

Sara L. Beckman

Teaching Professor | Earl F. Cheit Faculty Fellow at Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, US

Expert in integrating design, critical and systems thinking skills for framing and solving problems in multi-disciplinary teams

About

Sara Beckman has spent her years as a boundary spanner at UC Berkeley, where she has held faculty appointments in both the Haas School of Business and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She served as Chief Learning Officer for the newly formed Jacobs Institute of Design Innovation and facilitated the creation of a multi-disciplinary Certificate in Design Innovation. She teaches courses such as Collaborative Innovation which integrates Art Practice, Theater and Dance Performance Studies and Business perspectives on both collaboration and innovation.

Beckman's research focuses on the pedagogy of teaching design and on the role of diversity on design and innovation teams for which she developed a Teaming with Diversity curriculum that is being used in classes in engineering, biological sciences, humanities and business courses at UC Berkeley as well as at a local high school. She has published case studies on design for sustainability, design roadmapping, and leveraging design approaches in sales processes.

Beckman directs the Product Management Program for the Berkeley Center for Executive Education, serving over 350 product managers from around the world each year and works with a wide variety of companies teaching and helping them implement design and innovation practices. In her time at UC Berkeley, she has received three Distinguished Teaching Awards at Haas, the campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2018 the Carol D. Soc Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award for Senior Faculty.

Before joining UC Berkeley, Beckman worked in the Operations Management Services group at Booz, Allen & Hamilton and ran the Change Management Team at Hewlett-Packard. She received BS, MS and PhD degrees in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management and an MS in Statistics from Stanford University.

Areas of Expertise

Design and Systems Thinking, Integrating Design into Business, Sustainable Design, Innovation as Problem Framing and Solving, Teaming by Design

Selected External Service & Affiliations

Building Materials Holding Corporation Board Member, Corporate Design Foundation Advisory Board, Manufacturing Studies Board, National Research Council, Columbia University, Operations Management Advisory Board, Leaders for Manufacturing, MIT, Operating Committee Member

Positions Held

At Haas since 1988

Project Scientist, Haas School of Business

Senior Lecturer with Security of Employment, Haas School of Business

Chief Learning Officer, College of Engineering, UC Berkeley

Faculty Director, Management of Technology Program, UC Berkeley

Visiting Lecturer, Leaders for Manufacturing Program, MIT

Visiting Assistant Professor, Operations Management, MIT

Director, Product Generation Change Management Team, Hewlett Packard

Consultant, Operations Management Consulting Practice, Booz, Allen and Hamilton

Education

Stanford University

PhD Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management

Stanford University

MS Statistics

Stanford University

MS Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management

Stanford University

BS with Distinction Industrial Engineering

Honors & Awards

Carol D. Soc Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award for Senior Faculty

2018

UC Berkeley Campus Distinguished Teaching Award

2001

Earl F. Cheit Award for Excellence in Teaching

2003, 1992, 1990 (Full-time MBA)

1990 (Evening & Weekend MBA)

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