

Melissa Lenos

EDUCATION

Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ph.D., Mass Media and Communication, May 2009

University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

M.A., English, Critical & Cultural Studies, May 2003

University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

B.A., English Literature and Film Studies, December 2000

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Senior Director of Graduate Advising and Engagement for the Humanities

University of Pittsburgh – Dietrich College of Arts and Sciences

Director: Humanities Engage (Mellon Foundation-funded project)

Primary Investigator: True Co-equal x Transformative Collaborations (TC²) Seed grant

January 2022-present

Department of Education Title V Grant Project Director & PI

Donnelly College

2019- 2022

Liberal Arts and Sciences Program Director

Donnelly College

2016-2020

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Generation X: The Popular Culture That Defined the MTV Generation. Co-Authored with Kevin L. Ferguson. Bloomsbury [Forthcoming].

Televising True Crime: The True Crime Genre in the Digital Age. Co-edited with Anna Froula, Tanya Horeck, and Erin Meyers. Routledge [Forthcoming].

An Introduction to Film Analysis: Technique and Meaning in Narrative Film. Co-Authored with Michael Ryan. Continuum/Bloomsbury Press, September 2012; Second Edition April 2020.

Instructors' materials for WW Norton's *Looking at Movies*, 2010-2020. Designed and developed sample assignments, lecture supplements, audio-visual materials, and LMS enhancements for each edition.

Film content for KCUR, Kansas City's NPR affiliate, 2016-2022.

"Lifetime's *UnREAL*: Anti-Heroes, Genre and Legitimation" and "Lifetime's *UnREAL*: Romance and Pedagogy." Coauthored with Kathleen Battles, Chris Becker, Phil Maciak, Jason Mittell, Myles McNutt, Dana Och, and Kristen Warner. *Antenna: Responses to Media Culture*. August 2015.

"A Way Normal Life for a Teenage Girl." *In Media Res*. May 26, 2014.

“In Focus: *Clueless*.” Edited section of *Cinema Journal*. Issue 53, No. 3, Spring 2014.

Reviews for journals including *The Lion and the Unicorn* and *[in]Transition* (ongoing).

RECENT PRESENTATIONS and INVITED LECTURES

“Gen X: Revisiting the MTV Generation.” Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program. University of Oklahoma, October 2025.

“Training to Pivot: Preparing Our Graduate Students.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago 2025.

Anatomy of a Fall screening moderator. Carnegie International Film Festival, April 2024.

Roundtable Chair: “Mastering the Job We Were All Unprepared For: A Roundtable on Academic Service.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Boston 2024

“Enter *Sandman*: Adapting Gaiman’s Dream.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Denver 2023

“Story Problems: Manipulated Narrative in COVID-Era True Crime.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Virtual 2022

“Administrative Lessons from 2020.” Panel Member, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Virtual 2021

“CollAB: Bridging East Africa’s Health Divides.” Panel member, Mid-America Alliance for African Studies. 24th Annual Conference, Lawrence 2019

“‘Everything isn’t a sin’: Monstrous transitions in *Carrie* (1976/2013).” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle 2019

“Adaptable Pedagogy,” *Global Studies Symposium*, University of Kansas, 2018

Seminar Leader: “Towards Adaptable Media Pedagogy.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto 2018

“Ain’t No Bitches Gonna Hunt No Ghosts: The Preemptive Culling of *Ghostbusters*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago 2017

Panel Chair: “Pleasure Just for Us: Affective Resonance and Women Targeted Media.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Atlanta 2016

“Genre-Bending on the Road: John Carpenter’s *Starman* and Robert Zemeckis’ *Romancing the Stone*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal 2015

“From Harry Potter to the Hunger Games: Theological Perspectives on Popular Young Adult Literature.” With Monsignor Stuart Swetland. Donnelly Talks Lecture Series. Kansas City, Kansas, March 2015

“Self-Awareness and Identity Politics in Media Pedagogy.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle 2014

“A Psychoanalytic Perspective: *Hannah and Her Sisters* (Woody Allen, 1986).” *Searching the Psyche Through Cinema: 4 by Woody Allen*. Kansas City Public Library, February 2012

“My Boyfriend is a Vampire’: Undead Lovers and their Functions.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Boston 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA

2022 – present Adjunct faculty, Department of English/Film and Media Studies

Donnelly College; Kansas City, KS

2017 – 2021 Associate Professor of English

2011 – 2016 Assistant Professor of English

University of Kansas/University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Summer 2019 Co-instructor, Collab Field School

Brookdale Community College; Lincroft, NJ

2009 – 2011 Tenure Track Professor of Communication Media/Film Studies

Temple University; Philadelphia, PA

2004 – 2009 Teaching Assistant, Communication, Film and Media Studies

2005 – 2009 Writing Tutor/Tutor Trainer, Temple University Writing Center

Duquesne University; Pittsburgh, PA

2002 – 2004 Adjunct Faculty, English

University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA

2001 – 2003 Teaching Assistant, English and Film Studies

GRANTS

2022 - present Mellon Foundation Humanities Engage grant for redefining doctoral education in the humanities
University of Pittsburgh
Senior Director of Graduate Advising and Engagement for the Humanities
\$1,500,000

2023 – present True Coequal x Transformative Collaborations (TC²)
University of Pittsburgh Seed Project Grant
Author & PI
\$75,000 (2023-2024)

2019- 2022	Department of Education Title V grant for developing Hispanic-serving institutions Donnelly College Project Director and PI \$3,000,000 (2019-2024)
2018	Association of College and University Educators (Course in Effective Teaching at Donnelly College Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation Author & PI \$37,000 in faculty development funding
2017	Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Course in Effective Teaching at Donnelly College Kauffman Foundation Author & PI \$19,000 in faculty development funding
2014 – 2015	“Project S4: Scholarships and Supports for STEM Success” National Science Foundation Undergraduate Education Grant Co-author Over \$600,000 for student scholarships and STEM curriculum development
2010	“Adjunct Faculty Success Resources” Brookdale Innovation Grant PI

FACULTY TRAINING

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

2017 – 2019 Course in Effective Teaching, Donnelly College Campus Facilitator

Brookdale Community College

2011 Volunteer Adjunct Support and Training (VAST), Creator and Facilitator

Temple University

2005 – 2007 Teaching and Learning Center, Graduate Student Training Sessions

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DESIGN

Assessment Council of Donnelly College, Chair

Curriculum design

Developed and implemented 300- and 400-level courses throughout the development of our Bachelors' programs

Curriculum mapping

Assessment mapping and performance-tracking strategies for all courses in 19 Liberal Arts & Sciences academic areas

Higher Learning Commission accreditation and assurance process

Co-authored 2018 Assurance Report that removed us from accreditation probation; collaborating in designing continuous improvement and tracking methods

Liberal Arts and Sciences Program Review

Collection of assessment data and narrative reporting of program's status 2016-2019

ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION

2018 – 2022	Participant, Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy
2016 – 2018	Coauthor, Donnelly College Accreditation Assurance Argument Accepted by Higher Learning Commission 2018
2017 – 2022	Member, Assessment Council of Donnelly College

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh

Judge, Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition
Faculty Advisor, Freshman Community-Building student-led organization
Faculty classroom lead, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Conference Social Event Coordinator
Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Mentor

Donnelly

Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Committee
Faculty Advisor/Editor, *DIME: The Arts & Literary Journal of Donnelly College*
Past President, Faculty Senate
Past Chair, Professional Development Committee
Ad Hoc, Academic Quality Improvement Process Committee, Curriculum Committee, Rank and Promotion subcommittees

Brookdale

Basic Skills Committee
New Faculty Training
Teaching and Learning Center pedagogy roundtable
Co-sponsor of Brookdale's "Foreign Film Thursdays" student organization
Community Development Courses
(summer bridge courses for graduating Central New Jersey high school seniors)
Hosted "From the Lobby," a film analysis/review program on WBJB

Ongoing

Editorial Reading: WW Norton, Pearson, Wadsworth

INSTITUTIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND SOFTWARE

Currently using and undergoing continuous training in:

- Canvas Learning Management System
- Various Student Information Systems

Extensive experience with:

- BlackBoard Learning Management System
- Moodle Learning Management System
- Watermark Assessment and Accreditation Planning Software
- VIA Assessment and Outcomes Integration Software
- Taskstream Accountability Management System

REFERENCES

Available upon request.