

# PEMBROKE CENTER

## Associates Newsletter

### Brown Alumnae Making Waves



Photo Credit: Hank Randall

(L-R): Nancy Northup '81, Rinku Sen '88, Bonnie Honig, Johanna Fernandez '93 and Jayna Zweiman '01 at "Making Waves: Brown Women Activists," during Alumni Weekend in May.

**"D**on't ask what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do it," urged Nancy Northup '81, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights. Quoting 20th-century theologian Howard Thurman, the 2018 honorary degree recipient continued, "Because what the world needs is more people who have come alive."

The conversation at the Pembroke Center Associates 2018 Commencement Forum, "Making Waves: Brown Women Activists," showcased the passionate activism of four visionary alumnae. Johanna Fernandez '93, Nancy Northup '81, Rinku Sen '88 and Jayna Zweiman '01 gathered a healthy crowd at List Arts Center and encouraged audience members to start getting involved in pressing issues of today.

Nancy Northup has become a global leader in the legal fight to advance reproductive health and healthcare as a fundamental human right. As someone who is inherently shy, she shared a piece of advice from an old friend who told her, "If you wait to get comfortable, you won't act."

Northup recalled how this phrase was solidified once she attended Brown. "Brown had everything to do with my becoming an activist, because it was around then that I became an activist. I came here with my values, and they were just mobilized when I got here."

By the time Northup came to Brown in the early 1980s, student protests had arisen against apartheid in South Africa, pressuring the Brown Corporation to divest. Participation in the gatherings

and sit-ins around campus gave the emerging activist a network of support and the confidence to continue effecting change beyond her college years.

When Johanna Fernandez attended Brown a decade later, student movements were as strong as ever. In April of 1992, 250 people were arrested after taking over the administration building, demanding applicants not be judged on their ability to pay tuition. Professor of the history of social movements at Baruch College, Fernandez shared photographs of her college days, including newspaper coverage of sit-ins over need-blind admissions.

"Social movements change society and change consciousness," Fernandez reiterated. "We need to join organizations and we need to be committed to change, because struggle is hard and you need a community of like-minded people who share your values and your vision of a new world to sustain you."

As a historian, Fernandez has used a mixture of art, writing, media and law to shine light on and bring justice to social issues. Her 2014 lawsuit against the NYPD led to the recovery of "lost" Hindschu files: the largest repository of police surveillance documents in the country compiled by NYPD from 1954-1972, including those of Malcolm X.

Martha Mitchell noted in Encyclopedia Brunoniana, "Student protests are almost as old as the college itself," citing student objections that date back to 1773. February of that year the senior class raised objection to the possibility of

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Gender and Sexuality Studies*

## From the Director

It is wonderful to be back home at the Pembroke Center. With the support of a sabbatical leave and a Guggenheim Fellowship, I spent the 2017-18 academic year in Bologna acting as faculty director of the Brown-in-Bologna program where I was afforded the time to publish a number of essays and articles. While working abroad, much of my work focused on a theoretical chapter attempting to delineate hermeneutics of reclamation for my forthcoming book manuscript, *Grounds for Reclamation: Fascism, Postfascism, and the Making of Consent*.

In continuing work with colleagues at the University College London, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Campinas, Brazil with the Leverhulme-funded, three-year research project entitled "Reimagining *Italianità*: Opera and Musical Culture in Transnational Perspective," I plan on attending the final conference in Brazil in the fall of 2018.

On behalf of the Pembroke Center Associates, I would like to extend our gratitude to Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science Bonnie Honig, for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Center as she took on the role of interim director in my absence.

A new year is upon us and issues of gender and difference are continuously in the media, reminding us of the ever present need to contribute to and lead the conversation as we embark on an exciting fall semester of programming.

The 2018-19 Pembroke Center Seminar entitled "What Are Human Rights? Imperial Origins, Curatorial Practices and Non-Imperial Ground" will be led by Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media Ariella Azoulay. In the context of five hundred years of imperialism, the Seminar examines five technologies, how they were combined, and how their combination enabled and legitimized the invasion of other peoples' places, intervened in their systems of objects and organized their material and political worlds.

As Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist Mary Murphy processed the collection of trans activist Kate



Bornstein '69 over the summer, the Brown Alumni Magazine celebrated its first cover story featuring two non binary alumnae/i. The in-depth Q+A style interview shared experiences from Bornstein and Drea St. Claire '05—before, during and after life at Brown and highlighted the Pembroke Center's work in bringing the first gender-nonconforming collection to Brown.

We are thrilled to announce that the Pembroke Center Associates and the Shauna M. Stark '76 Out of the Archive Lecture Series will host Bornstein during Family Weekend on October 19. Sharing the possibilities of what trans means today, the author, performance artist and self-proclaimed "gender outlaw" will explore contemporary gender identity and share personal experiences.

The Pembroke Center is grateful for the opportunity—afforded by the Associates, parents, friends and alumnae/i to continue our collaboration with scholars across diverse disciplines. Thank you for your ongoing interest in the important issues of today and your continued support of the Center's scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg".

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg  
*Director*



# Brown Alumnae Making Waves Continued from page 1

not receiving a public Commencement. Despite described “inadequacies as orators,” Commencement was held as usual after an open letter from protesting students was released publicly.

Advocate for racial justice and feminism, Rinku Sen '88 is former president and executive director of Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation and publisher of Colorlines.com. Under Sen's leadership, Race Forward generated many impactful racial justice successes. Their groundbreaking Shattered Families Report changed the immigration debate through investigative research. Information gathered showed how record deportations of parents led to the placement of thousands of children into foster care, often separating them permanently and legally from their families.

But it wasn't the shocking numbers that changed the harrowing perspective of this issue. Sen told the audience that her ability to share the data in a different way is what ultimately led to success. “You have to step away from the data if you're trying to reframe a debate or change people's minds. Facts and figures are not going to get the job done.” She went on to say, “My recommendation is that you get your story file together and get your most compelling stories into a one-minute, two-minute, ten-minute form and really use them to engage people who don't already think like you.”



Photo Credit: Hank Randall

Rinku Sen '88 answers an audience member's question.



Photo Credit: Hank Randall

Panelists listen as Johanna Fernandez '93 talks about the affordability of activism.

Utilizing a different tool, cofounder of the Pussyhat Project and founder of the Welcome Blanket Project, Jayna Zweiman '01 became an involved activist when she was unable to attend the January 2017 Women's March because of a life-altering injury. During her convalescence, Zweiman put her passion for crocheting to work as a new medium for her voice to be heard. Pussyhat became her opportunity to “make both a bold and powerful visual statement of solidarity and also give people who could not participate themselves — whether for medical, financial, or scheduling reasons — a visible way to demonstrate their support for women's rights.”

Both of the projects Zweiman founded offer instructional materials to guide new and experienced crafting activists alike, giving them the opportunity to become part of a collective group while individually doing their part. “Craftivism” refers to the use of individual creativity to inspire change. “Remember that there are a lot of different kinds of personalities and there is not one kind of way to be an activist.

Being an activist, you can be a complete introvert — that's fine. There's space for everyone. It takes all types of people,” Zweiman explained.

Moderator and 2017-18 Interim Director of the Pembroke Center, Bonnie Honig noted that the panelists' experiences were a collective testament to story-sharing as the most influential form of activism: “What struck me is how each of the four of you are storytellers.” A socially engaged writer herself, Honig asked the panel which issues they see most needing support.

Despite differing personalities, upbringing, current positions and aspirations, the four alumnae agreed on the best way to become involved in activism. “Support local organizing,” Sen responded. “Nothing happens without actual human beings going to the rally, and that work is the hardest work: to generate local support.” Seconding Sen's advice to the audience, Fernandez added, “History suggests that all activism, all movements, are local. I agree that we should do what moves us.”

# Congratulations, Class of 2018!

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Photo Credit: Hank Randall

Four graduates from the gender and sexuality studies concentration celebrate with friends, family and faculty at the May 27th Commencement ceremony.

In the fall of their senior year, Pembroke's senior concentrators take the Senior Seminar, working all semester towards completing a capstone paper in their area of focus. This year's six student projects included topics on women in business, public policy and paid family leave, radical feminist manifestos, representations of women's bodies (and the male gaze), feminist neopaganism and women in the military. Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies, Drew Walker and incoming Pembroke Center Associates Council Chair Jasmine Waddell '99 presented graduating seniors with their diplomas at a ceremony in Pembroke Hall on May 27, 2018. Congratulations to the class of 2018.

### 2018 Gender and Sexuality Studies Concentrators:

Courtney Baker  
Kate Hoey  
Isabel Martin  
Zoë Sackman  
Abigale Rose Sanft  
Haley Hoffman Smith



Final presentations for the Graduate Certificate Program.

Three certificates were awarded to the first cohort of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate Program. Students were required to present a paper for the graduate-level group during the dissertation-writing stage of their Ph.D. program. The work showcased a span of disciplines including history, comparative literature, American studies, English and modern culture and media. Congratulations on the attainment of your certificate!

### 2018 Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate Recipients:

Emily Contois, American Studies  
Anne Gray Fischer, History  
Lakshmi Padmanabhan,  
Modern Culture and Media



# Pembroke Center Student Prizes

The Pembroke Center awards prizes each year for outstanding undergraduate and graduate student research. We are pleased to announce our 2018 prize recipients.

## *Ruth Simmons Prize*

**Deborah Pomeranz '18**

Ethnic Studies



Photo Credit: Deborah Pomeranz

**Inaugurated in 2008, the Ruth Simmons Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding honors thesis from any field, on questions having to do with women or gender.**

Deborah Pomeranz '18 shared her thesis, "Policing the City: How Discourses of Public Safety Reshaped New York." The thesis explored forms of policing that emerged in response to moral panics about crime and sexual economies in late 1970s New York City. These discourses of public safety laid the groundwork for New York's turn toward "broken windows" policing, redevelopment, and profit-oriented city governance in the decades leading up to 2018.

## *Joan Wallach Scott Prize*

**Zoë Sackman '18**

Gender and Sexuality Studies



Photo Credit: Zoë Sackman

**The Joan Wallach Scott Prize is awarded to a student who has completed an outstanding honors thesis in Gender and Sexuality Studies.**

Zoë Sackman '18 was awarded for her thesis "Wicked Witches of the West: Colonial Impulses in 20th Century Neopagan Theory and Practice." In her research, Sackman sought to identify and understand the ways in which eclectic neopaganism "borrows" from non-Western cultures and religions in ways that trace pathways of colonialism. By situating these impulses historically, a foundation was laid for developing an ethics of neopaganism that might meaningfully resist these violences.

## *Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize*

**Anne Gray Fischer Ph.D. '18**

Graduate Student, History



Photo Credit: Anne Gray Fischer

**The Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize honors an outstanding dissertation in areas related to gender studies or feminist analysis.**

Anne Gray Fischer's Ph.D. '18 dissertation "Arrestable Behavior: Women, Police Power and the Making of Law-and-Order America, 1930s-1980s" is a history of race, sex and modern American policing between the fall of Prohibition and the rise of "broken windows" policing in the 1980s. Focusing on the highly discretionary, police-driven enforcement of moral misdemeanors—which were primarily deployed against women—"Arrestable Behavior" argues that the changing racial logics of sexual policing were a significant yet understudied driver of police power in the late twentieth century.



JOIN US FOR A

## Special Screening of "RBG"

Saturday October 20, 2018 • 10 a.m. • Salomon 101

Join the Women's Leadership Council with the Pembroke Center for a special screening of "RBG" followed by a Q&A with film director Betsy West '73, P'17 and President Christina Paxson.



Keisha-Khan Y. Perry

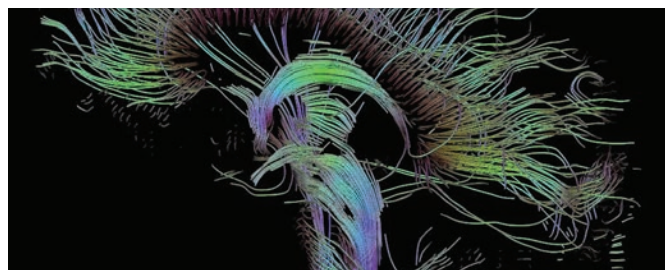
## KEISHA-KHAN Y. PERRY NAMED ONE OF TOP 25 WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 2018

2017-18 Pembroke Center Faculty Fellow Keisha-Khan Y. Perry was named one of the top 25 women making a change in higher education by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Perry, who is Associate Professor of Africana Studies specializes in the critical study of race, gender and politics in the Americas with a focus on black women's activism, urban geography and questions of citizenship, feminist theories, intellectual history and disciplinary formations, and the interrelationship between scholarship, pedagogy and political engagement.

Currently a member of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Faculty Board, Perry's project "Black Women at the Grassroots of Politics in Jamaica," received a Pembroke Center Faculty Seed Grant in 2014-15. Perry is currently working on a multilingual and transnational exploration of black women's political work in Latin America.

## 2018-19 Pembroke Center Seed Grants

The Pembroke Center's competitive seed grant program supports collaborative research initiatives that involve Brown faculty from the humanities, social sciences, creative arts and health sciences that examine intersecting dimensions of difference such as gender, sexuality, generation, work, class, race, ethnicity, language, citizenship and religion. This year, two initiatives are supported by the fund.



### “NEURODIVERSITY: A SYMPOSIUM”

The symposium will bring together a group of speakers and participants, addressing complex social, cultural and political dimensions of neurodiversity in a range of disciplinary perspectives. While acknowledging the historically complex relationship between biomedical, social scientific, and lay/activist knowledge and practices surrounding these issues, this symposium will provide opportunities for truly inter- and cross-disciplinary exchange across a range of constituencies and communities.

#### Faculty Collaborators:

Leon J. Hilton  
Nick Ramos



### “ENGAGING MEDICAL STUDENTS TO DEVELOP STRUCTURAL AWARENESS: A PROGRAM IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING”

By offering medical students increased exposure to diverse populations in settings where patients receive services, the objective is for trainees to approach patient care with increased empathy and understanding. This study aims to answer the following research question: Do experiential learning opportunities in the community enhance preclinical medical students' structural awareness and empathy? The workshop will give students the chance to engage in dialogue on structural awareness topics as well as question their peers and small group facilitators in a safe learning environment.

#### Faculty Collaborators:

Steven Rougas, M.D., M.S., FACEP  
Julia Noguchi, M.A., MPH  
Kristina Monteiro, Ph.D.  
The Reverend Janet M. Cooper Nelson  
Elizabeth Tobin-Tyler, J.D., M.A.

## Archives News

The Pembroke Center Archives have been busy this summer. Processing the papers of Kate Bornstein '69 is currently underway, while a recent interview with the trans activist can be found in the Brown Alumni Magazine's July/August edition.

New donors to the Feminist Theory Archive Christina Sharpe (Professor of Black Studies, York University) and Catherine Lutz (Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, Brown University) have contributed material for the first time.

We are also expecting the arrival of papers from Ellen Chesler P '02 (Senior Fellow, Roosevelt Institute and author of *Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America*) and Elaine Scarry (Professor of English, Harvard University).



Zines from the Bornstein '69 collection

## 2018-19 Research Seminar

### **“What Are Human Rights? Imperial Origins, Curatorial Practices and Non-Imperial Ground”**

Led by Ariella Azoulay, *Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media*

This year-long research seminar meets weekly to examine a critical set of questions from an interdisciplinary perspective, convening scholars from around the world to work with Brown faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and undergraduates to develop new approaches to a common set of issues.

In the context of five hundred years of imperialism, the Seminar examines five technologies, how they were combined, and how their combination enabled and legitimized the invasion of other peoples' places, intervened in their systems of objects, and the ways they organized their material and political worlds.



The Pergamon Museum, Berlin, Multaka guided tour, summer 2018. Photograph by Yale Bartana.



Jean Miller '49

### *In Memoriam*

### **JEAN MILLER '49 (1928-2018)**

Jean Miller passed away on May 22, 2018. A dear friend of the Pembroke Center, she had served on the Pembroke Center Associates Council since 1989. Jean was a devoted alumna of Brown and received a Brown Bear award in 1998. In her career, she was an expert educational administrator and the first woman to chair the board of the National Association of Independent Schools. In a 2003 interview, Jean said that she hoped young women currently at Brown would “continue to build on the work of the many women who have gone before them academically, athletically, socially—that they become activists.” We think she would have been happy with our May Pembroke Center Commencement Forum highlighting Brown women activists. Her dedication to the Center was heartfelt and boundless, and she will be deeply missed. Jean recorded her oral history for the Pembroke Center's Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive that can be found at: [brown.edu/initiatives/women-speak](http://brown.edu/initiatives/women-speak).





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Gifts to the Pembroke Center Associates support the research, teaching, archives and alumnae/i programs sponsored by the Pembroke Center.

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Questions? Please call Darcy Pinkerton at (401) 863-1162.

Appeal: Pembroke Center Publications



## JOIN US FOR FAMILY WEEKEND

### Shauna M. Stark '76, Out of the Archive Lecture

**Kate Bornstein '69 Breaks Down the Binary**  
Friday October 19, 2018 at 4 p.m.  
Pembroke Hall 305, 172 Meeting Street, Providence

In April 2018, legendary trans activist Kate Bornstein '69 contributed archival papers to the Pembroke Center's Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive. Sharing the possibilities of what trans means today, the author, performance artist and gender theorist boldly goes beyond the gender divide, reconsidering gender identity with contemporary theories and personal experiences.

A reception will follow.

*Sponsored by the Pembroke Center Associates, Shauna M. Stark '76 Out of the Archive Lecture Series,  
the Sarah Doyle Center and the Women's Leadership Council.*