

Friends of the

PEMBROKE CENTER

Newsletter

40th
Anniversary

Q & A with Pembroke Center Associate Director Wendy Allison Lee



Wendy Allison Lee

Wendy Allison Lee, a scholar of Asian American literature and culture as well as race in U.S. popular culture, joined the Pembroke Center as associate director in the fall of 2021. Lee plays a crucial role at the center, overseeing its overall programming alongside Leela Gandhi, the Shauna McKee Stark '76, P'10 Director of the Pembroke Center, directing the undergraduate program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, and advising undergraduate students.

"Wendy brings extraordinary energy into our concentration with her cutting-edge work on gender, sexuality, and ethnic studies," Gandhi said. "She will update and bring new life to the intellectual culture at the Pembroke Center."

Despite the fact that her term officially began in October, with the fall semester underway and the uncertainties of the pandemic persisting, Lee has, in just a few months, expanded gender and sexuality studies program (GNSS) course offerings, worked to foster a greater sense of community among undergraduates and among faculty, and strengthened connections across the undergraduate and graduate GNSS programs. This spring, she is teaching the GNSS course "Strange Things: Race, Gender, and Objecthood."

Serving as associate director at the Pembroke Center is something of a homecoming for Lee, who earned her PhD in English from Brown in 2012 and was a graduate student in the 2004-05 Pembroke Seminar "The Orders of Time," led by Rey Chow. After earning her PhD, Lee went on to teach American studies and ethnic studies in the History and Literature program at Harvard University. Subsequently, she taught at Skidmore College, where she was an assistant professor of English and worked across disciplinary boundaries, serving on the faculty advisory boards of the gender studies and media and film studies programs.

Here, we talk with Lee about her connection to the Pembroke Center and her vision for the future.

Q: You originally came to Brown for graduate school in part because of the Pembroke Center. Can you tell us about that?

A: As an undergraduate at UCLA, I took three courses with Jenny Sharpe, a professor of English, gender studies, and comparative literature. She was my senior thesis advisor as well, and a pioneering postcolonialist. She shared that some of the ideas in her book, *Allegories of Empire: The Figure of Woman in the Colonial Text*, had been formulated while she was a Pembroke Center Postdoctoral Fellow in 1987-88. I read that book, and I was really engrossed with how she was rereading canonical British texts and showing how the British Empire used ideas of English womanhood to advance the British Empire.

When I was wondering if and where to go to graduate school, Jenny encouraged me to consider Brown because of the English department and the work of Ellen Rooney in particular. Ellen was among the people at Brown engaging the theoretical and feminist work I was interested in doing.

I enrolled at Brown, and participated in the 2004-05 Pembroke Seminar "The Orders of Time." That seminar explored how thinking and writing about time have informed the constructions of gender, class, culture, ethnicity, religion, and other important social divisions, and, conversely, how such social divisions themselves are implicated in time. In seminar, I got to know postdoctoral fellows and undergraduates, and often, discussion would spill into lunch and other social gatherings. The seminar was such an unusual experience for a graduate student, because graduate student life can be a bit cloistered — you work with people in your field who are at roughly the same point in developing their research. In the Pembroke Seminar, participants were working in different disciplines at different stages of their careers, and it pushed me to think about how I was talking about a given topic. It compelled me to be curious about what was going on in other disciplines.

40th Anniversary

The 2021-22 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the Pembroke Center. The center was founded in 1981, a decade after Pembroke College — the coordinate women's college of Brown University — merged fully with the men's college. As the greater community honors 130 years of women at Brown, the Pembroke Center is delighted to celebrate its history of cultivating interdisciplinary work on gender and sexuality through its research, teaching, archival and community-building programs.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE TRIBUTE

The buildings adjacent to this site housed
PEMBROKE COLLEGE.

Founded in 1891 as a coordinate college of Brown University, Pembroke College was dedicated to the higher education of women. The first graduates in 1894 were Anne Tillinghast Weeden and Mary Emma Wooley.

On July 1, 1971 Pembroke College became fully incorporated into Brown University.

The Tribute is the gift of 1085 Pembroke alumnae, their families and friends.
Semper Fideles

From the Director



As I write this message, Brown is just beginning the spring 2022 semester, the fifth semester that will unfold during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the changing conditions of the pandemic have demanded continual adjustments (and readjustments) from all of us in the Pembroke Center community, I am pleased to share with you the many ways in which the center has continued to strengthen, deepen and extend its intellectual mission with your essential and steadfast support.

The Pembroke Center, like the rest of the University, will conduct classes in person this spring. We are offering eight undergraduate and two graduate courses in gender and sexuality studies (GNSS), and all of our courses are enrolled to or near capacity. I am grateful for the work Wendy Allison Lee has done to create a sense of community among GNSS faculty and to expand the number of courses open to Brown undergraduates, and to Denise Davis, who in her role as the inaugural director of the graduate program in gender and sexuality studies (among the many hats she wears at the Pembroke Center) is boosting our research culture and mentoring the many talented PhD candidates seeking the GNSS certificate.

More generally, the Pembroke Center is enhancing its intersectional programming and research. We are considering gender and sexuality in terms of health and reproductive justice, both in GNSS courses and in an under-

development program called the Pembroke Public Health Cooperative, which will build strong relationships between Pembroke, the Brown School of Public Health, and the Rhode Island Department of Health. The Pembroke Publics Lecture series, detailed later in this newsletter, engages activism and creative work as means of addressing gender and sexuality, and the [LGBTQIA+ Thinking initiative](#), launched in the fall, offers new ways to produce knowledge from and about sexual and gender minorities.

We have a full slate of events scheduled for this spring, and I hope you will join us, virtually or in person, for those. I am also grateful to the Pembroke Center Advisory Council's Program Committee members, including Marcia Ely '80 and Ryan Grubbs '10, for their work on the recent event Perfect Storm: Women, Work, and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Such events are very important to the Pembroke Center's mission to encourage public discourse around gender, race and difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leela Gandhi', written over a horizontal line.

Leela Gandhi

Shauna McKee Stark '76, P'10 Director of the Pembroke Center, John Hawkes Professor of the Humanities and English, Associate Director, Center for Contemporary South Asia



2020-21 Pembroke Center Year In Review

The Pembroke Center's [2020-21 Year in Review](#) can be found on the new Pembroke Center website. This more interactive report allows readers to move through the website and learn more about how the news and events of 2020-21 connect to our current work.

PEMBROKE CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL 2021-22

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Joan MacLeod Heminway '83
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Eileen Rudden '72 P'03'07'11
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Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77, P'06'09
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Mary A. Vascellaro '74, P'07
Jasmine Waddell '99
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Beverly H. Zweiman '66, P'01

PEMBROKE CENTER FACULTY AND STAFF

Leela Gandhi
Shauna McKee Stark '76, P'10 Director of the Pembroke Center, John Hawkes Professor of the Humanities and English, Associate Director, Center for Contemporary South Asia

Wendy Allison Lee
Associate Director of the Pembroke Center, Director of the Undergraduate Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Lecturer in Gender Studies

Denise Davis
Senior Lecturer in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Director of the Graduate Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Editor of differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies

Donna Goodnow
Center Manager

Martha Hamblett
Programs and Stewardship Coordinator

Rebecca Jenkins
Development Coordinator, Liaison to the Pembroke Center

Amanda Knox
Assistant Archivist

Mary Murphy
Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist

Diane Straker
Administrative Assistant



Wendy Allison Lee at the GNSS Senior Research Presentation in December of 2021. ▲

Q & A with Wendy Allison Lee, *continued*

I had such a positive experience in the Pembroke Seminar, and later really enjoyed working on interdisciplinary programming at Skidmore. Returning to the Pembroke Center gives me the opportunity to continue to work with an interdisciplinary focus. Working across disciplines, you can't stay settled in your understanding of how knowledge is produced or of what questions need to be asked. You have to reach farther, and that is just what we do here at the center.

Q: You've joined the Pembroke Center as it marks its 40th anniversary, and at a moment when we are celebrating its newly endowed directorship and moving forward with a refined mission statement. What is top of mind for you as you think about the coming years at the Pembroke Center?

A: I'm thinking about how to continue building on what has been established over the last 40 years at the Pembroke Center and I'm inspired by the work being done here. The journal *differences* continues to be an exciting forum that is expanding the directions it's going in, and the Pembroke Center Archives' work with the Black Feminist Theory Project is compelling. In our academic programs, it's exciting to see so much student interest in thinking about GNSS as very much a transnational, global, ethnic studies, and intersectional field. I've been really energized by the student interest in trans studies, women of color feminisms, racial disparities in reproductive healthcare, and carceral feminism. These are pressing issues for our students, who care deeply about social justice, and I'm looking forward to

ensuring that they can deepen their understanding of these critical matters through curricular innovations and programming. Right now, a strength of the GNSS program is its flexibility, but we have also been focused on enhancing the program's structure so that pathways that support students' interests are clearer.

Q: You work closely with Denise Davis, director of the graduate certificate program in GNSS. Are there common questions that concern both the undergraduate and graduate academic programs?

A: The importance of bridging highly theoretical and everyday, practical issues is one of the connections between the GNSS graduate certificate and the undergraduate concentration. Overall, there is a sense of urgency and interest in how we connect feminist theory to other forms of disciplinary inquiry, as well as to social justice movements. This is true of the graduate students who are housed in different departments and pursuing the GNSS certificate, and it is true of undergraduate students who are rethinking commonsense problems based on their GNSS courses. They'll come to section and say, "I was talking to my friend about the reading..." or they'll be watching T.V. or reading the news and making connections to something that we said in class, and they share how it makes them see things differently, or more clearly.

Q: Is there a model for building that bridge?

A: The Pembroke Center has been working at the intersection that connects

theory and real-world questions for some time, but our revised mission statement makes the project more unequivocal. In our mission statement, we do not leave behind women as a category; rather we think about how we can reflect the present as a moment in which the category of women is tied to feminism, transgender studies and gender and sexuality studies. We maintain the humanities as the theoretical basis for interdisciplinary inquiry on gender and sexuality and also ask: *How does this connect to questions about healthcare, migration, care and work, and environmental justice?*

The Pembroke Center, like our peer centers and programs at other institutions, is looking back and thinking about what the way forward is at the same time. People are thinking about how to begin to explore connections with professional schools — schools of public health, medicine, communications and law — while remaining grounded in the humanities and social sciences. So, there is not a model per se, because this is a process that we are undertaking very carefully and thoughtfully. I've been at the center for a little over five months and find myself energized by working with my new colleagues, as well as Brown students. I look forward to helping the Pembroke Center support bold feminist scholarship and public engagement. ■

The Pembroke Center Publics Lecture Series | April 27, 2022

A new initiative, the Pembroke Center Publics Lecture Series brings to Brown guests whose work in any sphere — from academics to activism and well beyond — contends with issues of gender and sexuality in a transformative manner.

As a feminist research center devoted to critical scholarship on the struggles faced by people across national and transnational

contexts — especially those whose gender identity or sexual orientation make them targets of violence — the Pembroke Center addresses real-world questions and commitments. The Publics Lecture Series features speakers whose work exemplifies breakthrough creativity in attending to these questions.



Inaugural Publics Lecture | April 27, 2022

The Pembroke Center is delighted to announce that the inaugural Publics Lecture will be held on April 27, 2022, and will feature **Alexis Pauline Gumbs**. Gumbs, who describes herself as “a Queer Black Troublemaker and Black Feminist Love Evangelist,” is a writer whose feminist critical and creative practice includes poetry, fiction, experimental writing and founding a number of inventive initiatives. Those include the co-founding of a digital distribution initiative and the Black Feminist Film School, the founding of an online network and series of retreats and online intensives, the co-founding of UBUNTU A Women of Color Survivor-Led Coalition to End Gendered Violence, and work with Warrior Healers Organizing Trust and Earthseed Land Collective in Durham, NC. Gumbs also participated in the first visioning council of Kindred Southern Healing Justice Network and Southerners on New Ground, Allied Media Projects, Black Women’s Blueprint and the International Black Youth Summit.

Gumbs’s books include *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals*; *The Eternal Life of Audre Lorde: Biography as Ceremony* (forthcoming from Farrar, Straus and Giroux); *Revolutionary Mothering: Love on the Front Lines*; *M Archive: After the End of the World*; *Dub: Finding Ceremony* and *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*.



The addition of [the papers of Hortense J. Spillers](#) — one of the most significant black feminist scholars of the late 20th century — to the Black Feminist Theory Project Collection in the fall of 2019 was a thrilling moment for scholars, researchers and archivists. The Pembroke Center is delighted to showcase some of her items in “Hortense J. Spillers: A Life Recorded.”

Complementary Programming

Gumbs’ book *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity* is a work of literary criticism based on the archive of freedom-seeking Black women, including **Hortense J. Spillers**. Audience members attending Gumbs’ lecture will have the chance to view the exhibition “Hortense J. Spillers: A Life Recorded” on the main floor of Pembroke Hall. The exhibition, which is part of the Pembroke Center’s 40th anniversary celebrations, features items from Spillers’ collection, which is housed in the Pembroke Center’s Feminist Theory Archive in the name of the Black Feminist Theory Project. Opening the spring of 2022, the exhibition will be on view for several months.

Pembroke Center Archives in the Classroom and in the Field

THE WORD “ARCHIVES” can conjure up an image of a quiet room full of records, a place apart from the busy day-to-day of campus life. The work of the Pembroke Center Archives, however, is part of the fabric of daily life at Brown and beyond, taking place in classrooms, offices, through Zoom screens, on long road trips, and in the company of undergraduates, researchers, faculty, graduate students, far-flung scholars, and the family and friends of those who left behind critical scholarship for the archives.

Over the course of the last year, when Brown offices operated with limited hours due to the pandemic, **Ann duCille**, Professor of English, Emerita at Wesleyan University and



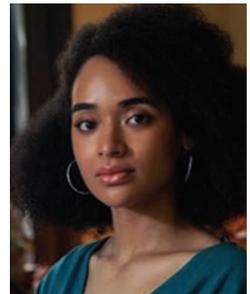
N’Kosi Oates

visiting scholar in gender studies at Brown, and **Mary Murphy**, the Nancy L. Buc ’65 Pembroke Center Archivist, used Zoom conferencing to talk with Black feminist scholars about preserving their legacies through the Black Feminist Theory Collections. In addition to developing relationships with a range of scholars, duCille and Murphy secured two collections for the Pembroke Center Archives: the papers of pioneering Black

feminist scholar **Hazel V. Carby** and papers from feminist anthropologist and political activist **Keisha-Khan Y. Perry**.

Alongside Assistant Archivist **Amanda Knox**, Murphy and duCille partnered with Brown graduate students and curatorial proctors **N’Kosi Oates and Melaine Ferdinand-King** on building the Feminist Theory Archives. Curatorial proctorships provide hands-on training in every aspect of collecting archives, from writing proposals to communicating with scholars and traveling out of state to survey collections and write up agreements. Oates and Ferdinand-King were invited to help drive this collecting process rather than observe it, and were invited to take a literal drive — a road trip to New York City — where they met with sought-after scholars and were able to examine their papers.

In addition to building and curating the archives, Pembroke Center Archives staff teach students how to use them. Over the last six months, Murphy and Knox led six instructional sessions with students in history, gender and sexuality studies, and American studies courses, including the GNSS senior seminar, the course “Information Technology for Historians” (offered via Salem State University), and the



Melaine Ferdinand-King

Brown courses “Feminist Digital Humanities,” “Black Queer Life,” “Planning the Family,” and “Objects as Text.” These sessions introduced Brown and Salem State students to primary sources, including collection material that spoke to each course’s syllabus, and ways of navigating the archives. Some instructional sessions also focus on how collections are curated or processed, and how oral history archives are created. This spring, the archives staff have scheduled six more instructional sessions at the request of faculty.

The Pembroke Center Archives is also making a foray into collecting student work, including a collection from Brown/RISD dual

degree student **Yukti Agarwal ’24**. A native of Mumbai, India, Agarwal created a [series of handmade books](#) about the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. The books are made on paper she purchased at a market near the site of one of the bombings, the Taj Mahal Hotel. The archives staff became familiar with Agarwal when she [recorded an oral history](#) for the Pembroke Center Oral History Project series on COVID-19; by working to collect her artifacts and artwork, they are enabling researchers to research archival collections that document events of global interest and center student perspectives. Her interview can be found here: go.brown.edu/agarwal-interview.

Pages from one of Yukti Agarwal’s handmade books.



Spring 2022 Gender and Sexuality Studies Courses

This spring, the Pembroke Center is offering ten [Gender and Sexuality Studies program courses](#), as well as independent study courses and directed research and thesis opportunities.



GNSS 20200 | The Pembroke Seminar: Color

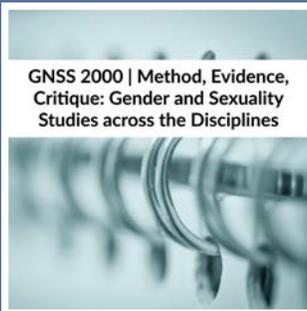
Leslie A. Bostrom
Professor of Visual Art, Chair of Visual Art, 2021-22 Chesler-Mallow Faculty Fellow

Evelyn Lincoln
Professor of History of Art and Architecture, Interim Director of Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, Chair of History of Art and Architecture, Professor of Italian Studies, 2021-22 Chesler-Mallow Faculty Fellow



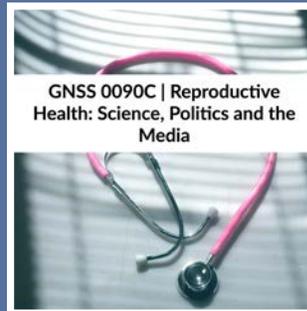
GNSS 1961V | Black on Earth: Race, Gender, and the Environment

Allison Puglisi
2021-22 Carol G. Lederer Postdoctoral Fellow



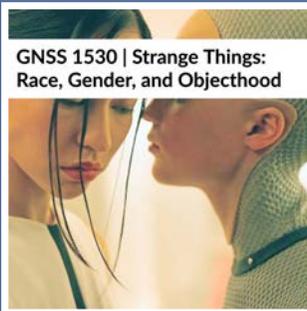
GNSS 2000 | Method, Evidence, Critique: Gender and Sexuality Studies across the Disciplines

Denise Davis
Senior Lecturer in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Director of the Graduate Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Editor of differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies



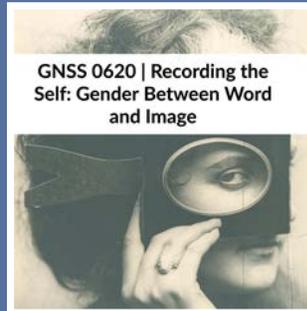
GNSS 0090C | Reproductive Health: Science, Politics and the Media

Sarah D. Fox
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, Warren Alpert Medical School, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Gender Studies



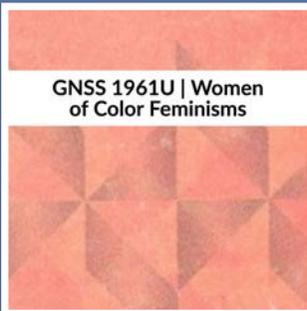
GNSS 1530 | Strange Things: Race, Gender, and Objecthood

Wendy Allison Lee
Associate Director of the Pembroke Center, Director of the Undergraduate Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Lecturer in Gender Studies



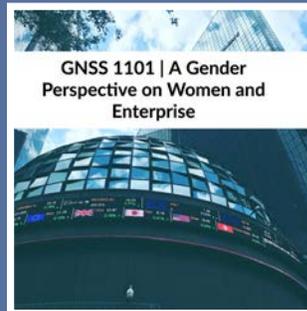
GNSS 0620 | Recording the Self: Gender Between Word and Image

Claire Grandy
2021-22 Dean's Faculty Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies



GNSS 1961U | Women of Color Feminisms

Bernabe Mendoza
2021-22 Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellow



GNSS 1101 | A Gender Perspective on Women and Enterprise

Linda Scott
Visiting Professor of Gender Studies, Visiting Scholar at the Nelson Center for Entrepreneurship, Professor Emeritus, DP World Chair of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Oxford



GNSS 0710B | Queer Comics

Helis Sikk
Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies



GNSS 1540 | Bold Bodies: Race in Feminist & Queer Performance

Maria De Simone
Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender Studies

Martha Sharp Joukowsky (1936-2022)



The Pembroke Center joins the Brown and broader community in celebrating the life of Martha Sharp Joukowsky '58 PhB'82 hon. LHD'85 hon. who passed away on January 7, 2022. A professor emerita of archaeology and the ancient world, she received her PhD from the Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University in 1982 and began teaching at Brown

that same year. Dr. Joukowsky was a renowned field archaeologist who worked on projects in Turkey, Italy, Greece and Jordan, where she discovered and excavated the Great Temple at Petra.

In addition to teaching and mentoring generations of students, serving as the president of the American Institute

of Archaeology, earning an honorary doctorate from Brown in 1985, and earning honors from national and international institutions with multiple medals and awards, Professor Joukowsky was, with her late husband, Chancellor Emeritus Artemis A. W. Joukowsky Jr. '55, a tremendous champion of Brown, a philanthropist, and a volunteer.

Together, the pair made a great and lasting impact on the Pembroke Center, establishing the Artemis A.W. and Martha Joukowsky Postdoctoral Fellowship, and supporting efforts to collect, preserve and promote women's history and feminist theorists and scholars of difference through the Pembroke Center Archives endowment.

The Pembroke Center extends our condolences to the Joukowsky family, including Martha Sharp Joukowsky's children Nina Joukowsky Koprulu, Artemis Joukowsky III, and Michael Joukowsky '87, and her eight grandchildren, many of whom attended Brown. ■

Susan Adler Kaplan '58 MAT'65 (1937-2021)

In October 2021, the Pembroke Center lost a great friend: Susan Adler Kaplan '58 MAT'65. A longtime Pembroke Center Advisory Council member, she passed away on October 30.

Susan served on the Archives Committee and as chair of the council in 1991-2. Very active at Brown throughout her adult life, she also served as a Trustee, a Trustee Emerita and Chair of the Corporation Emeriti Executive Committee. She worked on a number of important University initiatives, including chairing 100 Years of Women at Brown, serving as the Associate Chair of the Advisory Council on Brown Relations with Tougaloo College, and chairing the Ogden Lectures on International Affairs. She worked with the Women's Launch Pad, mentored students and young people, and was an inveterate networker. Brown honored Susan with an Outstanding Teacher Educator Award, a Brown Bear and an Ittleston Award.

Susan was also a lifelong educator, teaching English at Classical High School for 28 years and working as an administrator of English and libraries with the Providence Public Schools. She

was named a Providence Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year by Good Morning America, and later went on to teach as an adjunct professor at several colleges. She later worked in publishing and consulting.

In 2019, Susan recorded an oral history for the Pembroke Center Oral History Project. To hear the interview, which was conducted by Pembroke Center Advisory Council members Bernicestine MacLeod Bailey and Jean Howard, with Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist Mary Murphy, [visit the Pembroke Center Oral History Project website](https://go.brown.edu/oral-histories) at: go.brown.edu/oral-histories. ■



