

Amy Harrison Shidler
Hayward Award

Amy Shidler is a part-time faculty member in the Media Studies program and also holds the position of Faculty Coordinator in the Department of Online Learning. Both inside and outside the classroom, Amy continually seeks opportunities to connect students with the resources they need to succeed, while empowering faculty to create their best work in the realm of online teaching.

A large part of Amy's current work is in support of Guided Pathways, where she engages closely with the co-leads of the Onboarding committee to develop the online Student Orientation experience. That project involves collaborating with students and staff across the campus to design a welcoming, student-centered online orientation experience. She draws on her background and training in Instructional Design and Technology, filmmaking, and teaching to ensure that Foothill's onboarding process provides the best possible launching point for students, with the goal of narrowing the equity gap at the college. Amy has created over a dozen videos for this project, collaborating with students, student services, and guided self-placement instructors to create a unified message of belonging for students at Foothill.

Amy started teaching Media Studies at Foothill as an adjunct in 2007, bringing 10 years of prior experience teaching Film and Media at various institutions, including Rutgers University, the School of Visual Arts in New York, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Stanford, and the Art Institute of CA San Francisco. She encourages students to use their innate visual literacy skills to think critically about their position within the dominant culture, and to empower them as media makers. At the college, Amy supports the Research and Service Learning Symposium as a faculty mentor, and has in the past mentored students in the programming and promotion of the campus student film festival.

Amy is a champion of equitable course design and the power of faculty to be successful in online instruction. She is a co-lead for the faculty test pilot of the Simple Syllabus tool, which has the potential to remove institutional barriers for students. She co-presented "10 Guidelines for Creating Effective Instructional Video" at the California Community Colleges TechConnect Online Teaching Conference in the spring of 2021, and she co-creates a weekly series of videos for faculty, which infuse equitable teaching practices with Canvas support tips. She is a member of COOL, the Committee on Online Learning, where she serves on the Professional Development working group.

As a filmmaker, Amy has exhibited her work in museums, festivals, and broadcast venues globally, including NY's Museum of Modern Art, London's BBC Short Film Festival, the Ann Arbor Film Festival, MTV, PBS, and more. Her work is in the collection of libraries at over 100 colleges and universities. She has received numerous grants and awards, including the National Endowment for the Arts and UC Berkeley's Eisner Award for graduate work. Her films tackle subjects that include the underrepresentation of women and artists of color in the art world, the awareness of queer expression, the sense of fear and estrangement in America, and the impact of climate destruction on future generations. She is currently the creative producer on a feature arts documentary, and is developing a project on an aspect of the Land Back movement in the U.S.

As a vital member of the college community, Amy Harrison Shidler brings a unique blend of professional skills, a deep commitment to equity, and a focus on student success, both inside and outside of the classroom.