It was all very collegial until I became a feminist,” said Louise Lamphere, when asked how she got along with the men in Brown’s Department of Anthropology during its early years and about the events that led up to her suing Brown for sex discrimination.

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Emerita, at the University of New Mexico and past president of the American Anthropological Association, Lamphere was interviewed by Amy Goldstein ’79, staff writer for the Washington Post, as part of the Pembroke Center’s Feminist Change and the University symposium. Held in Pembroke Hall on Friday, March 6, the event attracted more than 150 Brown students, faculty, alumnae/i, and faculty from other institutions.

Lamphere described how she learned of her denial of tenure and why, even though the University was in the midst of a financial crisis, she felt her tenure case should have been a “slam-dunk.” She observed, for example, that another young member of the departmental faculty, George Hicks, had just gotten tenure the year before, but that he had had fewer publications than she.

“By that time, Woman, Culture, and Society was coming out in April, my Navajo book was being copyedited and would come out within the year, and I had articles in all the major journals of American anthropology, so I thought I had a very strong record,” said Lamphere. Woman, Culture, and Society, published in 1974, included Lamphere’s article “Strategies, Cooperation, and Conflict among Women in Domestic Groups.” Highly regarded in the profession, the book has become a recognized classic in the field.

“But when Phil [Leis, then department chair] asked me to come into his office, sometime around November, I learned that there were serious questions about my teaching,” recalled Lamphere. “That was the first I had heard of it. This was a university that had no teaching evaluations, so whatever evaluations there were, were evaluations by rumor.”

Leis informed her of the tenure decision. “The department was evenly divided,’ that is the way he put it,” remembered Lamphere. “There were some questions about my teaching. It was ‘poor, but not so much worse than others,’ and my work, particularly my work on women, was ‘theoretically weak.’” When an internal appeal failed, Lamphere eventually decided to sue.

The Pembroke Center’s exhibit, The Lamphere Case: The Sex Discrimination Lawsuit that Changed Brown, explores Lamphere’s class-action lawsuit and its aftermath. To learn more about how Lamphere pursued her lawsuit and what it achieved, please visit the exhibit online at https://pembrokeexhibits.squarespace.com or come to Pembroke Hall, located at 172 Meeting Street in Providence, to view the exhibit through May 24. Pembroke Hall is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, and during Commencement weekend.

FEMINIST CHALLENGES NOW

Karen Newman, Owen Walker ’33 Professor of Humanities and Professor of Comparative Literature and English, chaired a panel of Brown women faculty to discuss the challenges women still face in the contemporary university.

“Certainly part of the unfinished business of the Lamphere discrimination case remains the small number of minority faculty at Brown and its peers. Lamphere
From the Director

As part of the Pembroke Center's contribution to Brown University's 250th Anniversary, the exhibit The Lamphere Case: The Sex Discrimination Lawsuit that Changed Brown opened with a reception, and Brown University President Christina Paxson hosted a roundtable, Cracking the Glass Ceiling: Women Presidents and the Changing University on March 5. Our daylong symposium Feminist Change and the University followed on March 6.

The exhibit remains on view in Pembroke Hall through Commencement. Please visit our website to explore the online exhibit and videos from the roundtable and symposium. I would like to thank the faculty, staff, alumnae, and Pembroke Center Associates Council members who worked tirelessly to prepare the exhibit and to plan and host these well received events.

Looking forward, the Pembroke Center is about to launch its new research and teaching project Thinking War Differently: A Collaborative Critical Project. The next four years will be dedicated to the study of war, its new forms, and how it impacts on notions of gender and other structures of difference.

One of the ways we will study war is through the Pembroke Seminar, the Center's signature research program, which convenes scholars from around the world to work with Brown faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates. This yearlong research seminar meets weekly to examine a critical set of questions from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The next four seminars will explore questions related to war. Joan Copjec, Professor of Modern Culture and Media, will lead next year's Pembroke Seminar on Fatigue. In 2016–17, Bonnie Honig, the Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Political Science, will lead Theaters of War. Leela Gandhi, the John Hawkes Professor of Humanities and English, will focus on Pacifism in 2017–18. Ariella Azoulay, Professor of Modern Culture and Media and Comparative Literature, will lead Revolution in 2018–19.

The Center has applied for external grants to support lectures, symposia, exhibits, film screenings, and an international conference in 2016 on Rape and War. We have secured the participation of major scholars for the conference, among whom are colleagues from Nanjing University, who will lead a panel on the Rape of Nanjing.

The Watson Institute awarded us a grant for a May 7 symposium that will explore the salient critical and methodological issues around Rape and War in preparation for the 2016 conference. We recently convened Brown faculty members from a broad spectrum of disciplines and fields who work and teach on war. They presented proposals for the May 7 symposium and the 2016 conference.

We also plan to incorporate the Feminist Theory Archive into the war project. We will mount an exhibit from the scholarly materials of the late political theorist Jean Bethke Elshtain, who wrote the influential book Women and War during the 1980s. We look forward to busy and exciting times, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm wishes,

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg
Director

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Women’s Leadership in Higher Education

“Tonight we are here, in part, to celebrate the changes that have occurred in the last forty years,” said Jean Howard ’70, chair of the Pembroke Center Associates Council, when welcoming guests to the Pembroke Center-sponsored roundtable, Cracking the Glass Ceiling: Women Presidents and the Changing University.

“It is important to remember that positive change does happen and to think critically about the social and institutional factors that still impede the realization of full racial and gender equity in institutions of higher education as in society at large,” urged Howard.

President Christina Paxson convened the roundtable featuring women who have been presidents of major universities. Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard University, Nan Keohane, former president of Wellesley College and Duke University, and Shirley Tilghman, former president of Princeton University, took part in the discussion in the Salomon Center for Teaching on March 5.

The Chronicle of Higher Education coverage provided important context: “Despite the progress, including at some of the nation’s most elite institutions, women remain significantly underrepresented among college presidencies – and the numbers have barely budged. Women make up about a quarter of college presidents nationwide, a share that has remained about the same for at least a decade.”

Paxson noted that it might seem unusual for a university to celebrate being sued. “We have come to know that Louise Lamphere’s victory was really a victory for Brown, for women at Brown, and for universities around the country.” She then asked her guests to identify pivotal moments that changed the status of women in their institutions.

Nan Keohane recalled being at Stanford in the 1970s and receiving an invitation from other young women faculty to discuss how their disciplines could pay attention to women. “We talked about how to change Stanford by founding a Feminist Studies program with a Ph.D. and an undergraduate major by setting up a center for research on women and by editing Signs, the feminist journal,” said Keohane. “I do think it did change Stanford. It was technically coeducational, but this made it more clearly feminist.”

The group discussed how their disciplines affected how they approached the presidency. “When I first became president, people would say, ‘You are a historian, what use is that? How did that qualify you for this job?’ I have felt from the outset that there could be no better background,” said Drew Gilpin Faust.

“What is history about? It is about change, and leadership is about change. It is about helping people to accept change, helping people get ready for change, and understanding what makes people resist change,” continued Faust. “I have always felt it was an enormously useful disciplinary framework from which to approach the problems of a presidency.”

Paxson then asked the group about the problems that remain to be solved.

“I think it is child care... I think it is recognizing that our society was structured at a time when family expectations for mothers and fathers were completely different. We have not yet figured out a way to get through those old expectations and those old cultural practices,” said Shirley Tilghman. “Until we figure this out, we are always going to be running uphill.”

Students protesting Brown’s handling of a recent allegation of sexual violence were in the audience. One student prefaced her question by stating, “Money, power, and privilege seem to influence the sanctioning processes when those accused are connected to large donors.” She asked the presidents how they think about balancing their institutions’ fiscal interests with the safety of their students.

“The safety of our students comes first,” responded Paxson. “I know that the case that’s been talked about recently is very, very difficult, and it is complex, and that not everybody agrees with the decisions that were made. I can assure you that we are thinking first about our students.”

During the lively question and answer period, students raised the concerns of trans people, women of color, queer women, and others who have “different glass ceilings.”

“You have reminded us that we use the term ‘women’ as though everybody is all the same, and we know that is not true,” responded Keohane.

“The way we have been generalizing about women, feminists have learned, if we stop to reflect on it, that is just not a wise thing to do in many instances. In other instances, there are ways in which women, however different they may be in some respects, do share some kinds of experiences,” said Keohane. “But you are right to remind us that women are a diverse category.”

View the video: www.brown.edu/research/pembroke-center/videos
Françoise Hamlin discusses how diversity enhances excellence.

Feminist Change and the University

Continued from page 1

fought to have minorities included in the consent decree, but the University refused. Small pools and competition for top minority faculty complicate that goal and remain a challenge,” observed Newman. “We have asked our panelists to speak about the challenges that remain for women, recognizing that ‘women’ is a diverse category interwoven by many forms of difference – race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, and gender – at Brown and at large.”

Amanda Lynch, Professor of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences and Environment and Society and director of the Brown Institute for Environment and Society, spoke about women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“There was a 2015 study where scientists talked about all of the old tropes of gender bias: incurring backlash for expressing anger, or passion, or any kind of emotion; being asked for more evidence of competence; and the pressure to take on dead-end roles or housekeeping type roles,” said Lynch. “In this study, there was a lot of stereotyping that particularly affected women of color, for example, being mistaken for administrative or custodial staff, which happens all the time.”

“There is this double-jeopardy where, if you are a woman of color, you are working twice as hard to go against two sets of stereotypes,” added Lynch.

Sherine Hamdy, Kutayba Alghanim Assistant Professor of Social Science and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, addressed the problem of sexual assault and sexual harassment at Brown and in the broader society. “Sexual assault is an abuse of power. It is not rowdy boys drinking too much at parties,” said Hamdy. “This affects all of us on the faculty. There is sexual harassment that goes on in the faculty.”

Hamdy addressed Brown’s student activism on the issue of sexual assault. “One of the things we learned from Louise’s case is that the world was changing before Brown was changing,” said Hamdy. “If we pay attention to what our students are doing, we can avoid that mistake.”

Françoise Hamlin, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History, discussed the need for diverse feminist scholarship for Brown’s students and the need for a more diverse feminist presence on campus.

“We are here to rightly celebrate the remarkable work that was done to win this lawsuit against Brown that opened up this institution significantly. We have a woman serving as our president – the second one – a woman serving as our provost, and another as our dean of the college,” said Hamlin. “A woman chairs the history department for the first time, yet there are only five tenured Black women on campus.”

“I’m always shocked by some of my colleagues, some of them women, who believe that diversity is at the expense of excellence and that these concepts are mutually exclusive—I have heard it in faculty meetings—when, in truth, diversity embodies excellence,” stated Hamlin.

Diane Lipscombe, Professor of Neuroscience, urged Brown’s faculty to not “settle for the good enough.” Lipscombe observed that her department has more women than men who are graduate students and about the same number of postdocs. She worried, however, that women leave the pipeline disproportionately as they travel from the postdoc level into faculty positions.

“This doesn’t happen by accident,” said Lipscombe. “There is a structural problem that we really must try to address.” She argued for creating environments to allow graduate students to succeed, such as providing maternity and paternity leave, creating dedicated lactation rooms, and helping faculty eliminate implicit bias.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Wendy Brown, Class of 1936 First Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, delivered the keynote, Women Dissolved or Defended? The Naming Debate in Reproductive Freedom.

Brown set the stage by detailing how the Pro-Choice, Pro-Trans campaign has petitioned two leading reproductive healthcare advocates and providers, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and Planned Parenthood, to become trans inclusive in both their healthcare services and in their language. The campaign has demanded that both
organizations cease speaking of "women" and using terms such as "women's reproductive health," "women's freedom," "women's choice," and "women's control over their bodies."

Brown explained their rationale: “Since there are people born into biologically female bodies or assigned female gender at birth who don't identify as women, and since there are people born into biologically male bodies or assigned the male gender at birth, who do identify as women, and since there are people born into sexually ambiguous bodies, who may or may not, the claim is that 'women' is a misnomer for those needing what these organizations promise.”

Trans advocates argue that the language of "women" that these organizations use forces trans people to seek health care and reproductive freedom under a manifestly inaccurate gender sign and that these organizations are perpetuating the falsehood that the term "women" simply aligns with female anatomy.

Brown argued that names matter. "From Sojourner Truth's 'Ain't I a Woman' to Stokely Carmichael's use of 'Black Power' to differentiate a new set of goals from integration, to the uptake and resignification of the terms 'dyke,' 'fag,' and 'queer' by a new movement for Gay Pride, the politics of words and names have been hugely important in social movements and political change," she said.

Brown suggested that oppression does not emerge from one unified system of power, but instead from a range of different discourses or relations of power. Therefore, all progressive causes cannot be assimilated to one unified struggle for justice. She questioned the effectiveness of inclusive naming to cover multiple political projects.

Trans activists and NARAL and Planned Parenthood do share goals, including fighting gender subordination, securing reproductive autonomy, and destigmatizing sexuality and kinship that fall outside of conventional family forms. However, Brown argued, this does not mean that the groups share all goals, tactics, or constituencies.

“Theory is not identical to politics, and political correctness is not the same as political effectiveness,” cautioned Brown. “Theory can incite, illuminate, and help transform political life, but it is not identical with it.”

“These skirmishes may hold some lessons for more effective political activism across a range of projects and possibilities. That is why my approach has not been to resolve the impasse, but to contextualize, analyze, and theorize it,” said Brown. “This is one of the things that feminist studies retains as its mission, as part of its promise, in both scholarly research and the classroom.”

Naral and Planned Parenthood have resisted the request to stop using “women” for many reasons, including their belief that a lack of control over sexuality, fertility, and reproductive practices has been a lynchpin of gender inequality. These organizations also have argued that they are fighting efforts to limit access and funding for fertility control. Planned Parenthood has found that framing these attacks on reproductive choice as a “war on women” is highly effective for fundraising and voting.

To view the video of the program please visit: http://www.brown.edu/research/pembroke-center/videos

WITH APPRECIATION

The day concluded with a reception and a special presentation to Jean Howard ’70, who chaired the committee that developed the Lamphere exhibit and planned the related events. Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, director of the Pembroke Center, presented Howard with a framed exhibit poster and her thanks for Howard’s extraordinary leadership over the duration of the two-year project. Howard chaired the committee comprising the following alumnae, staff, and faculty:

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Elizabeth Weed, AM ’66, PHD ’73, Pembroke Center Director 2000–2010
Debbie Weinstein ’93, Pembroke Center Associate Director

Wendy Brown explores the politics of naming.

PHOTO CREDIT: HANK RANDALL

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Adams’s research is situated within the traditional healthcare system of northern Madagascar, called “pharmacie gasy.” She traces a complex network of knowledge between the marketplace and rural surrounding areas. Even though this knowledge, specific to a unique geographic and cultural locale, cannot be applied more broadly, Adams argues that it deserves to be rigorously discussed and documented within its own sociocultural environment. Adams works with practitioners of this medico-botanical knowledge, most of whom are women, to map and archive these networks of knowledge.

Adams posits that international corporations and NGOs enact natural resource extraction and epistemic violence upon the Malagasy people and environment under the rubric of development and environmental conservation. The colonial impulse to taxonomize creates reductive databases of the rich flora for pharmaceutical applications, ignoring the cultural and social components of the materials. While the protection and understanding of these natural resources is important for a global database of medicine, it is even more vital for local people who depend on the forest as their primary source of healthcare and culture.

Adams’s research is informed by earlier iterations of cyberfeminism and cyberutopian ideation and what it can contribute to conceptions of everyday queer utopia. How do depressed queer subjects form ambivalent, contingent orientations to the future that challenge accepted queer temporal frameworks? Finally, what personal and political purpose does this mode of expression serve?

Wanda Henry
Graduate Student, Department of History
Steinhaus-Zisson Research Grant

“Searching the Dead and Burying the Bodies: Searchers of the Dead, Sextonesses, and Women Undertakers in England from the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries”

Henry looks at the women who examined, counted, and buried the dead in England from Tudor plague epidemics to early Victorian cholera outbreaks. Bills of Mortality contain the decisions made by women searchers of the dead, and those judgments influenced public health policy. Women worked as searchers only temporarily in cities outside London, but within the greater metropolitan area, they obtained increasing responsibility through the politics of the parish to become sextonesses and pew keepers with multiple responsibilities, including witnessing baptisms and marriages. Ultimately, these eye- and ear-witnesses to life and death in the parish disappeared as parish involvement in social administration at the local level diminished and an emerging professional identity excluded women. Henry considers the rise of searchers, sextonesses, and women undertakers as public officers in English cities. She explores how age and class complicated the gendered discourse, which criticized searchers, and argues that replacement of women had little to do with medical training.

Elaine Hsiang ’15
Health and Human Biology
Barbara Anton Internship Grant

“My Body, My Rights: LGBTQ Health since the HIV/AIDS Epidemic”

Despite its recent recognition by healthcare providers and public health researchers as an area of need, the specific and diverse health care needs experienced by LGBTQ populations have been ignored. Of particular note are the rights and regulations surrounding trans individuals seeking medical and/or social acceptance and visibility.

In a 2003 article in the journal Sexualities, Steven Epstein describes the recent phenomenon of “state-centered” LGBTQ health advocacy as a form of health
activism in the United States. Epstein is cautious about a more inclusive biomedical politics, since the adoption of state policies that work to include “special populations” may have the harmful consequence of remedicalizing bodies. Using a historical approach to looking at LGBTQ health since the advent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Hsiang analyzes how treatment of queer identities as a “medical problem” has changed in recent history. A centerpiece of her project is mapping and cataloguing same-sex marriage laws and LGBTQ health policy across the states. Hsiang evaluates the progress of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in improving sexual minority health through collaboration with Fenway Health in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Rhode Island Public Health Institute in Providence.

Rijuta Mehta
Graduate Student, Department of Modern Culture and Media Steinhaus-Zisson Research Grant


The Repatriation Portrait is a photographic history of the search and rescue operations targeted at women after the partition of India and Pakistan (1947–1953). In the absence of images that depict overt and illegal atrocities against women during the time of state foundation, Mehta’s project focuses on photography’s role in rescuing injured women at a moment when rescue and rehabilitation were enacted lawfully, but nonconsensually. How was photography used when the enemy states of India and Pakistan decided to repatriate abducted women on both sides of the border and return them to their original households, without exception? Taking photography’s implication in state humanitarianism, by facilitating the law, she seeks to draw connections between violence that injures and violence that redresses, between the colonial power of segregation and the decolonial power of forced return. Through an exhibit and a publication, Mehta examines the contradictions of an indigenous feminism that was co-opted by the militarized state and a joint humanitarian operation that resulted in the nonconsensual repatriation of women.

Esme Ricciardi ’15
International Relations Steinhaus-Zisson Research Grant

“Islamic Immigrations, Sex Trafficking, and the Media: The Impact of Gendered Trafficking and Terrorism Discourses on Migration Policy in the Post-9/11 EU”

The Netherlands has traditionally had a tolerant and progressive society and has allowed immigrants to find safe haven within its borders. In the early 2000s, Pim Fortuyn began a political party (the “Pim Fortuyn List”) to promote his anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-European Union (EU), and anti-austerity platform and managed to gain major popularity, prior to his assassination. In the years following his death, the political atmosphere has featured growing hostility toward Muslims and broader pushes to close borders.

Ricciardi examines the basis of this anti-immigration and anti-Islamic political climate in the Netherlands, and the EU as a whole, through analyzing gendered media discourses. She utilizes the framework of “traffickingandterror” that was developed by Pardis Madhavi in order to demonstrate that protecting white women from brown men has been used as the basis for anti-immigrant sentiment. Ricciardi examines in depth the specific case of the “loverboys”: Muslim men convicted of trafficking their ethnically Dutch girlfriends into prostitution.

Nicosia Shakes
Graduate Student, Department of Africana Studies Steinhaus-Zisson Research Grant

“Women’s Theatre and Feminist Activism in Jamaica and South Africa: A Study of the Sistren Theatre Collective and the Mothertongue Project”

Shakes examines the Sistren Theatre Collective, Jamaica and the Mothertongue Project, South Africa as case studies for understanding women’s theater-based activism as a component of feminist mobilization. She employs an interdisciplinary framework combining theatre and performance studies, gender and sexuality studies, and political thought in order to assess how the two organizations engage in feminism through performance and social activism. Her data collection strategies include textual and performance analyses, interviews, participant observation, and archival studies. Shakes compares and contrasts the organizations’ work in order to underscore the importance of approaching studies of Black women’s activism through multifarious lenses, while identifying similar trends. She aims to contribute to an understanding of women’s performance as a site of feminist praxis in the Caribbean and Africa south of the Sahara. More broadly, it is commensurate with an emergent body of knowledge on the significance of arts-based activism in democratic systems worldwide.
Save The Dates

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015
6:30 PM

*I Am Not a Slut: Slut-Shaming in the Age of the Internet*

New York, NY (midtown)
Hosted by Amy Finn Binder ’77, P’02, P’09 and Ava Seave ’77

Young women today are encouraged to express themselves sexually. Yet when they do, they are derided as “sluts,” caught in a double bind of mixed sexual messages. How can they be sexy without being slutty? And how did they get in this bind to begin with?

Leora Tanenbaum ’91 – author of the groundbreaking work *Slut!* – will talk about her new book and offer fresh insights into the digital and face-to-face worlds young women inhabit. She will share her new research on slut-shaming, the coping mechanisms young women currently use, and suggest a new direction to eradicate slut-shaming for good.

Space is limited and preregistration is required. R.S.V.P. to (401) 863-3433 or Pembroke_Associates@brown.edu.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015
11:00 AM

*Tenure She Wrote: Alumnae Professors Share Strategies for Success*

Pembroke Hall 305, 172 Meeting Street
Panelists: Sangeeta N. Bhatia ’90, M.D., Ph.D., Biomedical Engineer and Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Judith Sims-Knight ’65, Ph.D., Chancellor Professor of Psychology, UMASS Dartmouth
Moderator: Nancy L. Buc ’65, ’94 LL.D.

This academic year, women make up 30 percent of Brown’s faculty. In 1974–75, women comprised less than eight percent of Brown’s faculty. The ranks of women faculty in higher education have grown across the nation, but challenges remain, particularly for women of color. Brown alumnae who have achieved tenure at other institutions will discuss how the roles of women have changed in the Academy, how gender inequality has persisted, and their strategies for success.