tracing Electronic Gesture: A Poetics of Mediated Movement.” 2016
Stanford Humanities Center Fellows Colloquium, Stanford, CA (Feb 16).

“From Playback to Play: Digital Music and Gestural Invention.” 2015
Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada (March 25-29).

“Groove Feeling: Posthuman Bodies in Hip-Hop’s Sonic Territories.” 2014
American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference,
New York University, NY (March 21-23).

“Animating the City: Street Art and the Poetics of Encounter.” 2013

Graphic Narrative Project, Stanford Humanities Center Workshop, Stanford, CA (Oct 2).
 “Audiovisualizations: Musical Screens and the Sound Image.” 2013
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, IL (March 6-10).
 “*Muto*: Urban Space as Spectacular Encounter.” 2012
 Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Boston, MA (March 21-25).
 “The Circus Body and the Metronome of Taylorism.”
 Modernist Studies Association 13: Structures of Innovation, Buffalo, NY (Oct. 6-9). 2011
 “Turntablism: Embodying Posthuman Agency.” 2011
 Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Scripps College,
 Claremont, CA (Nov 5-6).

PANELS ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED

“Gesture, Performance, Mediation.” 2015
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal, Canada (March 25-29)
 “The Screen and Embodiment.”
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL (March 6-10). 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR AND COURSE DESIGNER

“Methodologies.” 2019
 Graduate Program in Visual & Critical Studies, California College of the Arts (Fall).
 “Comics: History, Theory, Aesthetics.” 2019
 Visual Studies, California College of the Arts (Fall).
 “Becoming Cyborg: Visions of the Posthuman.” 2019, 20
 Critical Studies, California College of the Arts (Spring).
 “Cultures of the Screen.” 2018-19
 Visual Studies, California College of the Arts (Spring).
 “Signal to Noise: The Sounds of American Culture.” 2018
 American Studies, Stanford University (Spring).
 “Networks and Connections.” 2017-18,
 Critical Studies, California College of the Arts (Fall and Spring). 20
 “Soundscapes: Exploring our Aural Environments.” 2017
 International Institutes, Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies, Stanford University (Summer).
Academic Director. “The Graphic Novel.” 2017
 Great Books Summer Program, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.
 “Edgework: New Directions in the Study of Culture.” 2015
 Program in Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University (Spring).
 “Noise Machines: The Rhetoric of Sound and Technology.” 2015
 Program in Writing & Rhetoric, Stanford University (Spring).
 “Writing, Performance & Self-Making.” 2014

Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies Honors Academy, Singapore (Summer).	
“Music Machines: Sound, Technology and Culture.”	2013
Program in Science, Technology & Society, Stanford University (Summer).	
“Under the Big Top: The Rhetoric of Circus.”	2011
Program in Writing & Rhetoric, Stanford University (Winter & Spring).	
TEACHING ASSISTANT	
“Reading Comics,” for Prof. Scott Bukatman.	2014
Film & Media Studies, Stanford University (Fall).	
“Media, Culture & Society,” for Prof. Fred Turner.	2012
Department of Communication, Stanford University (Winter).	
“Science Fiction: Techno Dreams & Nightmares,” for Prof. Ursula Heise.	
Department of English, Stanford University (Winter).	2010
GUEST LECTURER	
“Art and A.I.” for “The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence,” Vanderbilt University,	2020
Nashville, TN (January 23).	
“Electronic Writing” for “New Media,” English Department, Vanderbilt	2018
University, Nashville, TN (February 23).	
“Digital Liveness” for “New Media: Telepresence Technology, Digital Media,	2016
and the Posthuman Vision,” English Department, Vanderbilt University,	
Nashville, TN (March 15).	
“Motion Capture and the Body Recorded” for “Animation: A History of Flux,”	2016
English Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (March 14).	
ADVISOR & MENTOR	
<i>Advisor</i> , Master’s Thesis,	2019
Visual and Critical Studies, California College of the Arts.	
<i>Thesis Reader</i> , Master’s Thesis,	2019
History and Theory of Contemporary Art, San Francisco Art Institute.	
<i>Graduate Mentor</i> , Senior Honor’s Thesis,	2016
Program in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University.	
CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE	
<i>Recoding CripTech</i> .	2020
SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA (Jan 24 – Feb 25).	
<i>Space</i> , CODAME Art + Tech Festival.	2019
Github, San Francisco, CA (Oct 26-28).	
<i>Intersections</i> , The Leonardo 50 th Anniversary Convening.	2018
San Francisco Art Institute, Fort Mason Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA (Nov 3).	
<i>Artobots</i> , CODAME Art + Tech Festival	2018

The Midway, San Francisco, CA (June 4-7).	
<i>3D Web Fest Germany</i> .	2017
Darmstadt, Germany (October 16).	
<i>Draw Til You Crawl: The Craft of Comics</i> , Litcrawl.	2014
San Francisco, CA (October 18).	

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation Arts Grant.	2020
Zellerbach Foundation Community Arts Grant.	2020
Fleishhacker Foundation Small Arts Grant.	2019
California Humanities for All Grant.	2019
SOMArts Cultural Center Curatorial Commons Residency.	2019-2020
Emerging Arts Professionals Fellowship Cohort X.	2019-2020
San Francisco Grants for the Arts.	2018
California College of the Arts Faculty Development Grant.	2018
Mentor Award, Hoefer Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Writing, Stanford University.	2017
Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellowship.	2015-16
Humanities, Arts, Sciences and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC) Scholar Fellowship.	2015-17 2013-14
Stanford Arts Institute Events and Programming Grant.	2014
Graduate Research Opportunity Award, Stanford University.	2013
Graduate Student Travel Scholarship, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association.	2011
Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement Grant, Stanford University.	2010
Doctoral Fellowship, The Alejandro and Lida Zaffaroni Graduate Fellowship Fund, Stanford University.	2009-14
National Youth Week Grant, Government of Western Australia.	2007
Catherine Ham Memorial Award for Excellence, Master's Thesis in the Humanities, the University of Chicago.	2006

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

<i>Grant Review Panelist</i> , California Arts Council.	2020
<i>Workshop Leader</i> , Seminar & Discussion Pedagogy, California College of the Arts.	2018

<i>Reviewer</i> , European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology.	2015
<i>Coordinator</i> , Graphic Narrative Project, Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Research Workshop.	2012-14
Organized and raised funds for an event series featuring graphic narrative scholars and artists, including the following annual symposia: “Alternative Comics: Through the Eyes of the Hernandez Brothers” (Oct 9-10, 2014), “Secret Identity Politics: Superhero Studies and Comics Scholarship” (May 22, 2014), “From Sunshine State to Fog City: Asian American Comics in California” (Nov 1-2, 2012), “Moving Pictures: Latino/a Comics” (Nov 3-4, 2011).	
<i>Writer</i> , Stanford News, “Stanford art historian uncovers commodity culture in Mondrian’s legacy” (July 9).	2014
<i>Co-organizer</i> , Grrls’ Night Out, Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (March 28).	2013
<i>Admissions Committee Student Representative</i> , Program in Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University.	2012-13
<i>Committee-in-Charge Student Representative</i> , Program in Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University.	2012-13
<i>Peer Mentor</i> , Program in Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University.	2011-15

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

<i>Guest Speaker</i> , “Exhibition Expose: Recoding CripTech.” <i>DisTopia</i> (podcast).	2020.
<i>Mentor</i> , “Stories for the Future” Garage Stories’ Creative Marathon for XR Mediums, Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, CA (April 27).	2019
<i>Guest Speaker</i> , “The Art of Play.” <i>State of the Art 37</i> (podcast): https://art19.com/shows/state-of-the-art/episodes/cd485415-d6e1-41bb-9a49-0d5e92471762	2018
<i>Interviewer</i> , “The Rise of Latino/a Comics in American Culture.” The Human Angle, Stanford (webseries): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMpRnwCPFbs	2014
<i>Guest DJ and Interviewee</i> on “Gestural Music” for “Amber Waves,” KZSU Stanford 90.1 FM (August 14).	2014
<i>Guest Speaker</i> , “Body & Being under the Big Top,” Circus for Community Building and Social Change (Jan 22).	2013
<i>Guest Speaker and Hula-Hoop Performer</i> , “Carnavalesque Bodies: A History of the Circus,” Stanford Soto House (April 10).	2011

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<i>English Teacher</i> , St. Marks International College, Sydney, Australia.	2007-8 2004-5
<i>Coordinator & Producer</i> , e-Festival of Ideas, Vibewire.net, Sydney, Australia.	2006-7

<i>English Teacher</i> , Aston English School, Dalian and Xi'an, China.	2003-4
<i>English Teacher</i> , Missionaries of Charity School for Street Children, Calcutta, India.	2000

MEDIA COVERAGE

“In ‘Recoding CripTech,’ Artists Highlight the Vital Role of Hacking in Disability Culture.” *Art in America* (Feb 19, 2020).

“Recoding CripTech Proudly Asserts Disability as an Identity and Culture.” *KQED Arts* (12 Feb, 2020).

“Stanford scholar explores changing gestures of digital age.” *Stanford News* (25 March 2016).

LANGUAGES

English (Native); Mandarin Chinese (Intermediate); Spanish (Reading)