

# Peace Poetry Protest

2017–18 ANNUAL REPORT

PEMBROKE CENTER

*for Teaching and Research on Women*

CURATING THE PAST | CULTIVATING THE FUTURE

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Beverly Heafitz Zweiman '66, P'01

# The Power of Stories

At “Making Waves,” the Pembroke Center’s Commencement panel this year, I and over one hundred others listened to four Brown alumnae women activists and organizers talk about their work, how they got started, and what their hopes are for the future. Listening to them, I was struck by how each one counted on the power of stories to make change.

Johanna Fernandez ’93 told the story of her father, a Dominican immigrant to the Bronx, and how his politics shifted in relation to events as she came into her own politically. A twentieth-century historian, she described the last forty years of wealth redistribution to the top in the United States. She connected the threads to show how radical changes in the class structure and composition of the U.S. were enabled by the destruction of many of civil society’s movements and organizations. Anti-union politics were one driving force; another was the post–World War II red scare. By making it dangerous to join political clubs and reading groups, McCarthyism helped weaken the associational infrastructure of American society.

Nancy Northup ’81, P’16 shared a Center for Reproductive Rights video that knitted together images of women worldwide fighting for a variety of reproductive freedoms. Delivered the day after the Republic of Ireland’s vote to “Repeal the Eighth,” her story was one of global unity for women across lines of difference. Seeing women’s faces and bodies, diversely clothed and varied in their postures and demeanors, positioned with children, partners, or loved ones, alongside and holding each other, was an incredibly powerful and moving experience.

Jayna Zweiman ’01 told the story of how she came to cofound the Pussyhat Project. It was an accident – the result of an accident that left her injured and unable to attend the Women’s March in 2017. She wanted to find a way to be there and she lit on the idea of crocheting a pussyhat, thinking it might revalue what those who assault and objectify women choose to degrade. She has since gone on to spearhead Welcome Blanket, a project that threads together yarn and fabric to create blankets for newly arrived immigrants to the U.S. Each blanket is itself a welcome and each also features a welcome note on it, offering inspiration. Some also offer help to new arrivals who often encounter prejudice where they should receive support and understanding.

Rinku Sen ’88 told stories about discovering politics at Brown, the friends she made here, and how they helped her come to understand herself for the first time as a person of color, rather than as a minority.



Interim Director of the Pembroke Center, Bonnie Honig.

“I was struck by how each one counted on the power of stories to **make change.**”

And she did still more: she explicitly invoked the power of stories to move people politically and explained how her work is devoted to such storytelling.

The four women on the panel majored in different disciplines when they were at Brown and all come from very different backgrounds. Two of the panelists immigrated to the U.S. as young children with their families from different corners of the world, and a third mentions in her interviews her four immigrant grandparents. Equally diverse are their approaches to politics: a historian and organizer, the head of a global organization, an architect/artist and an author/activist all on stage together. As one audience member said, the panel illustrated the richness of Brown's offerings and the value of the liberal arts education to a life of meaning and purpose.

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“Great trouble  
is **inventive**,  
and **ingenuity**  
**arises** in difficult  
times.”

But the panelists also all had one thing very much in common! They knew the power of stories and were themselves powerful storytellers. It was when Rinku Sen underlined the importance of stories that I suddenly saw how powerfully this one thread connected all these women who told their stories by way of history, tapestry, film, and art. All four were pulling together the different threads of struggles for equality and justice and, with those threads, creating a fabric that could join us all in common cause and hold us together for awhile.

I thought of the many stories of ancient and early modern women who, since Penelope in the *Odyssey*, have used their looms and their needles to resist, or make space, pass on their wisdom, or hold their loved ones. Their fabrics created worlds, shared a vision, told truths, and held others with love or in solidarity. For me, this put Jayna Zweiman's pussyhats and welcome blankets into a broader context of world-making that crosses millennia.

Telling stories through craft is a practice I first learned to appreciate when I saw the Bayeux tapestry in France. Dated to the eleventh century, the tapestry, which is two hundred and thirty feet long and twenty inches tall, tells the story of the Norman conquest of England. Historians debate whose idea it was to make such a tapestry: was it a woman (Queen Matilda or, perhaps, Edith of Wessex) or a man (William the Conqueror's half-brother, Bishop Odo)? Regardless, once it was ordered made, it was women who made it.

To me, though, the most powerful example of women telling stories through fabrics is the myth of Procne, an ancient Greek tale that comes to us by way of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. It is a story of two sisters, in which one, Procne, marries King Tereus to seal an alliance between Athens, her home, where her father is King, and Thrace. After a few years living in Thrace, Procne, homesick, prevails upon Tereus to bring her sister, Philomela, to come live with them. But rather than bring her home, Tereus brings Philomela to a wood near his home and rapes her. Thus betrayed, Philomela vows to tell everyone what he did: “One day you will pay me for this! I, without shame, will tell what you have done. If I get the chance it will be in front of everyone.”

In a kind of ancient version of a non-disclosure agreement, Tereus cuts out Philomela's tongue to secure her silence. “Her mute mouth can yield no token of the facts,” says Ovid, but all is not lost: “Great trouble is inventive, and ingenuity arises in difficult times.” Philomela finds a way: she “fastens her thread to a barbarian's loom, and weaves purple designs on a white background, revealing the crime.” A servant takes the tapestry to Procne.

The tapestry is Philomela's way to overcome her violent silencing, just as so many women recently have found ways to tell their stories, though many of them are bound by the NDAs powerful men use to silence women. What the men have secured, though, is not just women's silence over a wrong; they have stolen these women's right to own their story of the world and have prevented the formation of the bonds that form between people when they circulate, share, affirm, and retell their stories. When Procne receives the tapestry from her sister, Procne gets the message, but more important still, the women's sorority is restored by the fabric. It is refabricated. Philomela's tapestry does not only disclose a secret. It repairs a relationship and resutures the world torn asunder by Tereus's terrible violence.

Jayna Zweiman has referred to her Welcome Blanket project as a work of "Tikkun Olam." That is Hebrew for the practice of world-repair, which may take many forms, from reform to revolution to all the other possibilities between and beyond, many of them still to be imagined and made real. The myth of Procne teaches the power of sorority, the importance of tactile connection, and the need for repair. Even in our own challenging time, when attention to class and race and sexuality are absolutely

required, sorority is one key site of political organizing, not by literal sisters, but by people in solidarity around issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, and intersectionality. In light of that, it is worth noting that the word "sister" is an anagram for RESIST.

The Pembroke Center supports the work of postdoctoral fellows from all over the world, as well as faculty and students at Brown, who document vital stories thus far untold, enlisting the scholarly practices by which new knowledge is generated and old knowledge is preserved, reinterpreted, and reconsidered for the world we live in now. This work interrogates, reexamines, and critically challenges us all to promote social justice, democracy, and equality in the context of gender, sexuality, and intersectionality. With this year's Pembroke Seminar on pacifism and next year's on human rights, we feel our work is truly necessary. We are grateful to all our collaborators and supporters.

**Bonnie Honig**

Interim Director, Pembroke Center

Nancy Duke Lewis Professor, Modern Culture and Media (MCM) and Political Science at Brown University



A portion of the 230-foot-long Bayeux tapestry in France depicting the Norman conquest of England.



# Pembroke Research Seminar

THE CULTURES OF PACIFISM



Commemorating the centenary of World War I (1914-1918), the Pembroke Seminar has been devoted for some years to the question of war. As someone who is interested in connected histories, it has always troubled me that accounts of the two world wars of the twentieth century are strangely provincial.

The popular historical view is that these wars only involved Europe and America. It is only recently that there is a growing awareness of the vast extent to which the wars of the twentieth century were peopled by massive conscriptions from the colonial world. Many of these colonial outposts were converted progressively into garrison states. This theme has been taken up by writers like Amitav Ghosh, Kamila Shamsie, and of course Michael Ondaatje in his wonderful book *The English Patient*.

Now the surprise, which is where the seminar began its focus, is that disproportionately to the provincial narratives and accounts of twentieth-century war, twentieth-century cultures of pacifism were wildly cosmopolitan. For example, in an essay of 1911 called “Peace Utopias,” Rosa Luxemburg makes very explicit the connection between militarism and imperialism in the twentieth century. It’s also the case that many of the great leaders of twentieth-century pacifism were from the non-Western world. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. are the best known. But there were many others as well.

In the seminar this year, we’ve given attention to the extraordinary cosmopolitanism and global outlook of twentieth century cultures of pacifism. In the course of our study a peculiar feature came into view. Though this era of pacifism was certainly provoked by war, it also

LEFT: Professor Leela Gandhi leads the 2017-18 Pembroke Research Seminar alongside Pembroke's 2017-18 Interim Director, Bonnie Honig.

BELOW: Pictured (L-R): Diego Millan, Levi Thompson, Seminar Leader Leela Gandhi, Anjali Gunaratne and Talya Zemach-Bersin.

included a commitment to the idea of nonviolence that was quite independent of the context of war. Much in the way that environmentalism is a leading topic of our own times, so too nonviolence was a leading theme in many progressive twentieth-century movements.

It comes up in civil rights movements, in prison reform movements, in anti-consumption movements, in environmental movements, in diet reform movements, within cultures of vegetarianism, and through struggles in the name of gender and sexuality. Gandhi, for example, took a vow of chastity in 1910, because he believed that gender violence was primary to the problem of violence in the twentieth century.

The seminar worked to identify some of these diffuse networks of nonviolent radicalism. I want to call these “para-pacifistic.” By “para” I mean being beside, next to, or assisting.

As you can tell, a lot of our work has been historical and empirical. It has been about establishing timelines,

identifying archives, bringing them to the table, reading them together.

But our study of nonviolence as an idea has also involved a fair bit of concept work. We have tried together to identify and analyze as many themes as possible, that are associated with or ancillary to, the nonviolence ideal. Let me name some. Again, you may think that these don't have much to do with peace or even nonviolence, but that is not the case. They include: refuge, renunciation, neutrality, love, wideness, silence, stillness, to name a few. To understand such ancillary concepts—in the context of our leading interest in pacifism—we have drawn upon a wide variety of philosophical resources, ancient and modern, Western and non-Western, from the north and from the south, the east and the west.

### **Leela Gandhi**

2017-18 Pembroke Center Seminar Leader

John Hawkes Professor of the Humanities and English  
Chesler Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow



# 2017-18 Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Fellows



**ANJULI GUNARATNE**

**Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow**

English and the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program  
in the Humanities, Princeton University, Ph.D. 2017

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**“TRAGIC RESISTANCE: DECOLONIZATION AND  
DISAPPEARANCE IN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE”**

Anjuli Gunaratne grew up in Colombo, Sri Lanka and received her Ph.D. in English and Interdisciplinary Humanities at Princeton University. Interested broadly in the literatures of the former British and French colonies, Gunaratne is currently at work on “Forensic Diaspora: Law, Science, Literature,” which studies literary genres that emerged out of the decolonization of Africa and the Caribbean.

When decolonization is mentioned, one usually imagines euphoric celebrations of independence: newly designed national flags, carefully composed national anthems, and friendly handshakes between erstwhile colonizer and colonized, equalized under the modern nation-state. But in the works of Aimé Césaire, Assia Djebar, C. L. R. James, Michael Ondaatje, and Sylvia Wynter, “Forensic Diaspora” unearths a surprisingly mournful representation of these events. In some cases, even before the outbreak of violence that followed decolonization, these diasporic writers had already imagined this controversial legal and political process as a tragedy.

“During this year’s research seminar, I was delighted to find that this diasporic practice of tragic recovery shared certain traits with the gestures that united pacifism on a global scale,” Gunaratne explained.

She went on, “Leela Gandhi’s identification of three key pacifist concepts—refusing injury, renouncing the self, and giving sanctuary—helped me to see how the writers I study were in fact practicing a form of pacifist resistance. Tragedies of decolonization abound with scenes of renouncement, where characters give up the conventional boundaries of the self, even escaping the ordinary progression of time, to give refuge to what has been physically and historically disappeared without a trace. Illuminating these connections, the seminar has made it possible for me to articulate with more clarity the larger significance of my research and to envision future lines of inquiry.”

Reflecting on her time at Pembroke, Gunaratne shared, “Ultimately, however, it is impossible to account for how consequential my year at the Pembroke Center has been, both professionally and personally. This August, I will begin a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at Hong Kong University’s Society of Fellows in the Humanities, during which I will be able to thoroughly concentrate on the completion of my book. On a more personal note, the Pembroke Center, drawing to it the fine people that it does, has given me friendships, ones whose significance will also be, I can already tell, incalculable.”





## **DIEGO A. MILLAN**

### **2016-18 Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow**

English Literature, Tufts University, Ph.D. 2016

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#### **“LAUGHTER’S FURY: THE DOUBLE BIND OF BLACK LAUGHTER”**

Diego A. Millan specializes in black studies, theories of laughter and African American literature. He has been with the Pembroke Center for two years under the auspices of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. During his fellowship, Millan worked on his book manuscript, which examines the enduring relationship between laughter and race. Tentatively titled “Laughter’s Fury: The Double Bind of Black Laughter,” it examines the cultural politics that structure the racialization of laughter. Building on this research, Millan taught a course titled *Make a Body Riot: Laughter, Resistance, and African American Literature*, this spring semester. In it, students explored how laughter might help us better understand many aesthetic, thematic, rhetorical, and political aspects of African American literature through the twentieth century.

Reading moments of laughter or humor—often in works not known for being especially comedic—the course asked students to consider what potential, collaborative futures were envisioned by the writers and artists encountered. “In particular,” Millan noted, “our focus on works by black women pushed us to engage with aesthetic practices operating alongside and against typical (primarily masculine) notions of comedy.”

While at the Pembroke Center, he published work in *South Atlantic Review*, *Studies in American Humor*, and *PMLA*. When asked which event stands out in memory from his fellowship, he responded, “Besides the fabulous seminars led by Bonnie Honig in 2016-17 and Leela Gandhi this year, one event that stands out is the guest lecture and seminar visit by Kevin Quashie. Speakers invited as part of the seminar theme each leave impressions on our discussions. Quashie’s presentation on quiet certainly did this, to the point where I found myself making reference to his work this year.”

Millan’s research has been funded by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. At the completion of his fellowship, Millan will join the faculty at Washington and Lee University as an assistant professor of English with affiliate status in Africana studies.

# 2017-18 Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Fellowships



## THOMAS LEVI THOMPSON Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures,  
University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D. 2017

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**“AN IRAQI POET AND THE PEACE PARTISANS:  
TRANSNATIONAL PACIFISM AND THE POETRY OF  
BADR SHĀKIR AL-SAYYĀB”**

Before joining the Pembroke Center as the Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow, Levi Thompson earned his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles. His 2017 dissertation was called “Speaking Laterally: Transnational Poetics and the Rise of Modern Arabic and Persian Poetry in Iraq and Iran.” While at Pembroke, Thompson taught a course titled “Framing Gender in Middle Eastern Cinema,” which examined the roles both cinema and gender played in the contemporary Middle East.

The 2017-18 Pembroke Seminar’s lively discussions about twentieth-century pacifism, particularly the participants’ focus on transnational pacifist networks throughout the year, were an essential part of Thompson’s developing research. Throughout the year, he presented his findings at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Harvard, and Tufts, along with the annual meetings of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington, D.C., and the American Comparative Literature Association in Los Angeles.

An article based on Thompson’s Pembroke project, titled “An Iraqi Poet and the Peace Partisans: Transnational Pacifism and the Poetry of Badr Shākir al-Sayyāb,” has been accepted to appear in the journal, *College Literature* as part of a special issue on poetry networks, edited by Kamran Javadizadeh and Robert Volpicelli.

Thompson’s second review of Tahia Abdel Nasser’s *Literary Autobiography and Arab National Struggles* will appear in the next issue of *Middle Eastern Literatures* where his first article, “Strange Bedfellows: The Crisis of Modernity in Najīb Maḥfūz’s *al-Qāhira al-Jadīda* (*Cairo Modern*),” was published in 2016.

Active translator of Arabic and Persian poetry, Thompson has been working with Syro-Palestinian poet Ramy al-Asheq on a series of translations to be released in Germany and the United States. Next year, Thompson will begin as assistant professor of Arabic at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



## **TALYA ZEMACH-BERSIN**

### **Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow**

American Studies, Yale University, Ph.D. 2015

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#### **“IMPERIAL PEDAGOGIES: EDUCATION FOR AMERICAN GLOBALISM, 1898-1950”**

Talya Zemach-Bersin completed her undergraduate degree at Wesleyan University and her Ph.D. in American Studies at Yale University. As a Pembroke Postdoctoral Fellow, Talya worked on her first book project, “Education and the Making of American Globalism: 1898-1950,” currently under contract with Harvard University Press. Talya’s research examines the theories and practices of religious leaders, educators, policymakers, and social scientists who sought to expand America’s role on the world’s stage not through diplomacy, economic measures, or military intervention, but through a pursuit they believed was far more effective and permanent: the socialization of young people.

While at Brown, Zemach-Bersin was also thrilled to teach a seminar titled “Global America: Gender, Empire, and Internationalism since 1890,” to a group of wonderfully engaged, thoughtful, and hard-working students. Both teaching and participating in the Pembroke Seminar, “Cultures of Pacifism,” inspired new lines of inquiry and critique that were generative to the process of preparing her manuscript for publication.

In addition to working on book revisions this year, Zemach-Bersin conducted research at the Hoover Institute in California, presented her research as an invited speaker at Connecticut College and at the Soka University Globalizing the Liberal Arts Conference, published two book reviews for scholarly journals, and wrote a chapter for a forthcoming book on the concept of global citizenship.

One of Zemach-Bersin’s favorite moments of the past year was presenting her research to the Pembroke Center Associates Council, both because it afforded her the opportunity to offer thanks in person to those who make the fellowship possible and because the members of the Council provided tremendously valuable feedback that is sure to make its way into her book.

# Pembroke Postdoctoral Fellows Past & Future

## 2018-19 PEMBROKE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

### CHRISTOPHER GREGORY ROBERTS

Ph.D. 2018  
Africology and African American Studies  
Temple University

#### RESEARCH PROJECT:

“COUNTER-MAPPING AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BLACK MEMORY: A DIGITAL DISRUPTION OF WHITE SUPREMACIST MONUMENTALITY IN PUBLIC SPACE”

### ERIN REITZ

Ph.D. 2017  
Art History  
Northwestern University

#### RESEARCH PROJECT:

“RADICAL AESTHETICS: THE ART OF THE BLACK PANTHERS, 1966-1982”

### NICOLE GERVASIO

Ph.D. 2018  
English and Comparative Literature  
Columbia University

#### RESEARCH PROJECT:

“ARTS OF THE IMPOSSIBLE: REPRESENTING POLITICAL VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, AND ERASURE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH”

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Sharika Thiranagama

2005-06 Pembroke Center  
Postdoctoral Fellow

Sharika Thiranagama is now an author, researcher, and assistant professor of anthropology at Stanford University, currently conducting long-term fieldwork in Palakkad, Kerala, South India. Her 2011 publication “In My Mother’s House” provides ethnographic insight into ideas of home in the midst of profound displacement of political violence. On the heels of her time at Pembroke, Thiranagama appeared in the National Film Board of Canada’s production, “No More Tears Sister” a film in which she portrayed her mother, feminist and human rights activist Dr. Rajani Thiranagama.

### Rich Benjamin

2001-02 Pembroke Center  
Postdoctoral Fellow

Rich Benjamin is an author whose cultural and political analyses appear regularly in public debate on mainstream media including The New Yorker, Esquire and The Washington Post. As he did during his time at Pembroke, Benjamin brings discerning expertise on politics and culture to pressing issues including democracy, citizenship, class, and migration. After the release of his book “Searching for Whitopia: An Improbable Journey to the Heart of White America” Benjamin hosted a TED talk chronicling his experiences as he explores the phenomenon of dwindling diversity in suburban communities. To learn more about Benjamin go to: <http://richbenjamin.com/>

### Lisa Uddin

2007-08 Pembroke Center  
Postdoctoral Fellow

Lisa Uddin is now an associate professor of art history and visual culture studies, department chair, and Paul Garrett Fellow at Whitman College. Author of “Zoo Renewal: White Flight and the Animal Ghetto,” Uddin locates the zoo’s shift to wildlife conservation displays in the 1960s and ’70s within struggles over urban decay, suburban growth, and postwar American whiteness. Uddin’s current book project, “Sunspots: Black Cosmologies of California Design,” considers black expressive practices in formations of California architecture and urbanism since the 1960s.



# 2017-18 Pembroke Center Research Fellows

## UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



**ERICA ADARKWA**  
Sociology



**IVAN HOFMAN**  
Comparative Literature,  
History



**ISABEL MARTIN**  
Comparative Literature,  
Gender and Sexuality Studies



**JACOB MUKAND**  
Comparative Literature,  
Portuguese and Brazilian Studies

## GRADUATE FELLOWS



**NICHOLAS ANDERSEN**  
Religious Studies



**EDWIGE CRUCIFIX**  
Comparative Literature



**HILARY RASCH**  
English



**ANNA THOMAS**  
English

## AFFILIATED SCHOLARS



**ANEEKKA HENDERSON**  
Pembroke Center Affiliated  
Scholar in Residence  
*Amherst College*



**SARAH FOX**  
Adjunct Associate Professor of  
Gender Studies



**LINDA SCOTT**  
Pembroke Center Visiting Scholar  
Emeritus professor, Saïd School  
of Business, *Oxford University*



**FAITH WILDING**  
Pembroke Center Visiting Scholar  
*School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

# 2017-18 Pembroke Center Research Fellows

## FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOWS



**JOAN COPJEC**

Professor of Modern Culture  
and Media



**LEELA GANDHI**

**Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty  
Research Fellow**  
John Hawkes Professor of  
Humanities and English



**DANIEL KIM**

Associate Professor of English  
and American Studies



**OURIDA MOSTEFAI**

Professor of Comparative  
Literature and French Studies

## PROFESSORS-IN-RESIDENCE



**KEISHA-KHAN Y. PERRY**

Associate Professor of  
Africana Studies



**DEBBIE WEINSTEIN**

Associate Professor of  
American Studies



**ANN DUCILLE**

Pembroke Center Distinguished  
Professor in Residence  
Emerita Professor of English,  
*Wesleyan University*



**GERTRUD KOCH**

Visiting Professor of  
Modern Culture and Media,  
*Brown University*

## SENIOR FELLOWS



**PAMELA FOA**

Pembroke Center Senior Fellow  
in Gender and Sexuality Studies



**ELIZABETH WEED**

Pembroke Center Senior Fellow



**LYDIA KELOW-BENNETT**

Africana Studies

## INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE FELLOW

# Events

## RESEARCH LECTURES

### *Queer Conscience, Straight State in WWI Britain*

October 10, 2017

- **Seth Koven**, History and Poetics, Rutgers University

### *Empire on Trial: Mau Mau and the High Court of Justice*

February 6, 2018

- **Caroline Elkins**, History, African and African American Studies, Harvard University

### *Idealizations of Peace in Islamic Political Thought: The Case of Sayyid Qutb*

February 27, 2018

- **Murad Idris**, Political Theory, University of Virginia

### *MLK and Black Power: Hope, History, and Violence in Revolution*

April 10, 2018

- **Terrance Wiley**, Religion and Africana Studies, Haverford College

## RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE

### *Nonviolence: A Global Lexicon*

April 18, 2018

- **Jennifer Bagelman**, Human Geography, University of Exeter
- **Ashon Crawley**, Religious Studies and African American and African Studies, University of Virginia
- **J. Daniel Elam**, Comparative Literature, University of Hong Kong and Humanities, Cornell University
- **Laurie McIntosh**, Cultural Anthropology, Duke University
- **Ana Minian**, History and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), Stanford University
- **Koritha Mitchell**, English, Ohio State University

IN ADDITION TO THESE EVENTS, THIS YEAR THE PEMBROKE CENTER COSPONSORED PROGRAMMING WITH:

The Ivy Film Festival, Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship, Sarah Doyle Women's Center and many departments across campus.

For a full listing of these events please go to: [brown.edu/go/pembrokeevents](http://brown.edu/go/pembrokeevents)



TOP: Visiting Professor Terrance Wiley shares work with the Seminar.

BOTTOM: Participants of the 2018 Research Roundtable.



# Revolution

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WOULD I BE READY FOR  
THE REVOLUTION  
IF IT CAME FOR ME IN  
FAST MOTION?  
THIS VIOLENCE FORETOLD  
BY RAUNCHY LIPPED COMEDIANS  
AND VULGAR TALKING HEADS  
IF I DRAW BACK THE BOW  
AND HEAD TO HILLS  
WHAT OF MY SON?  
REMEMBER  
EMPIRE RECODES  
ITS OWN EXCESS  
IN THE CAPITAL  
HEDONISM BREEDS CONTEMPT  
AT THE EDGES  
VIOLENCE IS EPOCHAL

*-Stefanie Fishel*

One of the Center's reading groups this year shared poetry along with academic assignments. In that spirit, and in recognition of the power of poetry, we have included a selection of poems from members of the Pembroke Center's extended family. All poems have been published with the permission of the author.



# Black Feminist Theory Project

Envisioned as a site of intellectual collaboration across disciplines, the aim of the Black Feminist Theory Project is to enhance the visibility and accessibility of black feminist discourse on campus as a resource for faculty, students, and the surrounding community, while calling attention to ongoing activism and interventions at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and public policy.

Professor Aneeka Henderson was this year's Pembroke Center Affiliated Scholar in Residence. She is an assistant professor at Amherst College in the Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies department, a 2017-18 AAUW American Postdoctoral Fellow, and a 2017 Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Career Enhancement Fellow. At Amherst College, she teaches a wide range of courses exploring a mosaic of African American literature, art, music, and film and her classes have been featured in *Elle* magazine as well as the *New York Times*.

During her tenure, Henderson presented a talk from her forthcoming book project "Wedding Bell Blues: Race and the Modern Marriage Plot," examining how contemporary music, film, and fiction negotiate and respond to complex neoliberal logics and black political nostalgia, privileging marriage and family as supposed "cures" for inequality.

## *Meet and Greet Symposium with Science Fiction Writer and Cultural Critic*

November 8, 2017

- **Samuel Delany**, American Author, Professor and Literary Critic

## *Race and the Modern Marriage Plot*

December 12, 2017

- **Aneeka A. Henderson**, Pembroke Center Affiliated Scholar in Residence, Assistant Professor of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies, Amherst College

## *Combahee River Collective Mixtape: Black Feminist Sonic Dissent Then and Now*

March 2, 2018 • Co-organized by Modern Culture and Media, American Studies, the Malcolm S. Forbes Center for Culture and Media Studies, the Sarah Doyle Women's Center, Theatre and Performance Studies, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America and the Office of the President. This event featured:

- **Daphne A. Brooks**, African American Studies and Theater Studies at Yale University
- **Kara Keeling**, School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California and 2017-18 Visiting Associate Professor of Modern Culture and Media
- **Jacqueline Stewart**, Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago



TOP: Anna Thomas in conversation with Sam Delany at November's "Meet and Greet."

MIDDLE: Henderson before her December presentation.

BOTTOM: Combahee River Collective Mixtape panel at the March event.

# Events

## PEMBROKE CENTER PARTNERS WITH THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICA (CSREA)

### *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics*

December 14, 2017

- **Laura Briggs**, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

### *Contemplating Spectacular Black Death across Generations: Lynching, Lethal Police Violence and the Black Female Body*

February 1, 2018

- **Shatema Threadcraft**, Government, Dartmouth College

### *Love Letter from a Critic, or Notes on the Intersectionality Wars*

March 1, 2018

- **Jennifer Nash**, African American Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Northwestern University

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### *Shout-Out*

February 2, 2018

Welcome-back reception featuring an exhibit of books and journal articles from the Pembroke community.

### MINI-CONFERENCE

#### *Sexual Politics and After: Thinking with Kate Millett*

February 16, 2018

Cosponsored by the departments of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, American Studies, and Modern Culture and Media

- **Victoria Hesford**, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Stony Brook University
- **Leon J. Hilton**, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University
- **Sara Mameni**, Aesthetics and Politics, School of Critical Studies
- **Kevin Quashie**, Africana Studies, Smith College



TOP: Tricia Rose, Shatema Threadcraft and Juliet Hooker chatting in February.

MIDDLE: Jennifer Nash at "Love Letter from a Critic, or Notes on the Intersectionality Wars."

BOTTOM (L-R): Victoria Hesford, Sara Mameni, Leon J. Hilton and Kevin Quashie; presenters at Pembroke's conference commemorating the life and work of Kate Millett, who died last year.

## PEMBROKE AT THE MOVIES

**“To a More Perfect Union: United States v. Windsor”**

April 23, 2018

The exciting story of this pivotal case in the marriage equality movement is told alongside that of the new forms of kinship invented in queer communities. Because of this case, Windsor not only won recognition for her marriage; she also became a “member of the family” to her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan and her partner, lawyer and Democratic Party activist Rachel Lavine. Windsor even took on the role of grandmother to their young son. The images of them together are among the most moving in the film, which illustrates not only the power of law but also of love and the families we make. A discussion was had with director and producer Donna Zaccaro ’83, P’19. Cosponsored with the Brown University LGBTQ Center, Sarah Doyle Women’s Center, and the Ivy Film Festival.

**“RBG”**

April 11, 2018

“RBG,” which has since gone on to be a national hit, tells the story of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has developed an impressive legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. “RBG” is a revelatory documentary exploring Ginsburg’s exceptional life and career by directors Betsy West ’73 and Julie Cohen. Brought to Brown by the Ivy Film Festival in cosponsorship with the Pembroke Center, the documentary was introduced by Interim Director, Bonnie Honig.

TOP: Pembroke Council Chair Victoria Westhead ’83 P’17 ’19, Donna Zaccaro ’83 P’19, and Interim Director, Bonnie Honig after discussing “To a More Perfect Union: United States v. Windsor”.

BOTTOM: Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg and Director Betsy West ’73 P’17 shown in a social media post promoting the documentary, “RBG.”







# Supporting Faculty Research

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. These research initiatives examine intersecting dimensions of difference such as gender, sexuality, generation, work, class, race, ethnicity, language, citizenship, and religion. Funds support research activities such as travel, workshops, publications, guest lectures, and conferences.

## CONFERENCE FOR RESEARCH ON CHOREOGRAPHIC INTERFACES: DIFFERENTIAL RECOGNITION

This year's Faculty Seed Grant went to a group of Brown faculty in support of an innovative conference held in March 2018 that interrogated the effects of visual recognition technology on our understandings of human identity and difference. In 2010, a motion-detection device for a popular video game platform went to market with the promotional tagline, "You are the controller!" Microsoft promised players that this new camera-based technology would recognize and respond to their every move, allowing for full-body gameplay experiences. But as players with Afro hairstyles or other "big hair" silhouettes soon discovered, the Kinect had not been calibrated to make sense of some of the bodies that entered its frame, leaving them unable to use the technology.

Meanwhile, other surveillant technologies have had no difficulty identifying black and brown bodies in the service of racial profiling by the police and the state. Motion-detecting game systems, networked surveillance cameras, robots capable of affective computing, and virtual reality platforms are all technical interfaces that choreograph human bodies and hinge on forms of differential recognition: parsing human intentions through algorithmic analysis of gesture, physical features, and speech. These technologies frequently rely on damaging, universalizing assumptions and hugely problematic methods of machine learning, promising users control over their interactions with machines while working to reduce user choice and agency.

The 2018 CRCI brought together scholars, designers, artists, and engineers working across technologies of choreography, control, and recognition to investigate how sameness and difference function in and through these technologies, questioning how to productively intervene in the development of these technologies. For more information, visit the conference website here: <http://www.choreotech.com>.

## FUNDED PARTICIPANTS

**Kiri Miller** is a professor of American studies and music (ethnomusicology). Her work focuses on participatory culture, popular music, interactive digital media, and virtual/visceral performance practices. Her latest research investigates how dance video games teach choreography, remediate popular music, invite experimentation with gendered and racialized movement styles, and stage domestic surveillance as intimate recognition.

**Sydney Skybetter** is a choreographer, lecturer, and public humanities fellow, researching issues of human computer interfaces and mixed reality systems. He is the founder of the Conference for Research on Choreographic Interfaces (CRCI), which convenes ethnographers, anthropologists, speculative designers, and performing artists to discuss the choreography of the Internet of Things.

**Sarah Wilbur** is a cross-sector choreographer, dance and performance researcher, and the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Dance Studies for the 2017-18 academic year. She writes about infrastructure, dance, and performance, with particular attention to how institutional policies and norms shape the behavior of artists and organizers in the United States.

# differences

A JOURNAL OF FEMINIST CULTURAL STUDIES

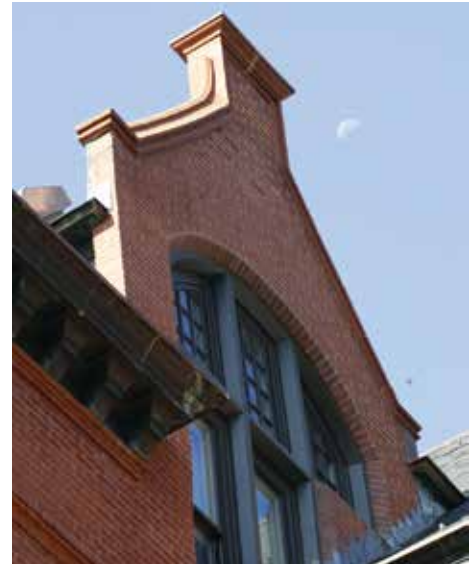
Since its first publication in 1989, *differences* has established a critical forum where the problematic of differences is explored in texts ranging from the literary and visual to the political and social. *differences* highlights theoretical debates across the disciplines that address the ways concepts and categories of difference—notably but not exclusively gender—operate within culture.

## VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2 (SEPTEMBER 2018) BLACK MARRIAGE

**Guest Editor:** Ann duCille

**Contributors:**

Hortense Spillers • Ann duCille • Kevin Quashie • Rebecca Wanzo  
Renee Romano • Oneka LaBennett • Patricia J. Williams  
Mignon R. Moore • Kendall Thomas



This special issue addresses the subject of “black marriage,” broadly conceived, deeply historicized, and from different vantage points. Some recent scholars have maintained that the systematic enslavement of Africans completely undermined and effectively destroyed the institutions of marriage and family, while others have insisted that enslaved people found creative ways to be together, love each other, and build enduring conjugal relationships and family networks in spite of legal prohibitions against marriage, forced separations, and other hardships of the plantation system. Still, others have noted that not all African Americans were enslaved and that free black men and women formed stable marriages, fashioned strong nuclear and extended families, and established thriving black communities in Antebellum cities in the North and South.

Against the backdrop of such scholarship, contributors examine what marriage has meant and continues to mean in African American culture, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. From Beyoncé’s music and marriage to the much discussed decline in African American marriage rates, the essays look back to scholarly, legal, and literary treatments of the marriage question and address current concerns. The issue features an exchange with the luminary black feminist theorist Hortense Spillers and three critical commentaries written in response to Katherine Franke’s book *Wedlocked: The Perils of Marriage Equality*.

## VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1 (MAY 2018)

An open issue including the work of Nancy Armstrong • Karl Schoonover • Salvatore F. Guido • Elizabeth Stewart  
Ada Smailbegović • Marianne Hirsh

## VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3 (DECEMBER 2017)

An open issue featuring essays by Marissa Brostoff • Miglena Nikolchina • Kimberly J. Lau • Cesare Casarino  
Ani Maitra • Noam Yuran

# Tap Dance

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COME SISTER  
MELT THE CITY  
TWIST A RHYTHM  
TO THE STREETS  
THE LONG WINTER  
HAS WITHERED  
IF YOU LIGHT A SPARK  
WE'LL ALL DANCE.

*-Silvia Federici*

Q+A discussion at the GNSS Capstone presentations.



## Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSS)

Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSS) is a broad interdisciplinary program at Brown housed by the Pembroke Center. Every GNSS concentrator is required to choose their own area of focus to pursue within the concentration. In the fall, Pembroke's senior concentrators take the senior seminar, working all semester on a capstone paper that comes out of their work in their area of focus. Or, if the student is writing a thesis—either in GNSS or in another concentration—they work on part of a chapter for the thesis (15-20 pages). The course is student driven, and after a few introductory sessions in which the instructor picks the readings, the rest of the semester is spent workshopping drafts and reading essays and chapters the students assign as they relate to their research and writing. Year-end, students present their work to peers and the Pembroke community during an annual luncheon. It is a wonderful intellectual and pedagogical experience.

This year we began by reading parts of Sara Ahmed's recent book, "Living a Feminist Life," readings from the work of Audre Lorde, Chandra Mohanty, bell hooks,

and Gloria Anzaldúa. As we considered the various dynamics of the feminist movement, we also considered what it means to have a space like our seminar for feminist reading and feminist pedagogy. The resulting projects reflect and return to the issues and tactics that have motivated and divided feminist politics throughout its history.

Student thesis projects included: 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. These projects represent the diversity of perspective and interdisciplinarity that students love about GNSS. It has been a remarkable experience working with such thoughtful students as we have grappled with these issues in our contemporary moment.

### **Drew Walker**

Director, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Associate Director, Pembroke Center



## STUDENT PRIZES

### *Marie J. Langlois Dissertation Prize*

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

History

### *Ruth Simmons Prize*

**Deborah Pomeranz '18**

Ethnic Studies

### *Joan Wallach Scott Prize*

**Zoë Sackman '18**

Gender and Sexuality Studies



## STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

### *Steinhaus / Zisson Pembroke Center Research Grants for Undergraduate and Graduate Students*

- **Zoë Gilbard '18**, History, Public Health
- **Aja Grande '18**, Science, Technology, and Society
- **Daniel McDonald Ph.D. '20**, History
- **Katsí Rodríguez Velázquez Ph.D. candidate**, Africana Studies

### *Helen Terry MacLeod Research Grant*

- **Brigitte Dale '18**, History

### *Linda Pei Undergraduate Research Grant*

- **Sarah Nicita '20**, Brown/RISD Dual Degree, Cognitive Neuroscience and Textiles

### *Enid Wilson Undergraduate Travel Fellowships*

- **Margot Cohen '18**, International Relations
- **Emily Sun '18**, Ethnic Studies
- **Natalie Zeif '18**, Education

### *The Barbara Anton Internship Grant*

- **Cleveish Bogle '18**, Anthropology, Health and Human Development

TOP: Anne Gray Fischer, Ph.D. '18, History

MIDDLE: Deborah Pomeranz '18, Ethnic Studies

BOTTOM: Zoë Sackman '18, Gender and Sexuality Studies



2017-18 prize and grant recipients pictured (L-R): Deborah Pomeranz '18, Emily Sun '18, Cleveish Bogle '18, Aja Grande '18, Zoë Sackman '18, Natalie Zeif '18, Zoë Gilbard '18, Brigitte Dale '18 and Drew Walker, Associate Director of the Pembroke Center

# Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNSS)

## GNSS EVENT

**ELIZABETH MUNVES SHERMAN '77, P'06 '09**

**LECTURE IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES**

***Critical Data Studies: Proxy Politics from Global Climate Change to Racial Profiling***

April 9, 2018

- **Wendy Hui Kyong Chun**, Modern Culture and Media

## GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES COURSES

### FALL 2017

Cultures of Pacifism (Pembroke Seminar), Leela Gandhi

Cinema's Bodies, Gertrud Koch

Framing Gender in Middle Eastern Cinema, Thomas Levi Thompson

Literary Imaginations of the Law: Human Rights and Literature, Anjuli Gunaratne

Method, Evidence, Critique: Gender and Sexuality Studies across the Disciplines, Denise Davis

Speech and Silence, Trust and Fear: A Feminist Philosophical Inquiry into Sex Equality, Pamela Foa

Senior Seminar, Drew Walker

### SPRING 2018

Cultures of Pacifism (Pembroke Seminar), Leela Gandhi

Global America: Gender, Empire, and Internationalism since 1890, Talya Zemach-Bersin

Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies, Drew Walker

Make a Body Riot: Laughter, Resistance, and African American Literature, Diego Millan

Reproductive Health: Science and Politics, Sarah Fox

## 2017-18 GRADUATES

Courtney Baker

Kate Hoey

Isabel Martin

Zoë Sackman

Abigale Rose Sanft

Haley Hoffman Smith



TOP: Wendy Hui Kyong Chun

MIDDLE: Director of the Gender and Sexuality Studies program and Associate Director of the Pembroke Center Drew Walker addresses friends and family gathered at the Pembroke Center's Diploma Ceremony.

BOTTOM: Several of the Gender and Sexuality Studies 2018 graduates.



The first Writing about Gender Studies cohort gathers to share an interdisciplinary focus on gender.

## WRITING ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUALITY

As part of our new Graduate Certificate Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Pembroke Center established a graduate writing group named Writing about Gender and Sexuality (WAGS). Each student in the certificate program is required to present a paper for the group during the dissertation-writing stage of their Ph.D. program. In this first year of the program, thirteen students enrolled, including four students who completed their degrees alongside the certificate program this year. The five student presentations showcased work across disciplines, including history, comparative literature, American studies, English, and modern culture and media. After a successful first year, we are looking forward to further development and growth of the program.

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

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

“For the past six years, the Pembroke Center has consistently sustained my research and feminist scholarship and has provided necessary funding for my research over the summer as I return to the archives in preparation for manuscript revisions.”

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



# Pembroke Center Archives

The Pembroke Center Archives are comprised of two research collections: the **Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive**, which documents the history of women at Brown University and in Rhode Island, and the **Feminist Theory Archive**, which collects the papers of feminist theorists and scholars of difference in the academy. These archives are managed by Mary Murphy, the Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist and the John Hay Library. Archival work includes curating and processing manuscript collections; providing instructional sessions for college classes and supporting students, faculty, and other scholars who wish to conduct primary research on gender and sexuality.

## COLLECTIONS IN CONVERSATION

### *Kate Bornstein '69 and Anne Fausto-Sterling Ph.D. '70 papers speak powerfully about gender*

This past spring, Mary Murphy found the archival link between the Kate Bornstein and Anne Fausto-Sterling papers. Hidden inside a folder of publishing material for Fausto-Sterling's landmark text, "Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality" (2000), was a suggested list of experts proposed by the publisher to be notified about the book. On that list: Kate Bornstein, self-described "gender outlaw" and activist for transgender rights.

It was a special moment for Murphy and her team of students. They were carrying out a full processing of the Fausto-Sterling collection – taking it from a minimally processed state to a folder-level-inventoried special collection. At the same time, Murphy was organizing an expedition to bring the historic collection of Kate Bornstein's papers home to Brown.

One speaking to theory, the other to lived experience, the scholarly papers of Fausto-Sterling are part of the Feminist Theory Archive while the papers of Kate Bornstein comprise the first trans alum collection to be curated by the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive on the history of women at Brown.

Both of these collections break boundaries in almost every way and are thus considered "bridge collections." Fausto-Sterling's papers are also part of the Farnham Archive because they reflect Fausto-Sterling's long career as Brown's Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Biology. Bornstein's papers reframe the collecting scope of the Farnham Archive by documenting the personal history of someone who identifies neither as a man



Zines from the Bornstein Collection.

## This year, the Pembroke Center Archives preserved **two nationally significant** archival collections about gender at the same time.

nor a women. But Bornstein's papers could also fit within the Feminist Theory Archive because they reflect Bornstein's life work—a career of writing and performance art dedicated to communicating gender theory to the public.

Together, these two collections make clear the power of the Pembroke Center Archives' existence: to enable and illustrate the synergies in archival research between women's history at Brown and feminist/gender theory in the academy.

In the near future, both collections will become available for research. In addition to drafts and teaching materials, Fausto-Sterling's collection will allow users to read one-of-a-kind correspondence on intersexuality along with rare print material documenting Marxist feminist movements from the 1970s—members of which also considered the construct of gender in their 1970s radicalism.

Kate Bornstein's collection will offer users the opportunity to study the full spectrum of Kate's life, from Albert to Kathleen Bornstein, class of 1969. Researchers will find rich family photographs and correspondence between Kate and other members of the trans community, along with drafts of Kate's groundbreaking published works including "My Gender Workbook" (1998), which offers a practical guide to living without gender.

The Pembroke Center is thrilled to be preserving these historic collections, thanks to returning Pembroke Center Director Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg and Christopher Geissler, former director of the John Hay Library, for collaborating with Murphy in the stewardship of these collections. And most especially, thanks to Anne and Kate for all they do on behalf of equality and for trusting us with their histories.



(L-R): Kate Bornstein, Mary Murphy, and Pembroke Center Archives Assistant Amanda M. Knox packing Bornstein's donated papers.



Anne Fausto-Sterling (right) and American Playwright Paula Vogel at "Feminism, Feminist Theory and Science: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going" in May 2014.



# Pembroke Center Archives

## COLLECTIONS SERVICES

The mission of the Pembroke Center Archives is to document history and increase the percentage of special collections by and about women, held at Brown University. We achieve this through archival curation and manuscript processing.

This year, the Pembroke Center Archives added seventeen manuscript collections and ten Brown Women Speak oral history interviews—for a total of 194 linear feet of archival material—to the John Hay Library.

## CHRISTINE DUNLAP FARNHAM ARCHIVE

The Farnham Archive documents the history of women at Pembroke College and Brown University and in the state of Rhode Island.

### ACQUISITIONS

Kate Bornstein '69 papers; trans activist, writer, and performance artist

Helen Cserr papers; plaintiff in *Louise Lamphere v. Brown University* sex discrimination lawsuit

Cleopatra Hazard '51 alumni records

Helene Kenvin '62 publication, "Women on the Cusp: Social Upheaval and the Class of 1962 at Brown University"

Kent County Alumnae Club addenda records

### BROWN WOMEN SPEAK ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Carolyn Ann Converse '64; retired professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Strathclyde University, Scotland

Helen Fitzgerald Cserr, faculty (donated posthumously by daughter Ruth Cserr P'22)

Tejal Ashwin Desai '94; Professor and Chair of the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences at University of California

Barbara E. Ehrlich '74; Professor of Pharmacology and of Cellular and Molecular Physiology at Yale University

Sarah Kay '10; spoken-word poet and descendant of June Suzuki Kawamura, first Japanese American woman to graduate from Pembroke College in 1946

Anna C. Renzi '47; first woman to receive a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Civil Engineering from Brown University

Beverly Moss Spatt '45; New York City planner and Chair of the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission

Class of 1993, 25th reunion

Class of 1968, 50th reunion

Class of 1968 Black Alumnae, 50th reunion

## COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH

Malana Krongelb '19 Zine Collection re: social justice and marginalized identities

Marie Louise Laviolette '05 Papers

Mary Jane Mikuriya '56 Papers; early woman engineering student of Japanese and Austro-Hungarian descent

Pembroke Center Records

Pembroke College Records from Alumnae Hall; records primarily from the 1960s found in the attic of Alumnae Hall

Pembroke College Clothing found in the attic of Alumnae Hall

Beverly Moss Spatt '45 Papers

RIGHT: The project poster of Arlen Austin Ph.D. '21 showing the Pembroke Center's role in supporting his work with Silvia Federici as they compiled the 2017 book "Wages for Housework The New York Committee 1972–1977: History, Theory, Documents."

## FEMINIST THEORY ARCHIVE

The Feminist Theory Archive documents the lives and scholarship of notable feminist theorists and scholars of difference in the academy.

### PLEDGES TO DONATE PAPERS

Mimi Thi Nguyen; transnational and queer of color feminisms, refugee studies

Rogaia Abusharaf; anthropology of gender, human rights, migration

### ACQUISITIONS

Miriam Cooke addenda Papers; Arabic women's literature and war

Joan DeJean Papers; women's writing and history of sexuality in France

Sharon Marcus '86 Papers; British and French literary theory and sexuality studies

Nancy K. Miller addenda Papers; women writers and women's studies in higher education

Denise Riley Papers; poet, motherhood, identity and philosophy of language

Christina Sharpe Papers; black visual, cultural studies

### COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH

Tani Barlow Papers; Asian feminism and women's movements in modern China

Anne Fausto-Sterling Papers; biology of gender and gender difference

Silvia Federici Papers; Marxist feminism and capitalist critique

Virginia Held Papers; philosophy and the ethics of care

Barbara Johnson Papers; psychoanalysis, deconstruction, and queer theory

Peggy Kamuf Papers; deconstruction, jealousy, and sexual difference

Karen Newman addenda Papers; gender in early modern cultures

Judith R. Walkowitz Papers; London nightlife and culture and gendered violence and sexuality

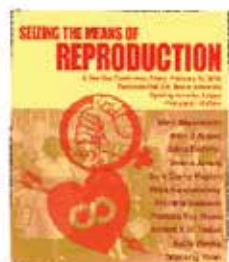
Alison Wylie Papers; philosophy and social justice

Patricia Yaeger Papers; gender and the American South, trauma, and environmental humanities

#### The Pembroke Center Seminar: Anti-War! Theaters of War/Politics of Refusal

The intellectual grounding for my contribution to the projects here was honed through participation in the Pembroke seminar "Anti-War! Theaters of War/Politics of Refusal" led by Bonnie Hanig in the 2016-2017 academic year. This seminar focused on histories and theories of conscientious objection, civil disobedience and "politics of refusal" broadly defined.

The histories I was attempting to work with were historically and theoretically complex, situated at the height of early 70s feminism and drawing extensively from the concurrent anti-war, black power, anti-colonial and autonomous-worker movements. This seminar, attended by a brilliant group of faculty, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students, provided a generous and rigorous forum in which to develop the ideas that fed the book project, online archive and upcoming articles.



#### A Pembroke Conference: "Seizing the Means of Reproduction"

In the spring of 2016, the Pembroke hosted the "Seizing the Means of Reproduction" conference organized by Beth Capper and Arlen Austin. In composing the event we attempted to bring together an intergenerational and interdisciplinary cohort of feminist intellectuals: Mimi Abramovitz, Arlen Austin, Silvia Federici, Sedra James, Sara Clarke Karlan, Priva Kaidaswarim,



#### Pembroke Support for an Ongoing Project

This poster is meant to give some sense of the myriad ways the Pembroke Center has supported a multi-faceted student research project. In 2016, my colleague Beth Capper and I organized a conference at the Pembroke addressing feminist theories of reproductive labor. The project grew out of our ongoing research into welfare rights movements and feminist struggles over the valuation, remuneration and refusal of domestic labor—the Wages for Housework movement.

The support provided by Pembroke faculty, research grants and pedagogical programs, has been invaluable as this research developed and manifested in the world in various forms: as a conference including an inter-generational cohort of scholars; as a contribution to the Pembroke's archives of important documents from the Wages for Housework movement and the personal collection of movement co-founder Silvia Federici; as a recent published book collecting historical movement texts; and, through upcoming articles and an online archive. This 'diagram' illustrates the capability of the Pembroke to support complex research projects in feminist theory and history.

—Arlen Austin, PhD Student,  
Department of Modern Culture and Media

Pembroke Center Funding:  
The Steinhilber/Zissos Research Grant

As the Wages for Housework group printed on their first flyers: "We Can't Afford to Work for

#### The Pembroke Preserving M

Crucial to the story of the Wages for Housework movement is the preservation of the personal papers of Silvia Federici in the Pembroke Center archives. Around her papers, the Wages for Housework Means of Reproduction conference was held in the spring of 2017. Federici began conversations with faculty, archivists, and students that led to her donation of her personal papers to the Pembroke.

Federici's papers are not only a crucial addition to the Pembroke's collection of feminist movements of the 1970s but includes a lifetime of activist and theoretical work spanning over five decades: work with the Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa, her work with anti-death-penalty campaigns and the research for classic work on the witch hunts, *Caliban and the Witch*, *Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*.



A Book Project:  
Silvia Federici and Arlen Austin eds.  
*The New York Wages for Housework  
Committee 1972-1977:  
History, Theory, Documents*

Published by Autonomedia in the fall of 2017, this collection includes the founding documents of the New York Wages for Housework Committee and the movement internationally. I had the great pleasure of

# Pembroke Center Archives

## RESEARCH SERVICES

As part of the Pembroke Center Archives mission, we offer instructional sessions where students learn about how to conduct archival research, archival science as a profession, and special topics such as the 1968 walkout and decolonizing the archive from a feminist perspective.

This year, the Pembroke Center Archives offered seven instructional sessions to approximately 65 students. The following is a list of classes that participated.

**MARCH 15, 2018**

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN**  
**History of Gender in 20th Century United States**

Amy Schneidhorst, Lecturer  
*Also participant in the Pembroke Seminar.*

**MARCH 21, 2018**

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**  
**Objects as Texts: Materializing**  
**Race, Gender, and Sexuality**

Maggie Unverzagt Goddard  
Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies

**MARCH 27, 29, 2018**

**ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY**  
**Feminist Philosophy**

Christina Rawls, Professor of Philosophy  
*Also contributing coordinator of the Society of Women in Philosophy collection, Feminist Theory Archive*

**APRIL 23, 2018**

**COLLEGE UNBOUND**  
**Student Protests**

*College Unbound focuses on underrepresented returning adult learners in Rhode Island who have faced significant barriers to attending college.*

John Saltmarsh, Professor of Higher Education,  
College of Education and Human Development, University  
of Massachusetts, Boston and Distinguished Engaged  
Scholar at the Howard R. Swearer Center for Public Service,  
Brown University (2017-18)

**MAY 24, 2018**

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**

*Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship aims to increase the number of individuals from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who pursue a Ph.D. in key fields.*

Stacy Kastner, Associate Director, The Writing Center/  
Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning

**JUNE 20, 2018 (JOINT SESSION)**

**MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM**  
**Museum Studies Internship Program**

Krystal Kornegay Rose  
Project Manager of Mystic Seaport for Educators

**BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**  
**AND LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE**

*First Year Research Experience is a collaboration between freshmen scholars, faculty, and staff. Students in the program learn about libraries and archives while conducting original research. Participants come predominantly from historically underrepresented populations in the U.S.*

Jennifer Betts, University Archivist and Assistant Director  
for the John Hay Library



Canvas bag showing support for the Pembroke Center Archives, designed by archives student Anna Steinberg '19

## SHAUNA M. STARK '76

### OUT OF THE ARCHIVE LECTURE

This year's Shauna M. Stark '76 Out of the Archive Lecturer was Tani Barlow, George and Nancy Rupp Professor of History at Rice University.

Professor Barlow's talk, delivered on May 8th, 2018, was titled "Collecting Theory." Barlow, whose papers have been donated to the Feminist Theory Archive, drew from items in her collection to document her scholarship of Chinese women's history. Barlow also discussed her experience as an Archives donor and then shared a topical discussion about gender representations in Chinese advertising from the 1920s. The image here, which she shared at her talk, shows a General Electric advertisement featuring a Chinese "ad girl" from 1922.

This was the third annual Shauna M. Stark '76 Out of the Archives Lecture. Started in 2016 with a reading by Christina Crosby, Ph.D.'82 who read from her memoir, "A Body, Undone: Living on after Great Pain," the series welcomes history makers who have contributed their papers to the Pembroke Center Archives to speak about their scholarship and legacy.



A General Electric advertisement featuring a Chinese "ad girl" from 1922.

### ARCHIVES STUDENT ASSISTANTS

A goal of the Pembroke Center Archives is to offer students research and learning opportunities. Several students have advanced work in the Christine Dunlap Farnham and Feminist Theory Archive this year.

**AMANDA M. KNOX** is a Simmons College library and information science graduate student and Archives assistant. Knox processed manuscript collections, transcribed oral histories and assisted with curatorial activities. Knox traveled with Murphy on retrieval trips to Chicago for the Barbara Johnson papers and to New York City for the Kate Bornstein papers.

**ISABEL MARTIN '18**, comparative literature and gender and sexuality studies concentrator. Martin processed collections, transcribed oral histories and served as lead writer of donor biographies, which become part of online finding aids. Standout biographies by Martin are those for Barbara Johnson and Silvia Federici.

**ANNA STEINBERG '19**, concentrator in visual arts, processed special collections including the papers of Anne Fausto-Sterling, edited and transcribed the Beverly Moss Spatt '46 and Sarah Kay '10 MAT '12 Brown Women Speak interviews, and most notably created the Pembroke Center Archives: Women's History is Here zine.

**MALANA KRONGELB '19**, ethnic studies concentrator, served as student curator of the Malana Krongelb Zine Collection. In that capacity, Malana selected zines, processed new acquisitions and created content for the collection's finding aid.

**HALLEY MCARN '19**, concentrator in English, processed collections, transcribed Brown Women Speak oral histories and served as lead surveyor of the Barbara Johnson papers. McArn also ingested donor websites and Twitter feeds into the Archive-It preservation system.

**SHUYAN WANG '20**, concentrator in economics, processed the Tani Barlow papers and served as student curator and lead interviewer for the Brown Women Speak oral history with spoken-word poet Sarah Kay, class of 2010.



# Pembroke Center Associates

The Pembroke Center Associates are alumnae/i, parents and friends who support the Pembroke Center's work. They forge a vital link between the Pembroke Center and Brown's alumnae/i community and offer opportunities to engage with the Center's research, teaching and archives. The Associates produce special events featuring notable alumnae and Brown faculty, publications, and archives programming including oral history recordings.

## COMMENCEMENT FORUM

### ***Making Waves: Brown Women Activists***

May 26, 2018 | Brown Campus

*Cosponsored by the Jonathan M. Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship*

- **Johanna Fernandez '93**, Assistant Professor of History, Baruch College (CUNY); author, curator and filmmaker
- **Nancy Northup '81, P'16**, President and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, attorney, 2018 Brown honorary degree recipient
- **Rinku Sen '88**, activist, author, organizer, trainer
- **Jayna Zweiman '01**, activist, artist and Cofounder of Pussyhat Project and Founder of Welcome Blanket Project
- **Moderator: Bonnie Honig**, Pembroke Center Interim Director, Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science

## FAMILY WEEKEND

### ***Vulnerable Families in the (Un)Changing Economy***

October 13, 2017 | Brown Campus

- **Anna Aizer**, Professor of Economics and Public Policy
- **Drew Walker**, Pembroke Center Associate Director, Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS

### ***Women at Work***

January 25, 2018 | Boston

*Cosponsored by the Brown Women's Leadership Council and Women's Launch Pad*

- **Morra Aarons-Mele '98**, Founder of Women Online

### ***Printing Our Passion: Zine Culture at Brown University and Beyond***

April 12, 2018 | New York City

*Cosponsored by Brown University TBGALA*

- **Louise Sloan '88**, Deputy Editor of the Brown Alumni Magazine
- **Malana Krongelb '19**, Curator of Brown University's first zine collection
- **Mary Murphy**, Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist

### ***Film Screening and Discussion: "To A More Perfect Union: United States v. Windsor"***

April 23, 2018 | Brown Campus

*Cosponsored by the Brown University LGBTQ Center, Sarah Doyle Women's Center and the Ivy Film Festival*

- **Donna Zaccaro '83, P'19**, Director, Producer, and Founder of Dazzling Media
- **Victoria Westhead '83, P'17 '19**, Pembroke Center Associates Council Chair
- **Bonnie Honig**, Pembroke Center Interim Director and Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science



Johanna Fernandez '93 shares trials and triumphs at "Making Waves: Brown Women Activists" panel in May.



Family Weekend participants Isabel Martin '18, Pamela Arya '84, P'18, Professor Anna Aizer, and Pembroke Center Associate Director Drew Walker.

Image Credit: Janet Zwolinski



Zine culture and its beginnings at the NYC Associates event.



Founder of Women Online, and author of "Hiding in the Bathroom: An Introvert's Roadmap to Getting Out There," Morra Aarons-Mele '98 discussed women's entrepreneurship at January's Associates event, Women at Work.



"To a More Perfect Union: *United States v. Windsor*" is a documentary directed by Donna Zaccaro '83, P'19 that tells a story of love, marriage, and a fight for equality.



Council members Nancy L. Buc '65 and Bev Zweiman '66, P'01 examine knitting patterns forum panelist, Jayna Zweiman '01 distributes as part of Welcome Blanket and Pussyhat Project while Darcy Pinkerton '14 looks on.

# Reclamation

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JE N'AI VU MA CORPS  
A TREND OF IMITATION DANCES  
LINES OF FANTASY.  
SLIPPERY  
GRASP ON REALITY.  
TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME.

JE NE VOIS PAS MA COEUR  
IT'S ODD TO LOOK BACK  
ON MEMORIES WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN YOU HAD  
BEFORE  
THE MOMENTS WHEN BIOLOGY FELT VIOLATING  
WHEN YOU MADE MOTHER DRIVE YOU  
TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM  
BECAUSE YOUR BODY DID NOT FEEL LIKE YOUR OWN

JE VOUDRAIS AVOIR UNE HISTOIRE  
YOU FIND THE WORDS YOU CAN  
BECAUSE WORDS WERE NOT REALLY MADE FOR YOU.  
THERE IS A DESCENT YOU MUST TAKE  
BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO SAY THAT A FALL FROM GRACE  
CANNOT BE GRACEFUL.

JE SAIS QUE J'EXISTE  
THAT SHOULD BE ALL THAT MATTERS.  
ONE DAY IT WILL BE.  
BUT FIRST, A  
RECLAMATION

- Naomi Honig





## PEMBROKE CENTER STAFF

Bonnie Honig

*Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture  
and Media and Political Science, Interim Director*

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg P'19

*Director; Professor of Comparative Literature;  
Italian Studies (Sabbatical 2017–18)*

Faith W. Baum

*Communications Coordinator*

Denise Davis A.M. '97, Ph.D. '11

*Managing Editor, differences*

Donna Goodnow P'07

*Center Manager*

Martha Hamblett P'17

*Programs and Stewardship Coordinator*

Mary Murphy

*Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist*

Darcy Pinkerton '14

*Assistant Director of Development*

Diane Straker

*Administrative Assistant*

Drew Walker

*Associate Director and Director  
of Gender and Sexuality Studies*



# How can you measure the importance of time for research, teaching, and writing?

## THE VALUE OF A YEAR

Before Talya Zemach-Bersin accepted her 2017-18 position as Nancy L. Buc '65 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Pembroke Center, her manuscript was already under contract with Harvard University Press. This is an amazing accomplishment for an early career scholar, but Talya felt stuck. Her previous position didn't provide her enough time to finish writing the book. The Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellowship was "a lifeline," she says—just what she needed to complete her project and focus on developing her own teaching and research. Furthermore, in a job market that is more competitive than ever, time spent in postdoctoral positions is an increasingly important step toward building a successful academic career.

Talya studies how women contributed to the making of U.S. global power through the education and socialization of young people. Her Ph.D. dissertation in American Studies from Yale, "Imperial Pedagogies: Education for American Globalism, 1898-1950," won the university's prize for best humanities dissertation. Then came the Harvard University Press contract. And this year, Talya received from Pembroke not only the time to focus, but also the funding she needed to travel to the Hoover Institute and Berkeley's Bancroft Library to visit their archives and examine new historical sources necessary to complete the research for her manuscript.

Talya believes that "teaching makes the scholarship matter." In addition to advancing their research, postdoctoral fellows participate in the interdisciplinary Pembroke Seminar and teach their own undergraduate courses in the study of gender and sexuality. During her time at the Center, Talya taught an undergraduate course "Gender and U.S. Foreign Relations since 1890." She especially relishes showing students how history can inform their understanding of the world around them today.

The year that Talya has spent at the Pembroke Center not only provided her with meaningful resources, but also made her an important part of the Center's vibrant scholarly community. "Having scholars from across disciplines and career stages, thinking and learning together in a focused, quiet, and sustained way was just remarkable," says Talya. "The privilege of a postdoc is the time and space to work and the intellectual community you need to do your work well."



Talya's Ph.D. dissertation in American Studies from Yale, "Imperial Pedagogies: Education for American Globalism, 1898-1950," **won the university's prize for best humanities dissertation.**

ABOVE: Nancy L. Buc Postdoctoral Fellow Talya Zemach-Bersin reflects on how postdoctoral support helped her complete her forthcoming book "Imperial Pedagogies."

# Thank you

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**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS ARE  
ENABLED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE  
PEMBROKE CENTER'S DONORS.**

Please consider supporting scholars like Talya and her students. To learn more about how you can support the Pembroke Center, either through the Pembroke Center Fellows or through an endowed or planned gift, please contact Darcy Pinkerton at: [darcy\\_pinkerton@brown.edu](mailto:darcy_pinkerton@brown.edu) or (401) 863-1162.

**[BROWN.EDU/GO/GIVEPEMBROKE](https://brown.edu/go/givepembroke)**

*Photos by Hank Randall, unless otherwise noted.*



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## 2018-19 Pembroke Research Seminar

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

Seminar Leader Ariella Azoulay, Professor of Comparative Literature and Modern Culture and Media

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.