

Pembroke Center Associates

Newsletter

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg Appointed Director of the Pembroke Center



PHOTO CREDIT: HANK RANDALL

The Pembroke Center is pleased to announce that Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Professor of Comparative Literature and Italian Studies, has been appointed director of the Pembroke Center as of July 1, 2014. Stewart-Steinberg has been a member of the Center's faculty advisory board since 2007, directed the Center's Gender and Sexuality Studies concentration from 2007-2010, and served as interim director of the Center during the 2010-11 academic year. Stewart-Steinberg was the Chesler-Mallow Senior Faculty Research Fellow and led the Pembroke Seminar, "The Question of Consent," in 2011-12.

Stewart-Steinberg received her B.A. from the University of Essex, Great Britain, her Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University, and M.A. in German Studies from Cornell University. After teaching at Cornell, she came to Brown in 2005. Her book *Sublime Surrender: Male Masochism at the Fin-de-Siècle* was published by Cornell Press in 1998. Her second book, on the construction of modern Italian identity in the post-Unification period entitled *The Pinocchio Effect: On Making Italians (1860-1930)*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2007. The book was awarded

the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Best Manuscript in Italian Studies by the Modern Language Association. In Italy it was published to critical acclaim as *L'effetto Pinocchio* by Elliot Edizioni in October 2011. Her third book, *Impious Fidelity: Anna Freud, Psychoanalysis, Politics*, was published by Cornell University Press in 2012. She is currently working on a manuscript with the working title "A History of Italian Repression: Sexuality, Psychoanalysis and the War against Memory."

Since coming to Brown, Stewart-Steinberg has served on the University Resources Committee and the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee. She directed graduate studies in Italian Studies and will continue her work as advisor to first-year and sophomore students, and as a Randall Advisor. Stewart-Steinberg will succeed Kay B. Warren, the Charles C. Tillinghast Jr. '32 Professor of International Studies and Professor of Anthropology, who has served as director since 2011.

New Research Initiatives Planned

"Right now, the Center is working to complete our \$3.5-million Pembroke Center Archives Endowment campaign," said Stewart-Steinberg. "I'm looking forward to helping Nancy L. Buc '65 finish our fundraising in support of our two archives, the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive and the Feminist Theory Archive. The Center will convene a related research project, 'The Order of Knowledge,' that will consider questions around how we organize knowledge and the importance of archives." In addition, the Center plans a conference during the fall of 2014 entitled "Colonial Archives."

Under Stewart-Steinberg's leadership, the Pembroke Center plans to focus research around the problems of modern war, including a series of events during the academic year 2014-15 in honor of the 100th anniversary of World War I. In order to draw the Center into collaborative projects with the life sciences, the Center will initiate a series of research initiatives around "The Politics of Life." It will continue to strengthen its ties to Nanjing University in China and forge new partnerships with university-based research centers in India and the Middle East.

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From the Director

I write to say thank you. It has been a wonderful three-plus years as director of the Pembroke Center. During this time, I have enjoyed working with postdoctoral fellows in the Pembroke Seminar, participating in two capital campaigns, developing our seed grant program, and lecturing widely around the country and in China. I have had the pleasure of getting to know several generations of Pembroke and Brown women, including many members of the Pembroke Center Associates. Your support has sustained the Center for over thirty years and allowed us to raise our sights. I am especially grateful for the leadership of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, and particularly to Liz Sherman'77, P'06, P'09 and Nancy L. Buc'65 who served as chairs during my tenure as director.

These years have been a time of continuity and change, celebrating the Pembroke Center's roots in the past and exploring the remarkable changes in how we study women, gender, and sexuality. In quick succession we celebrated the Pembroke Center's 30th Anniversary, participated in the 120th Anniversary of women at Brown, and we are currently planning our contributions to Brown's 250th celebration.

Today, the Pembroke Center supports transnational research that bridges the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. Our board includes faculty from Africana Studies, Medicine, Modern Culture and Media, Judaic Studies, History, Performance Studies, Comparative Literature, Music, Philosophy, Anthropology, Science and Technology Studies, Visual Arts, and East Asian Studies. We are part of an international research network that values feminist and critical theory and whose scholarly debates are explored in our journal, *differences*. Our collaborations are with scholars from different fields who have distinctive modes of producing knowledge and who explore a wide array of topics and questions.

Our teaching agenda is equally expansive within the Gender and Sexuality Studies concentration. Enrollment in our introductory course this semester is close to eighty students. Undergraduates from a variety of concentrations talk about our multi-disciplinary courses with great admiration. In recent years we've been able to offer new courses on topics such as the science and politics surrounding reproductive health and the legal debates pertaining to sexual activity and speech. In addition, the Pembroke Center Archives are growing and enjoying an expanded reach. Both archives – the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archive, which explores Brown and Rhode Island women's history, and the Feminist Theory Archive that focuses on the intellectual history of feminist theory – now offer more research opportunities for scholars and students.

We owe much of the Pembroke Center's success to our staff, whose creativity and commitment have made our advances in research, teaching, publishing, archives, and fundraising possible. Our staff is a very special group of talented and determined women. I would like to thank Denise Davis, Donna Goodnow, Martha Hamblett, Wendy Korwin, Christy Law Blanchard, and Debbie Weinstein for being excellent partners and working so hard to ensure the Pembroke Center continues to grow and thrive.

I am delighted that Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg follows me as the next director of the Pembroke Center. She is an extraordinary scholar, teacher, and collaborator – and I know she will do a wonderful job. I look forward to continuing in my role as director through June, and I will continue to work with the Center on its plans for Brown's 250th celebration.



Sincerely,
Kay B. Warren

Feminist Scholar Pamela Foa in Residence at the Pembroke Center



The Pembroke Center is very fortunate to have Pamela Foa, a senior fellow in Gender and Sexuality Studies, teaching and doing research at the Center. Foa began her career as an academic. She was an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh where she helped create the University's Women's Studies program. She then turned to law and after a brief sojourn in the private sector created a second career in public sector law. Foa was first an attorney for the City of Philadelphia specializing in complex litigation, environmental, and utilities law and later became an Assistant

U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. As a federal criminal prosecutor for more than 20 years, Foa prosecuted a wide range of white-collar criminal cases involving fraud, corruption, and racketeering. She earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University and her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

This fall Foa taught "Sex and the Law: Strange Bedfellows," a well-received undergraduate course in Gender and Sexuality Studies that analyzed the source and purpose of laws that affect personal rights, including sexual conduct, privacy, and speech. Students looked at classic philosophical texts, case law, literature, and contemporary essays to understand competing theories of the source and role of these laws in society. Foa will offer the course again during the 2014-15 academic year.

In addition to teaching, Foa is participating in this year's Pembroke Seminar, "Socialism and Post-Socialism," and is pursuing her own research projects. She is working on a paper, "What's Love Got to Do with It: Sexual Exploitation in *Measure for Measure*," in which she offers a new interpretation that uses her experience as a prosecutor to argue that the central

characters in Shakespeare's play abuse the law and their power to sexually exploit women at every social level, to silence them, and to leave them without alternatives to marriage. Another of Foa's research projects is "Silence in the Court," a critical examination of the 2013 Iowa Supreme Court decision in *Nelson v. Knight*. This decision ruled that there was no sexual discrimination when an employer fired an employee he saw as a potential threat to his marriage even though the employee did nothing improper. Foa argues that the Court wrongly took the silence of the employee in the face of inappropriate comments by her employer as affirmative complicity in the employer's sexual interest in the employee. This decision is consistent with the way courts and others have failed to credit women's reports of rapes. In this paper, Foa expects to take up again the thread of the claims she first raised in 1978 in her philosophical paper, "What's Wrong with Rape" (in M. Vetterling-Braggin, F. Elliston, and J. English, eds., *Feminism and Philosophy*). There she argued that rape is the epitome of sexual interactions in which neither men nor women take women to mean what they say when they say "No."

Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women

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Pembroke Center Student Research Grants

The Pembroke Center's student research grant program is supporting seven student research projects this academic year. Undergraduate awards support senior or honors theses and graduate awards support dissertation research and special projects.



Meghan Kallman, a graduate student in Sociology, has received the Steinhaus-Zisson grant in support of her dissertation, "Bureaucratized Morality, Institutional Durability: Organizationally Mediated Idealism and International Relationships in the Peace Corps." Kallman's research takes up the broad question of public altruism. She looks at how altruistic aspirations—the

desire to "change the world"—interact with bureaucratic routinization in order to understand what happens when individuals with lofty social ideals enter an organization that is structurally inconsistent with those ideals. This project's case study is the Peace Corps, which is, like many other social organizations, a necessary compromise between the ideals of its participants and the mundane and sometimes problematic realities of being a sustainable bureaucracy. This research will help us understand how bureaucratic organizations mediate people's social commitments. In other words: what do the organizations do to the idealists? Understanding the long-term consequences of bureaucracies on idealism is a critical component of managing a successful participatory democracy, successful voluntary and third-sector organizations, as well as private sector organizations with social components to them. The project's goal is to understand—in order to improve—the ways by which our social change organizations both create and are shaped by the socially committed individuals who constitute them.



Steinhaus-Zisson grant recipient **Jesse McGleughlin'14** is a concentrator in Africana Studies. Her project is "From Fannie Lou Hamer to Audre Lorde: Reading the National Freedom Democratic Party through Performance and Intervention." At the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, during 1964, Fannie Lou Hamer said, "If the Freedom Democratic

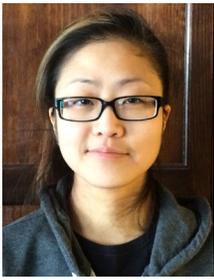
Party is not seated now, I question America. Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hook because our lives are threatened daily, because we want to live as decent human beings in America?" Repeatedly denied their voting rights, Civil Rights activists like Fannie Lou Hamer not only demanded citizenship rights but also "performed" their right to democracy through their challenge to the all-white Mississippi delegation. McGleughlin's senior thesis will examine

Fannie Lou Hamer's activism in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party through a lens of performance theory. Her thesis seeks to examine the way Hamer demanded inclusion while, at the same time, challenging the very notion of exclusionary politics. In what ways can the fight to gain visibility and recognition at the 1964 National Democratic Convention be understood as a fight to "perform" and "enact" democracy? McGleughlin's thesis is informed by Audre Lorde's writing. Through her unconventional narrative structure and alternative use of language, Lorde created a site for the production of new representations of the Black female body that both challenged race, class, and gender oppressions and articulated and demanded alternative subjectivities. This thesis will combine Lorde's work with theoretical notions of performance to understand Hamer's performance of an alternative mode of politics.



Chelsea Cormier McSwiggin, a graduate student in Anthropology, has received a Steinhaus-Zisson grant in support of her dissertation, "An Anthropological Study of the Experience of HIV, Kinship, and Community in Miami's Haitian Diaspora." Working with the Haitian diaspora in Miami, Florida, Cormier McSwiggin's dissertation research takes place at the

intersection of transnationalism, kinship, US race politics, and medical anthropology. More specifically, understanding HIV as a fully biocultural phenomenon, she seeks to explore how Haitian ideas and enactments of family and community shape—and are shaped by—beliefs and practices relating to HIV. Moreover, this research aims to trace what effects these interactions engender—socially, materially, and medically—for all Haitians regardless of HIV status. Women, seen as central pillars of both family and community, are central to these broader themes. McSwiggin's research aims to uncover the ways gendered and virological differences play out in the everyday, intimate lives of Haitian women within the transnational, and increasingly anti-immigrant, context of South Florida.



Caroline Park and **Asha Tamirisa**, both graduate students in Music, have received a joint Steinhaus-Zisson grant in support of their project, “opensignal: A

Dynamic Reconfiguring of Women in Computer Music.” Park and Tamirisa have formed *opensignal* as a new collective of women artists concerned with the state of gender and race in computer/electronic music performance. This spring, they are hosting technical skill-shares and critical discussions, as well as a series of guest artists to gain a range of perspectives on these issues. Their work includes the creation of a written publication as well as a compilation of experimental sound works from women artists in the Brown community. Park and Tamirisa will disseminate these works to Web magazines, academic journals, and arts organizations.



This year’s Linda Pei Undergraduate Research Grant recipient is **Natalie Posever ’14.5**, a concentrator in Anthropology. Her project is “Time to Go Home: The Challenges of Transitioning out of the NICU for Primarily Spanish-Speaking Mothers with Medicaid Infants.” Posever aims to understand the self-reported experiences of low-income Spanish-speaking mothers

of infants hospitalized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Women and Infants Hospital in Providence. Time spent in the NICU is intense and often traumatic for parents, who are forced to grapple with unexpected illness and uncertainty immediately following the baby’s birth. NICU infants continue to face additional challenges after being discharged from the hospital. The majority of babies who spend time in the NICU are premature or low-birth weight, two conditions that come with a host of potential developmental, physical and cognitive impairments later in life. Both low-income mothers and publicly insured or uninsured mothers (many of whom are undocumented Spanish-speakers) are at an elevated risk for giving birth to pre-term or low-birth weight infants. For this reason it is imperative that effective services exist to support low-income Spanish-speaking mothers during and after their stay in the NICU if the health outcomes of high-risk infants are to improve. There is a dearth of literature focusing on the specific needs of low-income Spanish-speaking mothers. Through a series of ethnographic interviews, Posever hopes to gain a clearer sense of the opinions and needs of mothers both during and after their stay in the NICU at Women and Infants. It is her hope that the data elucidated through this study will help NICU staff design effective programs to improve the lives of some of Providence’s most at-risk children.



Barbara Anton Internship Grant recipient **Evelyn Sanchez ’14** is a concentrator in American Studies. Her senior thesis, “State-Sanctioned Motherhood: Regulation in Foster Care and Adoption,” examines the creation or termination of parenthood by studying foster care and adoption practices in a Rhode Island children services agency. Mothers—birth, foster, and adoptive—often

bear more scrutiny in American society regarding parenting and child-rearing. The professional social workers that aid in the certification or termination of parenthood are often women, and their ideals on what makes a “good” parent and mother often come into play when serving their clients. Sanchez will analyze the process of becoming a parent through the Child Welfare League of America’s PRIDE pre-service classes and the accompanying home study process. At the same time, she will examine the process that terminates parental rights. Through this dual analysis, Sanchez hopes to understand how the American court and society dictate and regulate modes of parenting. The resulting parenting norms then inform who can become a parent and who no longer has rights over their children. The identity and agency of women trying to prove themselves good mothers reveals inequalities in society over who is considered a “good enough” parent.



Helen Terry Macleod Research Grant recipient **Lindsay Sovern ’14** is a dual concentrator in History and Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her thesis is entitled “Gorbachev and Yeltsin’s Masculine Rivalry.” Historians often credit both Mikhail Gorbachev’s and Boris Yeltsin’s personalities with the fall of the Soviet Union. Sovern explores the ways gender also came

into play, not only in considering Gorbachev’s and Yeltsin’s individual gendered public images but also the ways gender influenced their political rivalry. Soviet gender theorists have argued that Gorbachev and Yeltsin’s generation experienced a “crisis of masculinity,” in part because of state policy. Sovern’s project considers how the two men navigated this sociopolitical context as men but also as politicians who had the power to change policy and discourse. Using the two men’s personal memoirs and news coverage of their rivalry and reforms, she argues that each man performed at times similar, but mostly distinct, masculinities. She contends that throughout their rivalry, gender served as a metric for accessing political power.

Pembroke Center Spring 2014 Events

We are pleased to present programs, led by Brown's faculty and alumnae/i, on topics that span from public health to film to feminism and science. These events, held on and off campus, are one of the ways in which the Associates work to connect you with issues that concern the Pembroke Center's research and teaching.

From Patients to Consumers: The Latest Developments in Health Care and What They Mean for You



Thursday, March 6, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by Ulle Holt '66

Wellesley Hills, MA

We all consume health care, but most of us don't consider ourselves to be consumers when it comes to our medical care. Now comes the Affordable Care Act, an explosion in mhealth (mobile health) applications, insurance policies that shift costs to us, and contracts that put hospitals on a budget. In this changing landscape, we become consumers in a system that we may not know how to navigate. WBUR health reporter **Martha Bebinger '93** will share what she's learned in her extensive research and reporting on health care in Massachusetts and beyond. Co-sponsored by the Women's Leadership Council.

Kubrick's Men's Pictures

Monday, April 7, 2014, 5:30 p.m.

Pembroke Hall 305

172 Meeting Street, Providence, RI

Filmmaker Stanley Kubrick's oeuvre amounts to a sustained meditation on men and the male condition, not only in the present, but also in history and in the future. **Richard Rambuss, Professor of English**, will focus his lecture on the early Kubrick, including his work as a cub photographer for *Look* magazine from 1945 to 1950, his short-form documentaries, and his early noir boxing feature film *Killer's Kiss*.

Elizabeth Munves Sherman '77, P'06, P'09

Lecture in Gender and Sexuality Studies



Feminism, Feminist Theory, and Science: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going



PHOTO CREDIT: CATHERINE KARNOW

Friday, May 2, 2014, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Pembroke Hall 305
172 Meeting Street, Providence, RI

This special program honors **Anne Fausto-Sterling, Professor of Biology and Gender Studies** in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry at Brown University and the Nancy Duke Lewis Chair. She has worked closely with the Pembroke Center, led the 2002-03 Pembroke Seminar, “Embodiment,” and was the recipient of Pembroke Center grant support for her research. Fausto-Sterling is the author of *Myths of Gender: Biological Theories about Women and Men*, and *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*.

First Class: The Legacy of Dunbar, America’s First Black Public High School

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Hosted by **Jean Howard ’70**
New York, NY

A discussion with **Alison Stewart ’88**, author of *First Class: The Legacy of Dunbar, America’s First Black Public High School*. She is also a journalist and has reported for all of the major news networks. She founded National Public Radio’s news program *The Bryant Park Project*, and also created the MSNBC show *The Most*. Stewart recently hosted the debut season of the *TED Radio Hour* on NPR.



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL YOUNG



Commencement Forum: Brown Alumnae in Sports

Saturday, May 24, 2014

Time and campus location to be announced

Panelists will include **Sharon Cohen ’89**, founder and executive director of Figure Skating in Harlem. Other panelists will be announced at a later date. Co-sponsored by the Women’s Leadership Council.

To RSVP or for more information about any of these programs, please call (401) 863-3433 or email Pembroke_Associates@brown.edu.

Pembroke Center
for TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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